

Kilowatt Countdown Challenge Results May 7, 2008

South Stormont Residents Unite to Reduce CO2 Emissions

Results are in for Kilowatt Countdown, the community climate change project that began last January in the Township of South Stormont. Organizers hoped to reduce energy usage in at least 350 of the township's households by 20% over the same months of 2007, which would have resulted in a 64 metric tonne reduction in carbon emissions. So, how did South Stormont do?

"A 1,000,000 kWh reduction in energy consumption was achieved during February and March, equating to approximately 650 tonnes fewer carbon emissions – 10 times greater than our original goal!" reports Karen Carriere, coordinator of the challenge.

Hydro One provided the statistics. "The estimated energy reduction in South Stormont during Jan-Mar of 2008 compared to Jan-Mar of 2007 is 3.2%. This estimate is arrived at after correcting for differences in weather conditions during those periods in 2007 and 2008 and also correcting for the leap-year effect (1 additional day in Feb 2008)" according to Jim Hall, Hydro One Conservation Manager.

"However, no significant impact was found for January 2008 compared to Jan 2007. This is perhaps due to the fact that the programs just started in January and not every one started acting upon it at Jan 1st. If we exclude January from the calculation, the estimated reduction in energy usage for the remaining months (Feb and March) is 5.0%."

Applying the above percentages, Mr. Hall reports "Our estimate of the reduction in consumption is 1GWh, which is 1,000 MWh or 1,000,000 kWh."

"It takes commitment to change daily habits. We want to thank all those who participated," says Carriere. "It starts with personal actions, then asking someone else to start as well. Together we have demonstrated that modest conservation efforts within each household create substantial greenhouse gas reductions - when many take part."

Carriere suggests these local resources for others interested in decreasing their carbon footprint, as well as becoming more resilient to rising global energy costs: "Adopt some of over 200 energy saving tips from the South Stormont Township Kilowatt Countdown website (www.southstormont.ca), sign up at the Cornwall Carbon Reduction Initiative website (www.cornwallcarbonreduction.ca), and borrow books on energy conservation, along with an energy meter, from local libraries."

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