



Community Foundation to Tabulate Earth Hour Participants

Saint John, NB March 25th, 2009 –The Greater Saint John Community Foundation is providing citizens interested in promoting action on climate change, conserving energy and protecting our natural environment a way to show they care. They are inviting area residents to turn off their lights for Earth Hour 2009, Saturday, March 28 at 8:30pm and then register their participation. Results will be tabulated and reported in Greater Saint John's Vital Signs 2009, the Community Foundation's quality of life report. They have engaged partners Saint John Energy, the Saint John Human Development Council, the Saint John Volunteer Centre, Sussex Area Community Foundation, NatureNB, Cherry Brook Zoo, Westfield and Long Reach United Churches and other local charges, Enterprise Saint John, Hammond River Angling Association, Saint John Board of Trade and the Atlantic Coast Action Program to join in encouraging the "lights out" initiative.

At 8:30pm on Saturday 28 March, people from all corners of the world will turn off their lights for one hour - Earth Hour - and cast their vote for action on climate change. Anybody can participate and join together with millions of people across the globe celebrating Earth Hour.

Earth Hour is about taking simple steps everyday that collectively reduce carbon emissions – from businesses turning off their lights when their offices are empty to households turning off appliances rather than leaving them on standby.

Here are some ways to spend Earth Hour and reduce your carbon footprint:

1. Attend a local Earth Hour event or organise your own by throwing an Earth Hour street party with your neighbours
2. Gather family & friends at a local park to look at the stars
3. Enjoy a family dinner by candlelight
4. Organise a treasure hunt in the dark
5. Take the dog for a night walk
6. Sit in the dark and share stories
7. Organise a family night playing board games
8. Share a romantic night with your loved one
9. Upload your 'on the night' photos and videos to flickr and YouTube respectively, and then add them to the **Earth Hour flickr group** and the global **YouTube Group**. (Facebook participants can "become a fan of The GSJCF" and on Twitter, they can 'follow' the gsjcf" to receive updates about what the community foundation is doing.)
10. Call 672-8880 to register you participated or complete the simple survey at www.saint-john-foundation.nb.ca or: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=FGdOOe6Ocdwl6PYrh8ykLQ_3d_3d

The C40 Large Cities Climate Leadership Group is a group of the world's leading cities committed to tackling climate change. They are demonstrating leadership and concrete action on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, acknowledging their role in tackling climate change. David Miller, Mayor of Toronto and Chair of the C40 has said 'It's crucial that cities and the public come together to take action against climate change and Earth Hour provides a great platform to do that'. Currently 1,189 cities and towns across 80 countries are committed to switch their lights off at 8.30pm on 28 March, exceeding the

ambitious target of 1,000 set by Earth Hour organizers. Cheryl Robertson, Chair of the Greater Saint John Community Foundation states that by tabulating participation, Greater Saint John will be included as a supporter. Saint John Energy Vice President Marta Kelly says they will be monitoring its substations for demand during the period.

The Greater Saint John Community Foundation serves as a trustee for charitable, environmental, educational and cultural purposes. It administers funds given by public-spirited individuals for the benefit of the people of this area since 1976.

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For further information contact:

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The Greater Saint John Community Foundation

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Additional information can be found online at:

<http://www.earthhour.org>

<http://www.wwf.ca/earthhour>