



Charleston County News Release

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Turn Off Lights for Earth Hour on March 23, 8:30 p.m.

County encourages citizens to raise awareness by participating in the worldwide event

[Charleston County's Environmental Management Department](#) encourages citizens to participate in [Earth Hour](#), which is a worldwide movement uniting hundreds of countries for a common cause: the protection of the planet.

On March 23 at 8:30 p.m. local time, hundreds of millions of people around the world will turn off their lights for Earth Hour, the world's largest collective display of commitment to protect the planet. By turning off all lights for just 60 minutes on the evening of March 23, County residents can take positive action for the environment and inspire others to do the same.

Residents can join in on Twitter by sending their Earth Hour photo to [@ChasCountyGov](#) with the [#ChasCountyEarthHour](#).

"How much power we are able to save isn't the main focus," said [Charleston County's Solid Waste Committee Chair and County Councilmember Anna Johnson](#). "What it is really about is discovering what can happen when people come together to support the sustainability of our planet."

Earth Hour encourages participation on a global level to take action toward a more sustainable future. Locally, the theme of this year's [Annual Charleston County Earth Day Festival](#) on April 20 is "One Earth, One Future." Residents are encouraged to attend the event to learn more about environmental issues that impact their community. Volunteers are still needed for the Earth Day Festival. Residents are encouraged to [go online](#) for more information on how to participate.

SIDEBAR: Background on Earth Hour (source: www.earthhour.org)

- Earth Hour was created by the World Wildlife Fund to raise awareness about the need to preserve energy.
- The event first took place in 2007, when 2.2 million residents of Sydney, Australia participated by turning off all non-essential lights. Following Sydney's lead, many other cities around the world adopted the event in 2008.
- During Earth Hour 2012, 135 countries and territories, over 5,000 towns and cities, and millions of people on all seven continents turned off their lights as world-wide icons also went dark, including the Sydney Opera House, the Coliseum in Rome, Stockholm's Royal Castle, the Empire State Building and the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Google turned its homepage black for an entire day in tribute.

For more information on recycling, contact the Charleston County Environmental Management Department at (843) 720-7111 or visit recycle.charlestoncounty.org.

For information on Charleston County Government news and services, the public can:

- Visit our website: www.charlestoncounty.org
- Follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ChasCountyGov>

- Like us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753>
 - *Emergency Management Department*: <http://www.facebook.com/EMDChasCo>
 - *Consolidated 9-1-1 Center's Public Education Program*: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Government/474878989220753#!/pages/Charleston-County-Consolidated-9-1-1-Center-Public-Education-Program/186965438015227>
 - *Board of Elections and Voter Registration*: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Charleston-County-Board-of-Elections-and-Voter-Registration/103895809694986>
- See us on You Tube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/charlestoncountygov>
- Watch County Council meetings online <http://www.ustream.tv/channel/charleston-county-government>



- written by Jennie Flinn -