

NO: **R188**

COUNCIL DATE: **September 10, 2012**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **September 5, 2012**

FROM: **Manager, Sustainability**

FILE: **0512-02**

SUBJECT: **Surrey's Participation in Earth Hour City Challenge 2012**

RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager's Department recommends that Council:

1. receive this report as information; and
2. endorse the City's participation in the Earth Hour City Challenge 2012 as generally described in this report.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to obtain Council endorsement in relation to the City's involvement in the Earth Hour City Challenge 2012.

BACKGROUND

To inspire cities to address climate change, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has launched the Earth Hour City Challenge, a competition among cities to prepare for increasingly extreme weather and to take steps to transition towards a 100% renewable energy future. It aims to reward pioneering cities that are leading the way towards a fully sustainable future (see the attached brochure titled "*Will Your City Inspire the World?*").

Building on the success of the annual Earth Hour event, the concept was tested in Sweden last year, where cities were challenged to present inspiring and credible plans for reducing their carbon footprint to zero within the next few decades. Cities who participated were evaluated by an international jury of experts; the city with the most inspiring and credible development plan – Malmö, Sweden – was later declared "Earth Hour Capital 2011". Based on the successful pilot, the concept is not being rolled-out globally in 2012 in collaboration with external partners. In 2012, as the first international pilot, cities from Canada, India, Italy, Sweden, Norway and the USA have been invited to participate in the Challenge. WWF Canada contacted the City of Surrey in July to invite the City's participation in this year's competition.

DISCUSSION

The Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC) invites cities to submit plans that dramatically increase the city's use of renewable energy. Three finalists from each participating country will be selected from those that submit applications; this shortlist will be selected by Accenture, the international consultancy hired to provide quality control in conjunction with local WWF officials.

These three cities will also be presented to the public as candidates for the People's Choice Award. The international jury will recognize one city in each participating country as a national Earth Hour Capital and then award one of these cities the title of "Global Earth Hour Capital."

Confirmed jury members at this time include:

- Konrad Otto Zimmermann, Secretary General, ICLEI
- Conor Riffle, Head of Cities, Carbon Disclosure Project
- Simon Giles, Senior Principal Intelligent Cities, Accenture Global
- Martha Delgado, Minister of Environment, Mexico City
- Dan Hoornweg, Lead Urban Advisor for Climate Change and Cities, World Bank
- Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

The international jury panel will be looking for cities that have already recognised the climate challenge and started to measure and report their emissions. At a minimum, cities will need to report a community-level GHG inventory and related actions to reduce emissions. The jury members will particularly review sustainable development plans for building, transportation, energy and food systems – strategic and innovative solutions that will make a city greener and cleaner and improve living standards for its residents.

The EHCC is looking for sustainable urban development with respect to the following five areas, with points awarded in each area:

- Moving toward a low carbon economy and strongly promoting the use of renewable energy solutions;
- Taking ambitious actions to meet commitments;
- Integrating actions into coherent strategies for sustainability;
- Innovating and thinking outside the box; and
- With radical, yet credible ambitions.

Plans and relevant data are to be submitted via the carbon Cities Climate Registry (cCCR), an internationally recognized carbon reporting platform managed by ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

The City of Surrey signed the Mexico Pact - Global Cities Covenant on Climate in 2011, a voluntary commitment to ensure transparency and comparability of local climate action by encouraging signatories to report their GHG inventories and climate actions to the cCCR. As such, the City of Surrey is already reporting to the cCCR and can readily report its current actions as part of the Earth Hour City Challenge. Actions that will be highlighted include:

- The City Centre District Energy Utility, including the new service area bylaw;
- The City's waste management innovations including CNG collection trucks and the proposed biofuel facility;

- The City's Cycling and Walking Plans including Safe & Active Schools program;
- The Corporate Emissions Action Plan and target to reduce emissions by 20% by 2020;
- The Sustainability Dashboard, with interactive maps and targets to monitor progress; and
- The emerging Community Energy and Emissions Plan, and Climate Adaptation Strategy including community engagement strategies to seek public input.

The deadline for registering for the Challenge and submitting climate action plans is November 19, 2012. Finalists will be selected by February 2013 with the winners announced in March 2013.

SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Participation in the Earth Hour City Challenge will assist in achieving the objectives of the City's Sustainability Charter; more specifically, Scope Action EN11, *Surrey's Commitment to the Climate Change Action Plan* and its commitment to take action to reduce the causes of climate change and mitigate potential impacts.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above discussion, it is recommended that Council endorse the City's participation in Earth Hour City Challenge 2012 as generally described in this report.



Anna Mathewson
Manager, Sustainability

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Attachment: WWF Brochure: *Will Your City Inspire the World?*

WHY THE EARTH HOUR CITY CHALLENGE?

Half the world's population now lives in cities, where more than 70% of the world's CO₂ emissions are generated. At the same time, urban populations are growing fast, aided by investments of several hundred trillion dollars in urban infrastructure during the coming years. This funding can and should be invested in the creation of sustainable cities.

At WWF, our goal is to find cities that are leading the way in sustainable urban development – and to reward their efforts.

YOUR CITY CAN LEAD THE WAY

This is your chance to show us how cities can take the lead in building a sustainable future.

By taking part in the Earth Hour City Challenge, your community can gain worldwide recognition for demonstrating the smartest, most inspiring plan for low carbon development and supporting the global transition towards a 100% renewable energy future.



WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the Earth's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.



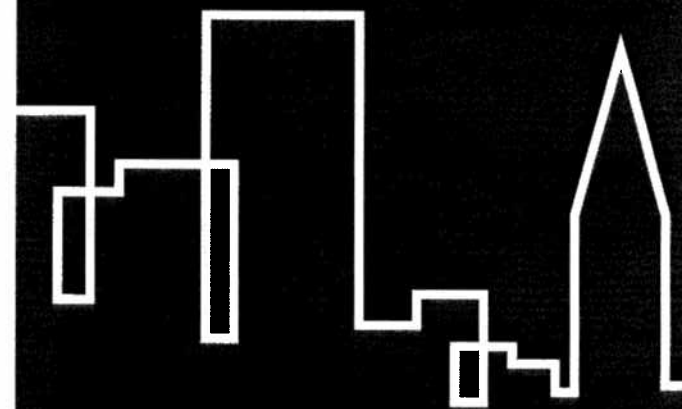
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Main Partners



WILL YOUR CITY INSPIRE THE WORLD?

Join the Earth Hour City Challenge and show us how!



EARTH HOUR CITY CHALLENGE  60+

JOIN THE EARTH HOUR CITY CHALLENGE

In a few short years, Earth Hour has successfully raised climate awareness across the globe. But switching off our lights once a year is obviously not enough. WWF hopes to continue this positive momentum by highlighting and rewarding those communities that are prepared to make substantial long-term efforts to combat climate change.

Our mission with the Earth Hour City Challenge is to set an example that will inspire similar actions across the globe. Being recognized as the leading Earth Hour Capital, your city has the opportunity to lead the way.



WHAT IS EARTH HOUR?

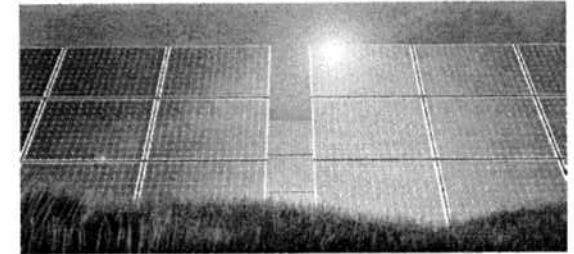
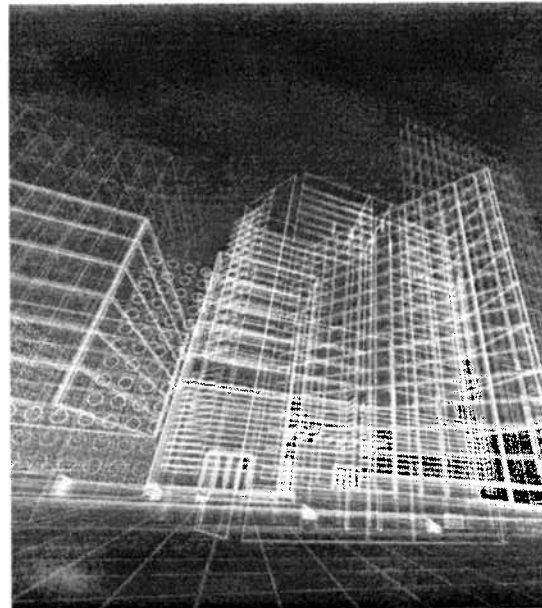
Earth Hour began in Sydney, Australia in 2007 when 2.2 million people took a stand against climate change by turning off their lights in homes and businesses. But that was only the start, and in 2011, over 1.8 billion people in 135 countries across every continent officially switched off to pledge their support for the planet.

THE CHALLENGE

The Earth Hour City Challenge is an initiative designed by WWF to mobilize action and support from cities in the global transition towards a 100% renewable future. It also aims to stimulate the development and dissemination of best practices for climate mitigation and adaptation.

Cities and municipalities in selected pilot countries are invited to present holistic, inspiring and credible plans for low carbon development and for dramatically increasing the use of sustainable, efficient and renewable energy solutions in the next few decades. Entrants will also be judged on their ability to focus on strategies that promote attractive, one planet lifestyles while positively impacting the world around them through the development and dissemination of sustainable solutions.

Applications may be submitted June 1 - November 19, 2012



SELECTION PROCEDURE

City applications will be easily submitted via cCCR, an internationally recognized climate reporting platform for cities managed by ICLEI-Local Governments for sustainability. Strategies will then be evaluated by an international jury consisting of experts in areas ranging from urban planning and transport to consumer behavior and energy systems.

Entrants will be evaluated on a variety of criteria reflecting level of ambition and overall commitment to low carbon development and increasing the use of sustainable, efficient and renewable energy solutions. Significant measures to promote attractive one planet lifestyles and increasing public participation in this transition will also be rewarded.

Three finalists from each participating country will be selected at the conclusion of the application process. These cities will then be presented to the public as candidates for the People's Choice Award. The international jury will also recognize one city in each participating country as a national Earth Hour Capital, and then award one of these cities the title Global Earth Hour Capital.

In a world where sustainable development is quickly becoming one of the top criteria for businesses and citizens alike, this is your chance to show just how attractive your city is to live and work in.

Next year's Global Earth Hour Capital will be presented at the Earth Hour Conference in March 2013.