



# Town of Simsbury

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SIMSBURY, CONNECTICUT 06070

*Thomas J. Roy, PE - Director of Public Works*

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AGENDA SUBMISSION FORM

1. **Title of submission:** Participation in the World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF) Earth Hour
2. **Date of submission:** October 1, 2013
3. **Date of Board Meeting:** October 16, 2013
4. **Individual or Entity making the submission:** Thomas Roy, Director of Public Works
5. **Action requested of the Board of Selectmen:** (Acceptance of gift, creation of reserve, approval of contract, information only, etc. Be as specific as possible with respect to the desired action of the Board.)  
*The Individual or Entity making the submission requests that the Board of Selectmen:*  
  
Approve Simsbury's participation in the WWF International's annual Earth Hour on March 29, 2014
6. **Individual(s) responsible for submission:** (Please include complete contact information. The identified individual(s) should be prepared to present information to the Board of Selectmen at the Board Meeting.)  
  
Thomas J. Roy, PE  
Director of Public Works
7. **Summary of Submission:**  
  
"Earth Hour" is a worldwide event organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and held towards the end of March annually, encouraging households and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour to raise awareness on climate change. Earth Hour 2014 is scheduled for Saturday, March 29, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. local time. There is no cost associated with the program and Simsbury has participated in this event in the past where we have made efforts to shut down parking lot lighting and unnecessary building lights for the one-hour period.
8. **Description of documents included with submission:** (All documents must be in final form and signed by the appropriate party.)  
*The following documents are included with this submission and attached hereto:*  
  
Earth Hour City Challenge summary

C:\Documents and Settings\roy\My Documents\Public Works General\Memo's\10-1-13 BOS Agenda Submission - Earth Hour.docx

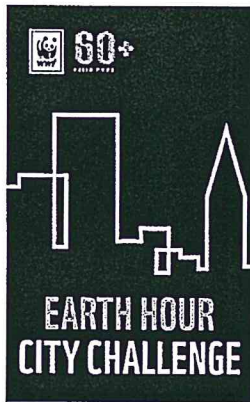
# INTRODUCTION

## Earth Hour City Challenge – Background and objective

The world is currently in a state of rapid urbanization and cities already account for over

70% of the world's fossil fuel related CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. By 2050 more than two-thirds of the global population will live in cities, and it is forecasted that USD 350 trillion will be invested in urban infrastructure and used over the next 30 years. If everyone on the planet lived as the average developed country urban resident does today, we would need more than three planets to provide the natural resources and absorption of the carbon dioxide emissions that this lifestyle would demand.

If future investments in cities follow a business-as-usual (BAU) trajectory, our dependence on fossil fuel energy will continue. As a result energy-intensive infrastructures and lifestyles would be reinforced and appropriate more than half of humanity's global carbon budget in only 30 years. As a result billions of people may have to pay the economic, social and ecological costs of carbon lock-in. The good news is that solutions already exist that can dramatically reduce the carbon footprints of cities while better meeting human needs. Based on progressive development strategies, using best urban planning practice and best available energy-efficiency and renewable energy solutions, global investment can leverage the potential of cities to become solution hotspots for a future in which the human economy fits within the capacity of one living planet.



The Earth Hour City Challenge (EHCC) is an initiative designed by WWF to mobilize action and support from cities in the global transition towards a climate friendly, one-planet future, and to stimulate the development and dissemination of best practices for climate mitigation and adaptation. It will be run as a recurrent and increasingly global challenge for cities to present ambitious, holistic, inspiring and credible plans for low carbon development and for dramatically increasing the use of sustainable and efficient renewable energy solutions in the next few decades. The primary focus of the challenge in 2013-2014 is on city actions that help move investment flows from fossil fuels to renewable and sustainable energy solutions.

The EHCC builds on the understanding that cities in different parts of the world have different roles in the transition towards a climate-friendly, one-planet future. Cities in the developing world may focus more on low-carbon development and efficiency measures to reduce energy need relative to BAU, while cities in the developed world should emphasize actions to reduce the total carbon footprint of their citizens and to dramatically increase the share of renewable energy in their energy mix. The EHCC aims to highlight diverse solutions and challenges for cities in different parts of the world, but also to identify options for more networking and collaboration between these cities. This also builds on the understanding that all cities will ultimately face similar challenges in securing human needs in a carbon constrained world.