



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD to dim lights during International Earth Hour

To show support for international earth hour, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) will be dimming the lights at all of its facilities from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday.

“As a way of maximizing dollars spent on energy use, MWRD practices solid energy management at its facilities on a daily basis,” said David St. Pierre, executive director. “Turning down the lights at the designated time for earth hour is one of the many ways we show our commitment to protecting the environment.”

When the lights dim at the administrative offices in downtown Chicago and at the water reclamation plants located in the city and suburbs, the reduction in power will not affect operations. In fact, the MWRD routinely curtails energy usage as a cost-savings and natural resource conservation method.

The MWRD’s voluntary energy curtailment program with Comverge, Inc. recently paid off with a \$1.6 million rebate.

“We are always looking for ways to reduce energy usage while continuing to comply with all of our operating permits,” said St. Pierre. “For many, earth hour is the first step. Taking the second step and beyond shows a true commitment to lasting change to create a more sustainable planet.”

Additional information about international earth hour can be found at www.earthhour.com and more information about the MWRD can be found at www.mwrdd.org.

By the numbers:

More than 5,200 cities, towns and municipalities took part in Earth Hour 2011 across 135 countries, including 89 national capitals and 9 of the world’s 10 most populated cities.

In addition to turning off your lights for an hour this weekend, replace incandescent lightbulbs with compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs).

CFLs use 65-75% less energy and last up to 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Visit www.earthhour.com for more information.

Our water environment...Take it personally

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwrdd.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.