

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**  
**By Benson and Gordon**

**Supporting Earth Hour 2009.**

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, extinguishing non-essential lights in city government buildings, and public landmarks for at least for one hour and urging all businesses and citizens to do the same will send a clear message that the people of Minneapolis are concerned about climate change, stand with the rest of the world in seeking solutions and are demanding that elected leaders act immediately to take measures that will help fight global climate change effort to stop climate change, including the passage of legislation and good-faith participation in global climate treaty negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009; 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 the City of Minneapolis and many area businesses and residents participated in Earth Hour;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

That on March 28, 2009, 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.

Be It Further Resolved that residents of Minneapolis are encouraged to participate in Earth Hour and reduce their energy usage during every hour of the year.

Be It Further Resolved that we encourage all Minneapolis businesses to participate in Earth Hour and specifically recognize and thank the following for their leadership and participation:

**701 Building**  
**Accenture Tower**  
**City of Minneapolis**  
**Hennepin County Library Central**  
**Hennepin County Government Center Plaza**  
**Hennepin County Century Plaza**  
**Hennepin County Environmental Services Building**  
**Hennepin County Family Justice Center**  
**Hennepin County Juvenile Justice Center**  
**IDS Center**  
**Target Corporate Offices**  
**US Bancorp Center**  
**US Bank Plaza**  
**Wells Fargo Center**  
**Wells Fargo Home Mortgage Center**  
**Xcel Energy – Nicollet Mall**