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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Nanaimo Participation for Earth Hour

The City of Nanaimo supports the efforts of the World Wildlife Fund of Canada and BC Hydro in encouraging residences, businesses, and organizations to turn off their lights and other electricity-consuming devices for one hour on Saturday, March 28th from 8:30pm to 9:30pm.

Earth Hour is a World Wildlife Fund initiative created to raise awareness about climate change. WWRF-Australia pioneered Earth Hour and it was a huge success! More than 2 million people and 2,100 businesses participated resulting in a 10 per cent reduction on the electrical grid, saving 25,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide – the equivalent of taking about 50,000 cars off the road for an hour. While Earth Hour is a symbolic event and won't stop climate change in itself, it does demonstrate that individual action can have an impact and can add up to making a difference.

The City, for its part, will be shutting down unnecessary lighting, computers and electronics in the Public Works Yard, City Hall and City Hall Annex. In addition, the City will be continuing to do its part throughout the year as part to address climate change. Since the adoption of the City's Corporate Climate Change Plan, a number of initiatives have are in place, including: a switch to Biofuels within the City Vehicle Fleet; the hiring of a City Energy Manager; an upgrade of City signal lighting to LED technology and an energy efficiency review of the Beban Complex and Nanaimo Aquatic center.

To participate in Earth Hour or to find out more about what you can do to reduce energy use and help address Climate Change, go to the Earth Hour website at <http://wwf.ca/index.cfm> and learn more.

To learn more about the City's efforts to become more sustainable and to learn about what you can do, check out the City webpage at: <http://www.nanaimo.ca/EN/main/departments/Community-Planning/Environmental-Planning/SustainableCity.html> .

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