

**THE NIGHT THAT THE LIGHTS WENT OUT IN OAKVILLE**  
**Oakville surpasses 5 per cent energy conservation goal for Earth Hour.**

OAKVILLE, April 1, 2008 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oakville got a little darker last Saturday night when residents and businesses turned off their lights in support of Earth Hour. Oakville surpassed its 5 per cent energy conservation goal, achieving a savings of 8.2 per cent, as compared to the same hour for March 22, 2008.

The Town's 8.2 per cent in energy savings meant we won our friendly conservation challenge with our neighbour Burlington. Burlington reduced their energy consumption by 6.6%.

"It's great to see that so many people took part in the Earth Hour challenge," Mayor Rob Burton said. "Climate change is something that affects us all. The Town of Oakville will continue to support environmental stewardship by finding innovative ways to conserve energy. I encourage all Oakville residents to do the same."

Participation by Oakville residents during Earth Hour included some creative ideas such as dinners and concerts by candlelight, going for a walk and storytelling by flashlight. Businesses got involved by hosting Earth Hour promotions, turning off their exterior signage and all nonessential lighting.

"The increased awareness about energy conservation and the environment that has come from this one hour is just the beginning," Suzanne Austin, Oakville's Municipal Energy Conservation Officer said. "The next step is for everyone to make the simple changes to be more energy efficient everyday. Small enhancements, like switching to energy efficient light bulbs and unplugging appliances while not in use will go a long way."

Earth Hour activities took place around the globe making it one of the largest environmental events ever.

For more information contact:  
Suzanne Austin  
Municipal Energy Conservation Officer  
Environmental Policy  
905-845-6601, ext. 3910  
saustin@oakville.ca