



Request for City Council Committee Action from the City Coordinator's Office

Date: March 17, 2014

To: Honorable Cam Gordon, Chair, Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee

Subject: Resolution calling for support for Earth Hour (March 29 from 8:30-9:30 p.m.)

Recommendation: Approve resolution in support for Earth Hour on March 29, 2014 from 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Department Information

Prepared by: Julia Eagles, Sustainability Associate Approved by: Paul Aasen Presenters in Committee: Julia Eagles

Financial Impact: None

Community Impact: None

Supporting Information:

On Earth Hour (Saturday March 29, 2014 from 8:30-9:30 p.m.) 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 Fund 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.

Since 2008, Minneapolis has 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.

Attachment 1: 2014 Earth Hour Resolution

RESOLUTION _____
By Gordon
Supporting Earth Hour 2014

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 elements to combat 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 invites individuals, businesses, governments and communities to turn off all non-essential lighting for one hour on Saturday, March 29, 2014 at 8:30 p.m. to show their support for environmentally sustainable action; and

Whereas, 42% of greenhouse gas emissions in Minneapolis came from electricity in 2012; and

Whereas, the City of Minneapolis has a target to reduce citywide carbon emissions 15% by 2015 and 30% by 2025, using 2006 as a baseline; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan, adopted in June of 2013, provides a roadmap for reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, Saturday, March 29, 2014 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. has been designated international Earth Hour; and

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;"

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of Minneapolis that on March 29, 2014 from 8:30 - 9:30 p.m. 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; and

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; and

Be it further resolved that we encourage all Minneapolis businesses to participate in Earth Hour.