



EARTH HOUR

INSPIRED BY WWF  
MARCH 28, 8:30 PM

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## 10 Suggestions for celebrating Earth Hour in your school

1. Use Earth Hour to integrate the environment into your curriculum. Ontario's Environmental Education Scope and Sequence of Expectations will show you how. WWF has also created a curriculum linked Earth Hour kit for grades 3 to 8. Visit [www.ontario.ca/enviro-ed](http://www.ontario.ca/enviro-ed) for links to these and more environmental education resources.
2. Host an Earth Hour event at your school on Friday, March 27 (the day before Earth Hour). If the weather is mild, head outdoors for a nature hike or lesson in the environment.
3. Promote your participation in Earth Hour to neighbourhood groups and nearby schools. Post a sign in your school lobby inviting parents and school guests to join your Earth Hour celebrations.
4. Organize a school-wide lights-out event and invite your board officials and trustees to attend.
5. Alert local media to your Earth Hour plans and invite them to come take photos that day.
6. Let parents / guardians know about Earth Hour and that your school will be holding an Earth Hour event on March 27. Use your website, outdoor sign or voice mail / email messages to encourage families to participate in Earth Hour on March 28 and to sign-up at [www.EarthHourCanada.org](http://www.EarthHourCanada.org). You can also include suggestions on other ways to help reduce waste at school. For example, packing "litterless lunches" in reusable containers and beverages in reusable bottles, and avoiding using items such as aluminium foil, saran wrap, and juice boxes.
7. Welcome your school-designated Earth Hour with a "countdown" to generate student awareness and excitement around the event.
8. Transform your cafeteria or gymnasium into a movie theatre! Start a learning activity on the environment with an environmentally themed movie. Consider movies like An Inconvenient Truth, The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour, Winged Migration, Arctic Tale or The Great Polar Bear Adventure.
9. Post Earth Hour information on your school's website and in your school newsletter. A sample newsletter article and downloadable banners and logos are available at [www.ontario.ca/enviro-ed](http://www.ontario.ca/enviro-ed) under Earth Hour.
10. Take pictures of your Earth Hour celebrations and create a photo wall display. Ask students to bring in pictures showing how their family spent Earth Hour and hold a photo contest for the most creative ideas.

**Remember: Register at [wwf.ca/earthhourschools](http://wwf.ca/earthhourschools)  
so your school will be included in the Ontario total!**

## Operational suggestions for your school and board office buildings

Talk to your staff and any community groups that use your building about how to make Earth Hour safe and successful.

- **Exterior of building** – ensure that external lights and parking lot lights are turned off where possible, keeping safety / security 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.

## Make every hour Earth Hour

Keep the Earth Hour momentum going and bring the power of the environment into your classroom with these handy tools:

**Schools for a Living Planet** is a WWF-Canada program that offers educators free access to over 30 curriculum-linked, printable, in-class activities for grades 3 to 8. 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 [www.wwf.ca/schools](http://www.wwf.ca/schools).

**Ready, Set, Green!** is a collection of tips, techniques, and resources used by Ontario educators. Prepared by the Ministry of Education, the guide includes many innovative projects and programs that have been developed by schools and boards across the province. Download a copy from [www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/environment.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/document/policy/environment.html).

The **Ontario Education Resource Bank** also contains thousands of teacher-shared resources, including lesson plans, activities, maps, and interactive multimedia objects, including environment related activities. Materials range from kindergarten to grade 12 and are searchable by grade, course/subject, strand, overall expectations, and keyword. Visit [www.elearningontario.com](http://www.elearningontario.com).

**E-zone** is a website created by the Ministry of Environment to give elementary students and teachers access to dynamic, practical, and inspiring information on environmental issues. Encouraging children to learn, share and act, E-zone teaches them about climate change, smog, recycling, conservation and other environmental topics. It also offers teacher resources, like themed posters, activity sheets, and colouring pages. Visit [www.ontario.ca/e-zone](http://www.ontario.ca/e-zone).