



March 27, 2009

Volume 8, Issue 8

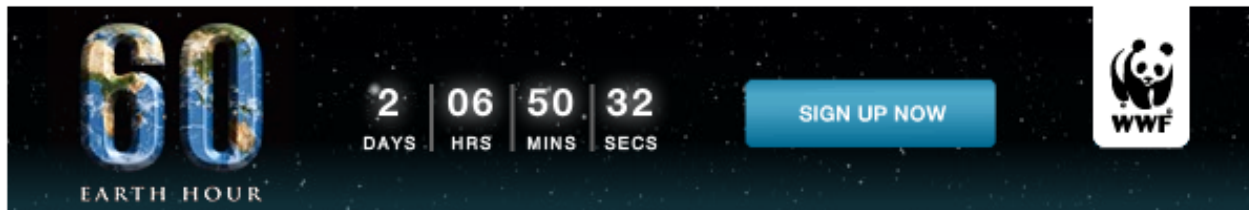
# Chalk Talk

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**PLEASE SHARE CHALK TALK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES !!!**

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Educators,



What will you be doing on Saturday, March 28, 2009 at 8:30 p.m. local time? Perhaps you'll be turning off your lights, appliances and computers as part of Earth Hour. [Click on the banner, above, for more information or to sign up.]

At the time that I am writing this, 2,848 cities and towns in 84 countries around the world have registered to participate in 60 minutes of reduced consumption of generated power. Life will not come to a screeching halt, it will just not be as bright, I think. Many will choose to eat, read, walk, talk, play board games, etc. by candlelight. While for some it may feel like the 19th century, others may consider it mood changing like a romantic dinner under the stars or moonlight walk in some exotic vacation spot.

For city dwellers, such as myself, it will feel DARKER. Residents of small towns, camping enthusiasts or weekend cottagers understand night in a very different way. They may not experience such a drastic difference when they turn out the lights but for those of us who rarely see more than a few dozen stars even in the clearest sky, an hour of significant darkness can have a tangible, even visceral, impact.

For some this event represents more of a token gesture than a measurable way to improve the Environment. Still, energy will be saved and awareness of this very global issue will be raised, collectively strengthening the bond that we have with our planet, and even, with each other. In the days leading up to this year's Earth Hour, I've noted the usual controversies about global warming have begun to fill the airwaves. Famous environmentalists, such as, Canadian singer-songwriter, Alanis Morissette, and Oscar nominated actor, Edward Norton, appear on CNN's *Larry King Live*, using their celebrity to promote living a greener lifestyle, while others, those who remain skeptical of the seriousness of climate change, haul out statistics in support of their point of view. I find it difficult to understand why those who remain unconvinced that climate change is real, are opposed to reducing energy consumption. In Europe, where energy costs are much higher than in North America, conservation is taken for granted and has been part of everyday life for many decades. What is the down-side?

This week's issue features environmental programs that encourage students to observe their world and participate in finding solutions to our eco-challenges. CoEd Communications is dedicated to supporting the important work of teachers by providing resources on a range of topics for the classroom. We invite you to visit our website at [4edu.ca](http://4edu.ca) to view the many free teachers' resources on offer.

[Let us know what you think!](#)

Mary Kovack



[Study: Participation in environmentally active lifestyles, 2006](#) – *The Daily*, Statistics Canada, December 9, 2008

About 45% of Canadian households had very environmentally active lifestyles in 2006, as measured by their participation in at least four of six selected environmental behaviours. The most environmentally active province was Prince Edward Island, where close to two-thirds of households participated in four or more environmental behaviours. In comparison, Quebec and Manitoba had the lowest proportion of households engaged in four or more behaviours.

Find the second other key information sources in the [Environment: Key Resources](#) page of “Learning Resources” in the Statistics Canada website.

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