

2 March 2011

Switch off to help our planet

On Saturday 26 March 2011 from 8.30pm Shoalhaven City Council will enter a blackout as part of Earth Hour 2011, an initiative Council has supported since its inception in 2007.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green said this is a small step that the City makes during each year.

"I encourage all households to take part in Earth Hour 2011," Cllr Green said. "You will be joining millions of people and businesses throughout the world who are doing their bit to help reduce greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere.

"Also you can do small things everyday around the house to help reduce your footprint on our Earth. You can switch off unused lights and appliances on standby. You could also keep windows shaded in the Australian sun to lessen cooling costs.

"There are many tips on getting around, in the household, how we eat and waste tips provided by both Council and the World Wildlife Fund which coordinates Earth Hour."

Background

In 2007, Council joined about 2.2 million people and 2,100 businesses in Sydney who took part in this first year, switching off their lights in a clear signal to government and industry that there's a demand and a need for change.

Between 50 and 100 million people in cities and towns across the planet, including Chicago, Toronto, Copenhagen, Dublin, Atlanta and Bangkok, rallied behind the cause in 2008. An independent survey found that 58 per cent of people in Australian capital cities joined in.

In 2009, the movement grew even bigger, with millions of people in more than 4,000 towns and municipalities in 88 countries getting on board.

In 2010, 4616 cities, towns and municipalities took part in Earth Hour 2010 across 128 countries, including 89 national capitals and nine of the world's 10 most populated cities. They included: New York, Beijing, Los Angeles, Nairobi, Hong Kong, London, Moscow, Sydney, Rio de Janeiro, Toronto, Paris, Rome, Singapore, Mexico City, and Dubai

To see the 2011 video of Earth Hour Australia visit <http://www.facebook.com/earthhoutraustralia>

For further information on how you can help during Earth Hour, you can visit the Earth Hour internet site at <http://www.earthhour.org.au/> and for tips from Council visit our internet site at <http://shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/Environment/GreenLiving.htm>.

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