

Energy Saved, Carbon-Dioxide Cut as City Switches Off

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DUBAI - Denizens of UAE outdid themselves this year in conserving energy during the Earth Hour, with energy consumption going down 46 per cent compared to the reduction recorded last year.

According to officials at the Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) 146,000 kilowatt-hour of electricity was saved in Dubai during Earth Hour 2009 on Saturday, cutting down 88,000kg in carbon-dioxide emissions. DEWA has now called for energy use to be cut year round to protect the planet.

Thousands of Dubai residents, businesses and organisations switched off unnecessary lighting and electrical appliances as they joined the global one-hour power down. Globally, more than one billion people participated in the climate change initiative.

Government officials and members of the public placed more than 5,000 candles on Arabic and English cutouts of the words 'Earth Hour' to mark the occasion.

Among the Dubai landmark buildings whose exteriors were plunged into darkness from 8.30pm to 9.30pm during Earth Hour were the Burj Al Arab, Madinat Jumeirah, Jumeirah Beach Hotel, DIFC's The Gate, Emirates Towers and the World Trade Centre.

Billed by the WWF as a vote for the Earth over climate change, Earth Hour embraced more than 4,000 cities and towns across the globe. In addition to Dubai, lights were switched off in Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Fujairah in the UAE, as well as in all of the world's major cities, including Sydney, Beijing, Hong Kong, Mumbai, Delhi, Paris, Berlin, London, New York, Toronto, San Francisco and Honolulu.

{ Khaleej Times }