

# Earth Hour

Earth Hour is **Saturday, March 29th, 2014, at 8:30pm**. At this time, families are invited to turn their lights off for an hour and make a stand against climate change.

With this in mind, **Williamsburg students will have our own Earth Hour this Friday March 28th from 2:20 until 3:20pm**. It will be a school wide lights out event where we will turn off our classroom lights for an hour as well as any computers, printers, SmartBoards, etc., which are not being used.



Participate in Earth  
Hour on March 29th!

## What is Earth Hour?

Earth Hour is a worldwide grassroots movement uniting people to protect the planet, and is organized by WWF. Engaging a massive mainstream community on a broad range of environmental issues, Earth Hour was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007. Since then it has grown to engage more than 7000 cities and towns worldwide, and the one-hour event continues to remain the key driver of the now larger movement.

## Will my city go completely black during the event?

Earth Hour is not a black out. It is a voluntary action by its participants to show their commitment to an act of change that benefits the planet. For many businesses in city skyscrapers or for many government buildings, the lights are turned off at the end of the business day the Friday before Earth Hour. So Earth Hour is more of a fade-out in some ways than a black out. There is usually no instant dramatic difference, but rather a gradual dimming of lights starting the day prior. Many major icons and neon signs are switched off for the hour and they are extremely noticeable. You may be able to see dramatic changes in large business districts or at iconic landmarks and buildings around the world and in the city.

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## Why is Earth Hour the event held in late March?

The second-to-last and last weekend of March is around the time of the Spring and Autumn equinoxes in the northern and southern hemispheres respectively, which allows for near coincidental sunset times in both hemispheres, thereby ensuring the greatest visual impact for a global 'lights out' event. Earth Hour 2014 will be held on Saturday 29 March between 8.30PM and 9.30PM in your local time zone.

## How many cities/countries/landmarks took part in Earth Hour 2013?

Earth Hour 2013 took place in more than 7001 cities and towns in 154 countries and territories across all seven continents. Hundreds of millions of people switched their lights off for an hour, and the campaign experienced its biggest growth since 2009. There were around 3395 landmarks that participated. Click here to view the [Earth Hour 2013 Video](#).

## What does a commitment to Earth Hour mean?

By registering for Earth Hour 2014 (<http://www.earthhour.org/>), communities and businesses are making a commitment to turn their lights off for an hour at 8.30PM on Saturday 29 March in acknowledgement of an act they will undertake for the benefit of the planet.

## Who can participate?

Earth Hour is a campaign for anyone and everyone who wants to share a commitment to make this planet better.

## What energy/carbon reductions have resulted from Earth Hour in previous years?

Earth hour does not claim that the event is an energy or carbon reduction exercise - it is a symbolic action. Earth Hour is an initiative to encourage individuals, businesses and governments around the world to take accountability for their ecological footprint and engage in dialogue and resource exchange that provides real solutions to our environmental challenges. Participation in Earth Hour symbolizes a commitment to change beyond the hour.