



## Request for City Council Committee Action City Coordinator's Office

**Date** March 1, 2010

**To** Honorable Elizabeth Glidden, Regulatory Energy & Environment

**Prepared by** Gayle Prest Phone 673-2931

**Approved by** Steven Bosacker

**Subject** **Support for Earth Hour (March 27 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.)**

### Recommendation

Approve resolution in support for Earth Hour on March 27, 2010 from 8:30-9:30

**Presenters in Committee** Gayle Prest, City Coordinator's Office

### Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

### Background/Supporting Information

On Earth Hour (Saturday March 2010 from 8:30 pm-9:30 pm central time) hundreds of millions of people around the world will come together to call for action on climate change by doing something quite simple—turning off their lights for one hour. The movement symbolizes that by working together, each of us can make a positive impact in this fight, protecting our future and that of future generations.

The inaugural Earth Hour took place in Sydney, Australia in March 2007 with more than 2.2 million people participating. The World Wildlife Federation launched Earth Hour 2008 as a global initiative in which communities turned out their non-essential lights to symbolize their leadership and commitment to finding solutions for climate change.

In 2008 and 2009 Minneapolis participated in Earth Hour in partnership with Xcel Energy, Minnesota Audubon and many others. This year, as in the past, the Stone Arch Bridge lights along with the City Hall Clock Tower's neon lights will be turned off.

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**  
**By Glidden and Gordon**  
**Supporting Earth Hour 2010**

Whereas, our Minneapolis community is deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change and the future health and well-being of our planet and believes energy efficiency, natural resource conservation, and a demand by the voting public for action by elected officials are important element to combating climate change; and,

Whereas, Earth Hour is both an international and local symbolic event organized by World Wildlife Fund to raise awareness about climate change issues, to encourage businesses, individuals and government to take actions to reduce their carbon emissions and their impact on the environment in their daily lives and operations; and

Whereas, Earth Hour asks all citizens, businesses, government agencies, and commercial and non-commercial establishments to turn off all non-essential lighting for one hour beginning at 8:30 pm on March 28, 2009 and to encourage citizens and businesses to commit to actions they can take in the coming year to reduce their carbon footprints and conserve energy; and,

Whereas, in Minnesota 35% of Greenhouse Gas emissions comes from electricity; and

Whereas, those Minneapolis buildings participating in Twin Cities "Lights Out" Campaign are to be commended for turning off lights during spring and fall bird migration in order to reduce the risk of birds hitting tall office buildings during the night; and

Whereas, the Minnesota Energy Challenge is a great way for Minneapolis residents and businesses to learn more about how they can reduce their energy use and combat climate change; and,

Whereas, in 2008 and 2009 the City of Minneapolis and many area businesses and residents participated in Earth Hour, and,

Whereas, Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm has been designated international Earth Hour

Whereas, cities and states across the country are joining to raise awareness and demonstrate our nation's commitment to fighting climate change by supporting "Earth Hour," and;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the City of Minneapolis proclaims March 27, 2010 from 8:30 – 9:30 p.m. as "Earth Hour" and call upon all residents and businesses to join in supporting the aims and goals of this effort, including turning off lights as much as possible.

Be It Further Resolved, That on March 27, 2010, the city will participate in Earth Hour by turning off all uses of electricity in municipal buildings not required for life, safety or operations, and will turn off the decorative lighting on the Stone Arch Bridge and the City Hall Clock tower in order to conserve energy and raise awareness about global climate change.