



Hotel Dieu
HOSPITAL



KINGSTON
GENERAL
HOSPITAL

Providence
Care

Media Release

March 27, 2009

Kingston hospitals support Earth Hour

Kingston's university hospitals – Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston General Hospital and Providence Care – will once again support Earth Hour March 28 to conserve power and draw attention to climate change.

Although the hospitals cannot turn off all lights during the designated hour (8:30-9:30 p.m.) because of safety and security concerns for patients, residents, staff and visitors, staff will identify and turn off any unnecessary lighting in unoccupied areas. In addition, patients, residents and staff are encouraged to turn off room or office lights if they wish and feel it is safe to do so.

Security and environmental services staff at each of the hospitals' five sites continuously look for opportunities to conserve energy during their daily rounds. They turn off lights and computer monitors, where appropriate, to help with the hospitals' efforts to decrease energy output.

Staff in non-patient care areas are encouraged to turn off their lights, computers and other electrical equipment at the end of every work day, says Ted Darby, Vice-President of Planning at HDH, KGH and Providence Care. "Earth Hour is an opportunity for everyone to become more aware of how they can make a difference in preserving the environment, and as a workplace, we try to make a conscious effort every day of the year."

Redevelopment projects at Kingston's hospitals allow additional ways to make a positive environmental impact. New patient care areas will incorporate international Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) elements including solar shading, energy efficient windows and low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) finishes (carpets, paints, adhesives, etc.). Existing buildings are also being improved through standard capital upgrades to electronic and technological infrastructure. These ongoing efforts to meet the green health-care standards of Canada include efficient lighting and recycling efforts and collaborative community initiatives to divert electronic and other non-biodegradable waste from landfills.

Earth Hour started in Sydney, Australia in 2007. In 2008, the event went worldwide. Millions of people in more than 30 countries turned off their lights for Earth Hour. In Canada, about 10 million people from coast-to-coast participated.

This is the second year the event will take place internationally. For more information on how to get involved, visit www.EarthHourCanada.org .

Working together, Kingston's hospitals provide a continuum of specialized health care in this region. Our teaching hospitals offer leading-edge clinical care, pioneering research and outstanding teaching opportunities through their affiliation with Queen's University. These dynamic partnerships translate into quality patient care for our community.

Leading Care. Changing Lives.

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