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Jersey City to Partner with Sierra Club in Earth Hour; City Hall to go Dark for One Hour on March 28th as Communities Across the Globe Support Clean Energy

Jersey City A Leader in New Jersey in Constructing Green Buildings and LEED Certified Projects

JERSEY CITY – As part of **Mayor Steven M. Fulop**'s commitment to highlight the importance of energy conservation, Jersey City will join the Sierra Club in support of saving energy and taking action on climate change by participating in **Earth Hour**, a global initiative to raise awareness about how energy use impacts the environment.

On **Saturday, March 28, 2015**, Jersey City will power down lights at City Hall from **8:30 to 9:30 p.m.**, leading cities and towns throughout New Jersey in Earth Hour. Earth Hour is a worldwide grassroots movement uniting people to protect the planet, and is organized by the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF). Engaging a massive mainstream community on a broad range of environmental issues, Earth Hour was famously started as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007. This year New Jersey communities will power down to show support for energy efficiency as a statewide solution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“Shutting off the lights in City Hall during Earth Hour is a great opportunity to partner with communities across the United States, and the world, to raise awareness about climate change,” said **Mayor Fulop**. “Our administration has been focused on reducing energy consumption and promoting clean energy solutions, such as LEED certified city buildings and private development and will continue to work with organizations like the Sierra Club to advance this important agenda.”

“We are also encouraging all residents in Jersey City to join us by turning off their home lights during Earth Hour,” added **Mayor Fulop**.

Jersey City is helping to cut energy waste with over 50 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) construction projects and LEED training for city employees. Energy efficiency projects, policies and investments will save taxpayers money, create good jobs for Jersey City residents, and reduce the collective impact on the climate.

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An example of the City's commitment to energy efficiency include the new DPW facility on Linden Avenue which was built to LEED standards and features on-site solar power generation; the new West District Police Station, to open in the coming weeks, featuring a green roof, green power from renewable sources, and built with recycled and sustainable materials; and the Public Safety Communications Center on Bishop Street that was built with sustainable materials incorporated into a high efficiency design aimed at both water reduction and energy savings.

New Jersey's greatest opportunity to help solve the climate crisis is by cutting energy consumption. Saving energy through energy efficiency reduces greenhouse gas pollution and saves money for New Jersey residents and businesses. Jersey City residents, the Sierra Club, and clean energy advocates from across the state are calling on the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to adopt strong energy savings targets as part of the state's Clean Energy Program (CEP), which manages projects and funding for energy efficiency.

"Jersey City has been a leader in supporting clean energy and we are pleased to have Mayor Fulop as a partner in Earth Hour," said **Christine Guhl-Sadovy of the Sierra Club**. "By powering down homes, businesses, and government offices for Earth Hour, New Jersey residents are taking a stand for saving energy across the board. It's time for New Jersey to make cutting energy waste a priority and adopt energy savings targets."

Energy efficiency funding is available to all New Jersey customers through the Clean Energy Program. The program was set up to ensure that all residents and businesses would have the opportunity to cut energy waste and reduce their carbon footprints. Every year this critical funding is diverted, eliminating energy efficiency opportunities for many New Jersey customers.

Other New Jersey municipalities who will also participate in Earth Hour to demonstrate that reducing energy waste and climate pollution are critical priorities include Newark, Camden, Toms River, Voorhees, Stratford, Medford and Mountain Lakes.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Steven M. Fulop at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.////