



## MEDIA RELEASE

The Corporation of the City of Oshawa

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### **Oshawa Celebrates Ontario's first Energy Conservation Week**

**OSHAWA** – May 25 to 31, 2008, marks Ontario's very first Energy Conservation Week. The goal is to increase public awareness about the need to reduce the amount of electricity that we consume. In order to keep up with growing demand, Ontario's Integrated Power System Plan requires savings of 1,350 MW by 2010 and 6,300 MW by 2025. That is the equivalent of taking one in five electricity consumers off the power grid.

"It doesn't take much to have an impact. If each of us uses a little less energy each day, we will soon see real progress in conserving our precious energy resources. Be part of the solution and do your share," said Councillor Brian Nicholson, City of Oshawa Environmental Committee Advisory Member.

For the City of Oshawa, Energy Conservation Week provides a great opportunity to promote its commitment to the three Rs of energy management: reduce energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce costs. The City's new Office of Energy Management has already participated in an audit of the City's facilities and identified opportunities to reduce energy consumption. Energy improvements are already in place and will save approximately \$500,000 annually. In addition, the City Hall Revitalization Project is being considered as a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) initiative. This will translate into further energy savings for the City.

"The reality is with energy costs rising and the effects to our environment and moreover our quality of life becoming more obvious, we must each openly challenge and urge everyone to do their part in helping reduce energy consumption whenever and wherever they can. It is the little things like changing our consumption habits and making our work and living spaces greener which will help make a world of difference to both our pocket books and especially our environment in the future," said Councillor Tito-Dante Marimpietri.

To help promote energy conservation, Suzanne Elston, Oshawa's Senior Environmental Coordinator for the City has recently been appointed Oshawa's Municipal Energy Conservation Officer. Her role will be to help promote energy conservation within the municipality and help residents reduce their energy footprint. "Canadians use more energy than almost anyone else in the world so we know we have room for major improvement," said Suzanne Elston. "At a time when energy prices are soaring, it's important to understand that conservation is good for the environment and the economy."

Simple changes like turning off appliances when not in use, installing motion sensors and energy efficient lighting can all add up to major savings. When buying larger consumer items such as appliances and electronics, always look for the Energy Star® label.

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