



MEDIA RELEASE

August 8, 2008
For Immediate Release

Local Electricity Conservation Efforts Take Lead in Province

Thunder Bay, ON – Thunder Bay Hydro customer participation level in a recent energy conservation contest ranked our city as number one in the province for utilities of our size and placed our city in the top ten for all participating utilities.

The Ontario Power Authority's (OPA) Summer Sweepstakes contest had 1622 Thunder Bay Hydro customers registered by the July 15th deadline. The registering customer is committing to reduce power consumption by ten percent in the months of July and August compared to last year. This undertaking has the potential to trim over 300,000 kWh of consumption from our city during these two months. Success will qualify them to win prizes that include ENERGY STAR qualified appliance packages for kitchen or laundry, multi-media players with a solar charger or top of the line mountain bikes.

Residents have also actively participated removing old energy hogging appliances from the provincial grid. After only two months of active advertising, as of June 30, Thunder Bay Hydro has had 430 customers participate in the Great refrigerator Roundup. The goal for the year will be to remove just over one thousand units.

The Great Refrigerator Roundup Program coordinates the free pickup and disposal of operating refrigerators and freezers that are 10-27 cubic feet and more than 10 years old. The program also allows for the pickup of a window air conditioner if it is picked up with a qualifying refrigerator or freezer. The appliances are disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner with almost all parts being recycled. Refrigerators and freezers manufactured prior to 1995 may contain CFCs which if released can harm the environment. The CFCs are removed and recycled.

The OPA estimates that there are over two million refrigerators and freezers within the province that are still in operation that were made before 1995. These appliances can cost as much as \$150 per year to power. It is estimated that for every ten such refrigerators removed from the grid, a single family home can be powered for a year.

Pickups for The Great Refrigerator Roundup will continue through the year.

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