



Guelph Hydro Delivers Energy Savings to Guelph Small Business Customers

Guelph, Ontario – October 20, 2008. Starting today, small businesses in Guelph may be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 worth of free energy-saving products and services through the *Power Savings Blitz*; a program offered by Guelph Hydro Electric Systems in partnership with the Ontario Power Authority. The program is designed to help local businesses save money on electricity costs and support the province's conservation goals.

"Guelph is and always has been very proud of the growth and strength of its small business sector," said Art Stokman, President of Guelph Hydro. "I am pleased to bring the *Power Saving Blitz* program to this fine city as it works to save our small businesses money, increase their competitive edge and help the environment through reduced energy consumption all at the same time."

Over the next few weeks representatives from Guelph Hydro will introduce the *Power Savings Blitz*. All eligible businesses will be offered a free energy audit that will identify energy efficiency upgrade opportunities. The first 130 qualifying businesses that agree to proceed with the upgrades will each receive up to \$1,000 worth of energy efficient improvements, free of charge.

"Save small businesses money and help the environment – those are the two goals of this program," said Stokman. "By participating in the *Power Saving Blitz*, small businesses in Guelph will make a large impact on both their monthly electricity bills and the environment. By simply exchanging old, energy wasting lighting systems for more efficient products, each business will substantially reduce its electricity usage, while at the same time maintaining or improving lighting quality due to new technologies."

The *Power Savings Blitz* is focused largely on upgrades to lighting systems. The older fluorescent tube lights typically found in stores and businesses are much less efficient than newer lighting technology. Existing fixtures can often be retrofit with new electronic ballasts and energy-saving tube lighting that uses about one-third less electricity.

The *Power Saving Blitz* program is also being run in the Stratford area by Festival Hydro and in Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo by Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro, Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro and Waterloo North Hydro.

To **SIGN UP** for the *Power Savings Blitz* program:

VISIT: www.powersavingsblitz.ca

CONTACT: 1-866-932-8283 or information@powersavingsblitz.ca

About Guelph Electric Hydro:

The consortium of local hydro companies comprised of Cambridge and North Dumfries Hydro, Festival Hydro, Guelph Hydro, Kitchener-Wilmot Hydro and Waterloo North Hydro are working together to effectively deliver the province-wide energy conservation programs to their customers.

About the Ontario Power Authority:

The Ontario Power Authority is responsible for ensuring a reliable, sustainable supply of electricity for Ontario. Its four key areas of focus are: planning the power system for the long term, leading and coordinating conservation initiatives across the province, ensuring development of needed generation resources and supporting the continued commercial evolution of the electricity sector.

For more information, contact:

Matt Weninger, Guelph Hydro, 519-837-4720, mweninger@guelphhydro.com