



Hydro Ottawa's Earth Hour Conservation Tips

Earth Hour is about more than just turning off your lights for one hour. It's a reminder of the importance of energy conservation and taking steps to reduce our environmental footprint.

Hydro Ottawa tips of the week

Get started now! Take action and learn more!

1. First, sign up as a supporter of Earth Hour at www.earthhour.org and tell all your friends and family to do the same.
2. That old, inefficient refrigerator or freezer of yours is wasting up to \$150 per year in electricity. Through the Great Refrigerator Roundup program, you can have it picked up for free – they'll even haul it out of your basement for you. Go to www.hydroottawa.com or call 1-877-797-9473 to learn more.
3. Join Hydro Ottawa's peaksaver® program and receive a programmable thermostat (a \$300 value) for free, including installation! Enroll online at www.hydroottawa.com or call 1-866-813-2226.
4. Borrow a Kill-a-Watt meter from the Ottawa Public Library and identify the high energy users in your home.

It's About Timers

1. TVs, stereos, computers, game consoles, DVD players, etc. waste power throughout the day when no one is home. A power bar with a timer can stop these silent daytime users.
2. Cell phone and Blackberry chargers waste energy when left plugged into outlets. Create a charging station for your mobile devices using a power bar timer. Set it to turn on overnight and off during the day.
3. Outdoor lights left on during the day can add up on your bill. A timer is the perfect way to ensure your outdoor lighting is off for the day and automatically back on to welcome you home in the evening.

4. Time is on your side with a programmable thermostat. Program it to automatically lower the heat in your home when you're not there or sleeping, and warm it up in the morning or prior to your return.

Home Improvements

1. Weather stripping and caulking around windows, ducts and doors can cut your heating costs by 10 per cent.
2. A dirty furnace filter reduces airflow and makes your furnace work harder. Clean your filters regularly.
3. Wrap your electric water heater with an easy to install 'tank insulating blanket' and reduce electricity use by 8-10 per cent.
4. Wash your clothes in cold or warm water. Approximately 90 per cent of the energy used by washing machines is to heat the water.
5. When using the dishwasher, turn off the drying cycle's heating element or open the dishwasher after washing and let your dishes air-dry.

Lights, Habits, Action

1. Get your family in the habit of turning off lights when leaving rooms.
2. Replace incandescent light bulbs with (CSA approved) CFLs whenever possible. They use 75 per cent less electricity and last much longer.
3. Consider solar powered lights, timers or motion sensor equipped light fixtures for outdoor security.
4. Before leaving on a trip or weekend getaway, take a walk around your home to make sure there are no unessential lights left on.
5. Home Depot, IKEA and numerous other retail stores across the city will environmentally dispose of your burned out CFL bulbs, free of charge. For a complete list, visit the City of Ottawa website at www.ottawa.ca.
6. Natural sunlight is naturally cheaper. Keep drapes and shades open during the day to allow sunlight into your home.