



Horizon Utilities Corporation



For Immediate Media Release

Horizon Utilities and Niagara Regional Housing launch program to help seniors in housing complex reduce energy costs

St. Catharines -- August 28, 2006 – Niagara Regional Housing and Horizon Utilities Corporation today announced energy conservation measures that will result in savings at a seniors affordable housing community in St. Catharines, known locally as Kenworth Acres.

The \$130,000 pilot project – a joint venture of NRH and Horizon - involves the replacement of fridges, lighting and thermostats with energy efficient units, and will shave over \$17,300 from annual electricity costs of \$155,000. Tenants at the 211-unit apartment complex in the north-end of St. Catharines attended an Information Session about the new measures today.

“This is a program designed to cut energy costs and strengthen the importance of energy conservation by providing the tools needed to take action,” said Max Cananzi, president and CEO of Horizon Utilities. “Our goal is to keep affordable housing affordable by reducing utility costs.”

The energy-saving program is being delivered through *powerWISE*[®], the multi-year initiative sponsored by Horizon Utilities to help consumers conserve energy and keep their hydro bills affordable.

“With the large portfolio of properties owned by Niagara Regional Housing, we have a great opportunity to build partnerships that will result in energy savings,” said Dave Eke, Board Chairman of Niagara Regional Housing and Regional Councillor for Niagara-on-the-Lake. “Those savings can then be reinvested. We’re grateful to Horizon Utilities for working with us on this energy conservation project.”

Seniors pay a flat rate of \$30.00 monthly for utilities at Kenworth Acres. Still, utility costs remain the single, largest expenditure for Niagara Regional Housing’s owned properties at \$4.47 million in 2006.

Over 6,500 people live in subsidized housing owned by Niagara Regional Housing. The affordable housing agency has 2,636 units in its portfolio, including 24 apartment buildings and 32 family communities consisting of townhouses, semi-detached homes and single property dwellings.

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About *powerWISE*[®]:

This *powerWISE*[®] program is one of Horizon Utilities' multi-year, energy conservation and demand management initiatives. Under the *powerWISE*[®] name, Horizon is also working cooperatively with five of Ontario's other largest electricity distribution companies and the Ministry of Energy to deliver new and innovative energy conservation programs.

Horizon Utilities Corporation is the third largest municipally owned electricity distribution company in Ontario and provides electricity and related utility services to over 230,000 residential and commercial customers in Hamilton and St. Catharines. The company is owned by Hamilton Utilities Corporation and St. Catharines Hydro Inc. and operates out of facilities in Hamilton, St. Catharines, and Stoney Creek.

Horizon's 340 employees are committed to delivering a safe and reliable supply of electricity, providing unparalleled customer value and helping to create a culture of energy conservation in Ontario.

Horizon Utilities Corporation is proud to be a founding member of *powerWISE*[®], a brand created to promote energy conservation and reduce the demand for electricity in Ontario. *powerWISE*[®] is a joint initiative of the Ontario government and six of Ontario's largest electricity distribution companies. For more information, visit: www.horizonutilities.com and www.powerwise.ca.

About Niagara Regional Housing:

NRH is a housing provider offering 6,500 Niagarans, comprising families, single adults and senior citizens, well-maintained, secure and affordable accommodation across the region. It co-ordinates the centralized waiting list for applicants requiring subsidized affordable housing. In partnership with 67 non-profit and cooperative providers, and several private landlords, more than an additional 6,000 people live in affordable housing across Niagara region.

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