

## Home Electricity Detective Kits Available in Caledon Libraries

Wonder why your electricity bill went up last month? Thanks to a new program for Caledon residents, you can find out.

COOL Caledon, the community task force on climate change and air quality, has partnered with the Caledon libraries to provide Home Electricity Detective Kits that can be borrowed from any local library branch with a library card. Each kit contains a practical, step-by-step Home Electricity Detective Guide developed specifically for Caledon, and a Kill a Watt power meter. The Kill a Watt is an easy-to-use gadget that can be plugged into electrical devices and appliances to see how much electricity they are using. It can be left running for several hours to measure the electricity consumed by appliances that run intermittently, such as refrigerators.

Dr. Richard Ehrlich, a volunteer with Caledon Clean Air Clean Energy, purchased ten Kill a Watt power meters and donated them to COOL Caledon to be used in this program. John Gilbert of Metalon Technology, a company that sells energy-saving products, arranged to provide the units at cost. The COOL Caledon Task Force developed the Home Electricity Detective Guide and assembled the kits for distribution to the libraries.

Dr. Ehrlich felt that the kits would help the many local residents who are interested in saving money and improving Ontario's air quality. Since the blackout this summer, people have wanted to gain a better understanding of the amount of electricity they use at home, and where it is being used. Many of our homes have "phantom" electrical loads from surprising sources -even from devices that are turned off -so we are paying for wasted electricity. With the high number of smog days in Caledon in recent summers, we need to be aware of the connection between our electricity use and the quality of air that our families are breathing. Dr. Ehrlich's articles on energy conservation are published regularly in local newspapers and posted on the Caledon Countryside Alliance web site at [www.woodrising.com/cca/stepup.htm](http://www.woodrising.com/cca/stepup.htm).

Mayor Carol Seglins, who spearheaded the COOL Caledon initiative last year, enthusiastically supported the kick-off of the Home Electricity Detective program. "Thanks to the cooperation of the distributor, a private donor and the libraries, combined with a creative program design, everyone in Caledon can benefit from this endeavour. Each family in Caledon is welcome to visit their local library and borrow this kit to measure how they are using energy, and find out how they might reduce energy consumption and save money too. I want to thank the members of the COOL Caledon Task Force for this innovative initiative."

Barb Campbell of COOL Caledon, who coordinated the Home Electricity Detective program, was pleased with the support it has received. We're grateful that Bill Manson and the Caledon Libraries stepped up to provide this service to local residents on our behalf, and were happy that the kick-off is taking place during "Love Your Library" Month. Campbell pointed out that the program is unique. I believe that this is the first program of its kind, and it's exciting that Caledon - recently selected the Greenest Town in Ontario - is taking the lead on electricity conservation.

COOL Caledon task force members and resource persons include community volunteers and representatives of the Caledon Chamber of Commerce, Caledon Town Council, Town of Caledon staff, Peel Health, Woodrising Consulting, the Schad Foundation, Peel Federation of Agriculture, Environment Canada Ontario Climate Centre, Metalon Technology, Caledon Countryside Alliance, Credit Valley Conservation, and the Central Ontario Smart Growth Panel.

The Task Force is currently working on four community projects that residents will hear more about in coming months:

1. Home Electricity Consumption Audits (including the Home Electricity Detective Kit Project)
2. Tree Planting and Stewardship
3. Transportation Alternatives
4. Public Communications

Thanks to generous contributions from Husky Injection Molding Systems Ltd. and the Schad Foundation, COOL Caledon has been able to move forward quickly on its work to make Caledon a healthier community. For further information or to volunteer for the task force, please contact [coolcaledon@town.caledon.on.ca](mailto:coolcaledon@town.caledon.on.ca)

Step Up To Kyoto. Future generations will thank you a tonne. For more information about this or other topics in the Caledon Clean Air Clean Energy Program, you can reach us at [greenenergy@woodrising.com](mailto:greenenergy@woodrising.com) or (905) 584-6221, or visit <http://www.woodrising.com/cca/stepup.htm>



**Step Up To Kyoto. Future generations will thank-you a tonne.**