



# Corporate Report

NO: R090

COUNCIL DATE: APRIL 30, 2007

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## REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council** DATE: **April 26, 2007**  
FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development** FILE: **5280-11**  
SUBJECT: **30 Days of Sustainability Program and "Turn It Off, BC!" Initiative**

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## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. Receive this report as information;
2. Endorse the 30 Days of Sustainability program for 2007;
3. Proclaim Wednesday, May 16, 2007 as "Turn It Off BC!" Day; and
4. Direct staff to promote "Turn It Off BC!" through the City's web site and information displays at municipal facilities, including City Hall, Libraries and Recreation Centres.

## INTENT

The purpose of this report is to:

- Provide an outline the 30 Days of Sustainability program;
- Present an overview of the "Turn It Off BC!" event; and
- Propose actions that the City may undertake to promote this event.

## POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

City policy strongly supports the promotion of sustainability, energy efficiency and alternative energy sources. In recent months, the City has initiated the development of a Sustainability Charter and has partnered with the Province, the Fraser Basin Council, the Community Energy Association and Geo-Exchange BC on a range of studies aimed at

promoting energy efficiency in buildings, community energy planning and renewable energy sources within the City.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **30 Days of Sustainability**

30 Days of Sustainability was initiated in 2006 as an annual celebration and affirmation of sustainability in British Columbia and its natural role for the world and for individuals. By combining business, social, education and awareness programs, 30 Days of Sustainability aims to integrate sustainability into the values of everyday citizens, corporations, government and society. Through a wide variety of activities and programs, one of the goals of 30 Days of Sustainability is to position the Greater Vancouver area as the sustainability capital of the world. 30 Days of Sustainability is designed to be flexible and portable, thus allowing this program of sustainability to expand beyond British Columbia's borders.

The first 30 Days of Sustainability had the following results:

- Over 50,000 people participated in 30 Days of Sustainability programs;
- More than 45 third-party programs were produced in support of 30 Days of Sustainability;
- 25,000 visitors logged onto the program's web site; and
- Over 170 sustainability partnerships were created.

A full description of these activities can be accessed at:

<http://www.30daysofsustainability.com>

### **Turn It Off BC**

In partnership with BC Hydro, this year's 30 Days of Sustainability program is promoting "Turn It Off BC!", an event to increase awareness of energy consumption by encouraging residents and businesses to turn off all unnecessary lights, appliances and heating on May 16, 2007. A number of participating municipalities, including Surrey, have been asked by the event organizers to show leadership with this energy efficiency gesture.

After internal discussions, it was decided that the City could best promote the event by making the public aware of simple measures they can take to save energy, known as the "30 Energy Saving Tips for the 30 Days of Sustainability", which is attached as Appendix I. It is proposed that these tips be distributed through the City's web site, at municipal facilities and through community newspapers. City staff will also be requested to use this event to examine their practices and explore ways of reducing energy consumption.

In support of these initiatives, the project organizers have asked partner municipalities to endorse the 30 Days of Sustainability program and to proclaim May 16, 2007 as "Turn It

Off BC!" Day in their respective municipality. A proposed letter of support, including this endorsement and proclamation, is attached as Appendix II.

## **CONCLUSION**

In support of City policies, Surrey has introduced a wide range of sustainability and energy efficiency initiatives. Support for the 30 Days of Sustainability program and the "Turn It Off BC!" event are consistent with these initiatives.

How Yin Leung  
Acting General Manager  
Planning and Development

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Attachments:

Appendix I 30 Energy Saving Tips for the 30 Days of Sustainability  
Appendix II Proposed Support Letter for the 30 Days of Sustainability

## 30 Energy Saving Tips for the 30 Days of Sustainability

### Lighting

1. Turn off all lights when you leave the room.
2. Switch to compact fluorescent light bulbs. They use 75 percent less energy and last up to eight times longer than incandescent light bulbs.
3. Use dimmers with your incandescent light bulbs to extend the life of the bulb.
4. Use occupancy and motion sensors with your incandescent light bulbs to automatically turn lights on or off when you leave a room.
5. Use holiday light emitting diode (LED) strings. They use 95 percent less electricity and last ten times longer than standard incandescent strings.
6. Outside, put a motion- or light-sensing control on the lights to turn them on only when you need them.

### Kitchen Appliances

1. When shopping for new appliances, look for the ENERGY STAR label – it identifies the most energy-efficient models available.
2. Run the dishwasher only with a full load of dishes. Let the dishwasher air-dry or use the economy setting.
3. Use small appliances to cook meals or BBQ outside.
4. Set your refrigerator between 2 and 3 degrees Celsius (35 to 37 Fahrenheit) and freezer to -18 Celsius (0 Fahrenheit).
5. Keep your fridge or freezer away from heat sources.
6. Have BC Hydro pick up and recycle your old, inefficient second fridge and receive \$30 for it.

### Space Heating

1. Set your thermostat to no higher than 21 degrees Celsius (70 Fahrenheit) for heating and no lower than 26 degrees Celsius (78 Fahrenheit) for cooling. Set the heating temperature to 16 degrees Celsius (60 Fahrenheit) when you're away or asleep.
2. Consider installing a programmable thermostat, which allows you to program the temperature of the house for different times or days.
3. Put on a sweater instead of turning up the thermostat.
4. Draft-proof your home and reduce heat loss by about 5 to 10 percent.
5. Reduce heat loss through your home's exterior by adding insulation to floors, walls, crawlspaces, basements and attics.
6. If you're renovating or building a new home, choose ENERGY STAR labelled windows. They're the most energy-efficient windows on the market.

### Water Heating

1. Use a Power Smart showerhead and save up to 15 percent of your home's water use.
2. Use faucet aerators and save up to 40 percent of the water used for hand washing.
3. Wrap your older electric hot water tank with an insulating blanket and save up to 9% on your water heating costs.
4. Take short showers rather than baths. A five-minute shower uses about half as much water as a bath.

5. Keep your electric water heater at 60 degrees Celsius (140 Fahrenheit) or your gas water heater at 55 degrees Celsius (130 Fahrenheit).
6. Wash laundry with cold water whenever possible.

### **Computer/TV**

1. Turn off your computer, printer and photocopiers when not in use.
2. If you must leave your computer on for network applications or other purposes, turn off the monitor to reduce electricity consumption.
3. Unplug any electrical equipment that is not in use as many appliances consume power even when they're "off."
4. When buying new equipment, look for the ENERGY STAR symbol. This identifies the most energy-efficient models.
5. Select a fax machine with power management capabilities and you may reduce your energy costs by almost 50 percent.
6. Use stick-on labels on the first page of your fax to reduce energy use and also save paper.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



30 DAYS OF SUSTAINABILITY  
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### **TURN IT OFF BC - LIGHTS OUT!**

The City of Surrey is pleased to endorse **30 Days of Sustainability**.

A promotion campaign in support of energy conservation will occur under the 30 Days of Sustainability program in cooperation with municipalities across British Columbia. The key message of the campaign is a reduction of unnecessary energy consumption within safety and security restraints.

Together with each partner municipality, information on energy efficiency will be widely circulated to facilitate a safe and effective Turn It Off BC - Lights Out public awareness campaign.

The 30 Days of Sustainability Society will inform and encourage the **Turn It Off BC!** program, along with other sustainability programs, from April 22, 2007 through May 21, 2007, through various media outlets and the City will support the program through a range of public information measures.

On May 16, 2007, the **Turn It Off BC!** initiative will be the pinnacle of **30 Days of Sustainability**.

I, Mayor Dianne Watts, proclaim the City of Surrey to be a participant in **30 Days of Sustainability 2007** and May 16, 2007, to be **Turn It Off BC!** Day in the City of Surrey.

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Dianne L. Watts  
 Mayor

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Date

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30 Days of Sustainability  
 Sonny Wong, Director

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Date