



**For Immediate Release**

**News Release**

**FortisAlberta increases Earth Hour grants to help communities save energy**

**Calgary, Alberta – March 3, 2016** - FortisAlberta, an electricity distribution company that provides service to central and southern Alberta, has increased the amount of their Earth Hour grants to enable municipalities to create or enhance energy efficiencies in their communities. First, second and third place winners will be awarded with \$7,500, \$5,000 and \$2,500 grants respectively.

Due to a high level of interest in the program last year, FortisAlberta increased the amount of the three grants available in 2016 to support this initiative. Grants will be awarded to the top three communities with the highest energy savings per capita during the Earth Hour event which takes place on **Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.**

“Last year, communities had great fun with this. We saw creative ideas like restaurant-hosted candle-lit dinners and some communities held bonfire gatherings,” says Natasha Russell, Corporate Communications Advisor. “We hope to generate even more enthusiasm this year.”

Earth Hour is a global event that takes place in March every year with the goal of encouraging people and businesses to turn off unnecessary lights, appliances and electronic devices to help conserve power and raise awareness around environmental issues.

**The deadline for submissions to FortisAlberta’s Earth Hour Challenge is Monday, March 7, 2016.**

To learn more about the 2016 Earth Hour Challenge visit [fortisalberta.com](http://fortisalberta.com).

**About FortisAlberta**

As owner and operator of more than 60 per cent of Alberta’s total electricity distribution network and more than 120,000 kilometres of power lines, FortisAlberta’s focus is the safe and reliable delivery of electricity to its 530,000 customers in 200 communities across Alberta.

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