



Legislation Text

File #: RES 20-499, **Version:** 1

Declaring Saturday, March 28, 2020 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. to be “Earth Hour” in the City of Saint Paul.

WHEREAS, March 28, 2020, 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, Earth Hour has become a catalyst for positive environmental impact, driving major legislative changes by harnessing the power of the people.; and

WHEREAS, Earth Hour 2019 was celebrated in 188 countries and territories across seven continents and aboard the International Space Station, when lights were switched off for 60 minutes, serving as a strong visual reminder of the global determination to tackle our planet’s biggest environmental challenge; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 Earth Hour celebrations were observed by the dimming of lights at thousands of iconic landmarks around the world, including the Sydney Opera House, Tokyo Sky Tree, Brandenburg Gate, the Empire State Building, the Pyramids of Egypt, Christ the Redeemer, and the Eiffel Tower; and

WHEREAS, the City of Saint Paul has celebrated Earth Hour since 2010 with a growing number of participants each year; and

WHEREAS, businesses, organizations, and individuals throughout the city will participate in this year’s Earth Hour by dimming lights and otherwise demonstrating support in the following buildings and locations:

WORKING ON LIST OF BUILDINGS NOW

Minnesota State Capitol

Saint Paul City Hall/Ramsey County Court House

375 Jackson Building

District Energy St. Paul

Ecolab (360 N. Wabasha & 1 Ecolab Place)

First National Bank Building

Landmark Center

Metropolitan State University

Minnesota Children’s Museum

North Suburban Courts

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

Ramsey County Libraries

Ramsey County Public Works

Ramsey County Sheriff Patrol Station

Rice Park

Saint Paul George Latimer Central Library

Saint Paul-Ramsey County Public Health Building

Science Museum of Minnesota

Town Square Tower

Union Depot

US Bank Center (101 E. 5th St.)

US Bank Center (60 Livingston Ave.)

Wells Fargo Place

Xcel Energy Center/RiverCentre/Minnesota Wild

WHEREAS, in Saint Paul climate change impacts are felt and observed most noticeably as extreme heat events, poor air quality, increases in frequency and severity of precipitation (both rain and snow), river flood events, ecological changes, and psychological impacts; and

WHEREAS, mitigating the worst impacts of climate change 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 adopting the Climate Action and Resilience Plan, which sets goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 and down to net zero by 2050; installing photovoltaic (solar electric) panels on the RiverCentre Parking Ramp, Rondo Library, West Team Police Station, Public Works Garage and more; installing solar thermal (hot water) panels on RiverCentre and Como Aquatic Center; 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 trails and bike lanes on streets, encouraging bike sharing; and developing a bikeways plan; adopting the Sustainable Saint Paul Building Ordinance for construction projects; making no interest loans to homeowners to make energy efficient improvements to their homes; and supporting the planning and development of new transit investments; adopting of a citywide Pedestrian Plan; and

WHEREAS, the World Wildlife Fund Earth Hour website (www.earthhour.org <<http://www.earthhour.org>>) is an excellent resource and the City of Saint Paul Earth Hour web page (stpaul.gov/news/earthhour) provides helpful information to residents and businesses about how to save energy, save money, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Saint Paul City Council, hereby proclaims, March 28, 2020 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. as Earth Hour in the City of Saint Paul; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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.