



EARTH HOUR 2009 – A Global Event on Climate Change

Earth Hour Chicago • FACT SHEET
www.EarthHourUs.org

Earth Hour Chicago

On March 28, 2009, Chicago residents will join millions around the world in turning off their lights from 8:30-9:30 p.m. in a unified call for action to combat climate change. Earth Hour will demonstrate that by working together, each one of us can make a positive impact on this global issue. Governments, businesses, communities and individuals across the globe will participate in Earth Hour and pledge to make changes that will curb their greenhouse gas emissions.

In the United States, Chicago returns as a flagship city for Earth Hour, with Las Vegas, Miami, Atlanta, Nashville, Los Angeles and San Francisco also joining the 2009 movement.

Everyone Can Have an Impact

We're asking everyone to take part in Earth Hour 2009:

- Register at earthhourus.org
- Turn off your lights from 8:30-9:30 p.m. local time on Saturday, March 28, 2009
- During that hour replace your old light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs
- Commit to reducing your energy consumption in the year ahead
- Visit earthhourus.org to find out how to continue making a difference in the fight against climate change after Earth Hour

Earth Hour 2008 – By the Numbers

Last year, Chicago made its debut as a flagship city for Earth Hour. More than 2.7 million adults in the region turned off their lights to send a powerful message of concern about the planet and the effects of global climate change.

Earth Hour Chicago 2008 participation included:

- More than 1,400 landmarks, businesses, retailers, restaurants, hotels and schools
- More than 200 downtown buildings
- Nearly 500 McDonald's
- Nearly 200 Walgreens
- State Capitol Dome and all State of Illinois government buildings
- 15 museums and parks
- 9 colleges and universities
- 8 theater marquees

Earth Hour Chicago 2008 results:

- ComEd reported Earth Hour electricity savings of 7 percent in Chicago and across their entire northern Illinois service territory.
- The 818 megawatt hours saved was the carbon emissions equivalent of:
 - 1.3 million pounds of carbon dioxide
 - More than 1 million cars off the road for one hour
 - 72,000 gallons of gasoline consumed
 - 158 acres of trees planted

About the Earth Hour Chicago 2009 Campaign

Earth Hour Chicago 2009 is sponsored by ComEd and is a partnership of the World Wildlife Fund, ComEd, the City of Chicago and Leo Burnett. Following the success of Earth Hour 2008, ComEd is proud to return as not only a participant and advocate, but also as the lead sponsor of the effort. ComEd's support of Earth Hour contributes to the company's robust portfolio of energy efficiency and environmental programs. Earth Hour is also a component of Exelon 2020, an aggressive effort by ComEd's parent company, Exelon, to reduce, offset, or displace more than 15 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year by 2020.

While the core message of this year's campaign remains the same – to turn off the lights for one hour – 2009 will also emphasize long-term sustainable goals. The Chicago campaign is asking businesses, schools and residents to think about how they can incorporate Earth Hour into their daily lives, from turning out lights when leaving a room, to unplugging unnecessary electronic equipment, to using energy-efficient appliances.

Earth Hour is only one step in Chicago's path towards becoming the greenest city in the nation. The City recently unveiled the Chicago Climate Action Plan (chicagoclimataction.org), a comprehensive and detailed roadmap outlining 35 strategies to lower greenhouse gas emissions and address the climate change impacts already underway. Residents can play an active role in tackling this important issue by visiting the website and taking the \$800 Savings Challenge—a list of easy, low or no-cost energy efficient actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and save households up to \$823 each year. On the website, residents can also learn about other City programs, resources, and initiatives from recycling to green buildings to biking that are featured in the plan.

To help with coordination, education and participation, the Chicago campaign created a Steering Committee, which includes representatives from the City of Chicago, ComEd, BOMA, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus, Chicago Public Schools, Greater North Michigan Avenue Association and many others.

Signs of Climate Change are Everywhere

Climate change is perhaps the most significant issue facing our planet today. We are beginning to witness dramatic impacts—from melting glaciers and frequent heat waves to increased intensity of hurricanes—as a result of the amount of greenhouse gas emissions we emit into the atmosphere.

The 10 hottest years on record have occurred since 1990. The U.S. is the world's leading emitter of carbon dioxide, with over 20 tons per person produced every year. To alter the current course of climate change we must act now to curb our emissions. One person can make a difference, and millions of us working together will change the world.

Turn out. Take Action. Earth Hour 2009. Visit earthhour.org to join the movement.

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