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Earth Hour and Schools

IMPORTANT: Before you start planning for Earth Hour, remember to register your school on www.EarthHourCanada.org so your participation can be counted towards the Canadian total.

Suggestions for planning Earth Hour at school

1. Have a symbolic Earth Hour event at school on Friday, March 26 (the day before the official Earth Hour). Suggestions include holding an Earth Hour assembly or lights-out events in classrooms. If the weather is mild, teachers can also use the great outdoors as a living classroom and lead their students on a nature hike or in a lesson on the environment. This will encourage students to participate in Earth Hour at home with their families the next day. More importantly, students will be empowered to take positive actions that will make a difference in our planet's future.
2. Promote your school's participation in Earth Hour to neighbourhood groups and nearby schools. And post a sign in the school lobby inviting parents and school guests to join your school for Earth Hour celebrations on March 26.
3. Organize a school-wide lights-out event and invite your school board officials and trustees to attend.
4. Alert local media to your Earth Hour plans and invite them to come take photos that day.
5. Send a letter home with students letting parents/guardians know about Earth Hour and that your school will be holding a symbolic Earth Hour event on March 26. In the letter, encourage families to participate in Earth Hour on March 27 from 8:30-9:30 pm and to sign-up at www.EarthHourCanada.org. The letter can also include suggestions on other ways to help reduce waste at school. For example, packing lunches in reusable containers and beverages in reusable bottles, and refrain from using items such as aluminum foil, saran wrap, and juice boxes.
6. Welcome your school-designated Earth Hour with a 'countdown' to generate student awareness and excitement around the event.
7. Transform your cafeteria or gymnasium into a movie theatre! Educate students with an environmentally themed movie. Choose from movie titles such as An Inconvenient Truth, The 11th Hour, Winged Migration, Arctic Tale or The Great Polar Bear Adventure.
8. Post Earth Hour information on the school website and in the school newsletter. Downloadable web banners and logos are available at www.EarthHourCanada.org
9. Host students for an Earth Hour lunch in a candlelit cafeteria or gymnasium. Please take safety precautions and do not leave young students unattended with candles.

10. Take pictures of your Earth Hour celebrations and create a photo wall for display. Ask students to add to it by bringing in pictures showing how their family spent Earth Hour and hold a photo contest for the most creative ideas.

Operational suggestions for your school

- **Exterior of school** – ensure that external lights and parking lots lights are turned off where possible, keeping safety lighting in mind.
- **Hallway lights** – reduce to minimal lighting to ensure student and staff safety, in accordance with the school's occupational safety policy.
- **Classroom lights** – turn off.
- **Staff Areas** – ensure non-essential lights are turned off including staff lounge, principal's office and reception area
- **Gymnasiums / Cafeterias / Library** – turn lights to a minimum in these areas and post signs or a poster to let visitors to the school know about your Earth Hour commitments.

Post Earth Hour

Continue the Earth Hour momentum and let WWF-Canada help you bring the power of the environment into your classroom with our education program. *Schools for a Living Planet* offers educators with FREE access to over 30 curriculum-linked, printable in-class activities for grades 3 to 8. It is designed to help Canadian teachers give their students the knowledge they need to make a difference in our planet's future. Each grade's unit has a unique environmental theme with materials carefully designed to meet curriculum expectations in English, Social Studies and Science. And it's easy to use – download what you want, when you want, the choice is yours. For more information or to register, visit wwf.ca/schools today!