



David A. Paterson
Governor



John C. Egan
Commissioner

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NEW YORK JOINS WORLDWIDE ACTION TO SUPPORT CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVES ON SATURDAY NIGHT
Capitol joins worldwide event that has included Eiffel Tower, Pyramids, and Vegas Strip

Governor David A. Paterson today announced that on Saturday, March 27, New York will join millions around the world in collectively celebrating Earth Hour by turning off the exterior lights at the State Capitol building in Albany from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. This will be the second year that the capitol building has been part of the Earth Hour event which supports action on climate change and the creation of a cleaner, safer and more secure future. This marks the third year of the event which began in 2008, and attracted more than 80 million participants in the U.S. last year, and nearly a billion people around the world, as lights dimmed on such global icons as the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Sydney's Opera House, the Great Pyramids of Giza and New York's Empire State Building. www.myearthhour.org

"Over the last two years, my administration has worked tirelessly on environmental issues," Governor David A. Paterson said. "We've created the Climate Action Council, which is scheduled to release a Climate Action Plan this fall that will establish the roadmap for meeting our goal of reducing greenhouse gas pollution 80 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2050. Additionally, our environmental efforts have resulted in the enactment of the Bottle Bill, which increases the number of plastic drink containers that are recycled; a reduction in the use of pesticides in state parks; the *greening* of the Executive Mansion and other state buildings and; improvements to the Environmental Protection Fund to name just a few. We are proud to be a part of the worldwide Earth Hour event that draws attention to this critical subject."

Commissioner John C. Egan of the New York State Office of General Services (OGS) said: "Governor Paterson's leadership on sustainability policies will ensure that actions taken today will have a positive global impact in the future. Within our strategic plan, OGS has made environmentally responsible projects an integral part of our design processes and business practices; from the collection of cafeteria waste for composting, to the use of renewable materials and practices in our vast construction portfolio."

"By participating in Earth Hour, New York State is practicing the adage: think globally, act locally," said New York State Environmental Conservation Commissioner Pete Grannis. "It's a small step but one that reminds us that everyone plays a role in combating climate change. We may also inspire individuals and businesses to take practical action to reduce their own carbon footprint."

In April 2008, Governor David A. Paterson signed Executive Order No. 4, establishing a State Green Procurement and Agency Sustainability Program, which directs state agencies, public authorities and public benefit corporations to green their procurements and to implement sustainability initiatives.

Governor Paterson has awarded \$24 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding to support 87 energy conservation projects across New York that will help implement energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean fleet projects. These projects will reduce energy and operating costs by more than \$6.5 million annually and fully return the initial investment in just over five years. New York continues to invest in a clean energy economy to achieve

Governor Paterson's goal of meeting 45 percent of the state's energy needs through energy efficiency and renewable energy by 2015.

OGS, the state agency responsible for managing the statewide portfolio of more than 50 buildings, has implemented a plan to reduce energy consumption that included minimizing the use of lighting at the Empire State Plaza, adjusting building temperatures, and installing additional energy-efficient devices and controls at state properties. Through the first eight months of the 2009-10 fiscal year, OGS' statewide energy consumption was reduced by 12.6 percent, compared to the same period in 2007-08.

Currently, OGS has 36 LEED (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sustainable Project Rating Tool) or SPiRiT (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sustainable Project Rating Tool) projects in 18 counties in its portfolio. In addition, three state office buildings have been given an Energy Star rating by the United States Department of Energy.

OGS provides a broad range of core services that facilitate the operation of state and local government in areas that include: property management, design and construction, procurement, and essential support services.