Legislation Text

File #: RES 15-532, **Version:** 1

Declaring Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. to be "Earth Hour" in the City of Saint Paul.

WHEREAS, March 28, 2015, 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. has been designated as "Earth Hour" by the World Wildlife Fund as a reminder that, by working together, people can make a positive impact in the fight against climate change; and
WHEREAS, in this, the 9th annual Earth Hour, 162 countries, over 7,000 towns and cities, representing hundreds of millions of people worldwide, will turn off their lights for 60 minutes to raise awareness and demonstrate commitment to addressing climate change, making Earth Hour the largest voluntary action for the environment; and
WHEREAS, more than one-third of greenhouse gas emissions comes from electricity - making it vitally important to decrease our reliance on electricity and non-essential lighting; and
WHEREAS, significant improvement requires going *Beyond the Hour* and making permanent, long-term improvements in our day-to-day lives; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul has shown its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by installing photovoltaic (solar electric) panels on the RiverCentre Parking Ramp, Rondo Library, West Team Police Station, Public Works Garage, St. Anthony Park Community Center, and Science Museum of Minnesota; installing solar thermal (hot water) panels on the RiverCentre and Como Pool; retrofitting 60 city-owned buildings with efficient lighting and energy management systems; installing electric vehicle charging stations and purchasing electric vehicles; promoting biking by installing bike facilities on streets; encouraging the use of Nice Ride bike sharing program in the city, and developing a bikeways plan; adopting the Sustainable Saint Paul Building Policy for construction projects; making zero-percent interest loans to homeowners to make energy efficient improvements to their homes; and ensuring completion of the Green Line light rail; and

WHEREAS, throughout the world Earth Hour celebrations can be observed by dimmed lights at the Sydney Opera House, Beijing's Forbidden City, the world's tallest building in Tapei, Taiwan, the Kremlin, the Pyramids in Egypt, Capetown's Table Mountain, the Coliseum, and the Eiffel Tower; and
WHEREAS, Saint Paul businesses, organizations and individuals throughout the city will be participating in this year's Earth Hour with dimmed lights in the following prominent buildings and locations evidencing the city's support:

Bremer Tower
Landmark Center
James J. Hill Reference Library
Metropolitan State University
Minnesota Children's Museum
Minnesota State Capitol
Rice Park
Saint Paul City Hall/Ramsey County Court House
Saint Paul Public Libraries including:
- Arlington Hills Community Center
- Dayton's Bluff Library
- George Latimer Central Library

Hamline Midway Library
Hayden Heights Library
Highland Park Library
Merriam Park Library
Riverview Library
Rondo Community Outreach Library
Saint Anthony Park Library
Sun Ray Library
West 7th Library
Wells Fargo Place; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul Earth Hour web page (www.stpaul.gov/earthhour <http://www.stpaul.gov/earthhour><<http://www.stpaul.gov/earthhour>>) provides helpful information to residents and businesses about how to save energy, save money, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as pictures from previous years' events; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Saint Paul City Council, hereby proclaims, March 28, 2015 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. as Earth Hour in the City of Saint Paul. During Earth Hour, the city calls upon all Saint Paul residents, businesses, non-profit organizations, units of government, and houses of worship to turn off nonessential lights to support the aims and goals of this local and international effort.