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# Boulder to flip the switch on carbon

## People across the globe plan to turn off lights for "Earth Hour"

By Laura Snider  
Friday, March 27, 2009

Tonight the lights will go out on San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge.

The Rockefeller Center in New York, the Sears Tower in Chicago, the National Cathedral in Washington, D. C., the Santa Monica Pier in Los Angeles -- and the Municipal Building in Boulder -- will all be dark. Even the "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign won't be reassuring tourists with its iconic neon embrace.

From 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. local time, the city of Boulder is joining 900 cities, from Moscow to Paris, that are powering down buildings and landmarks for "Earth Hour," a global effort to show support for action on climate change.

"The city has agreed to turn off all of its nonessential lights," said Beth Powell, who is coordinating Boulder's efforts through the ClimateSmart program. "It's a great chance to unplug and slow down."

Powell's office estimates that if all of Boulder's homes and businesses went dark for an hour, the collective effort would reduce carbon emissions by 18 metric tons -- the equivalent of one household's carbon footprint for a year. Of course, it's not likely that everyone will flip the switch, at least not this year, but a few big hitters are paving the way, turning dark into a suave shade of green.

"We can't wait to see the city go dark and toast Boulder's environmental efforts," said Rick Hodges, the environmental consultant for St. Julien Hotel and Spa, which is hosting a candlelit happy hour tonight. "I can't think of a better way to celebrate."

Earth Hour began in Australia in 2007. Last year, about 50 million people across 35 countries participated,

according to the World Wildlife Fund, which organized the event. This year, 2,848 cities and towns in 83 countries have pledged to turn off the lights.

Contact Camera Staff Writer

### **ReSource Unplugged**

**What:** An Earth Hour event hosted at ReSource, the reclaimed building materials yard, featuring local musicians and local beer.

**When:** 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** 2665 63rd St. in Boulder

### **Earth Hour Happy Hour**

**What:** A candlelit late-evening happy hour with entertainment by Boulder-based solo artist Phil Robinson

**When:** 8 to 10 p.m.

**Where:** St. Julien Hotel and Spa, 900 Walnut St. in Boulder

**For more information on Boulder Earth Hour:** visit [www.BoulderEarthHour.com](http://www.BoulderEarthHour.com)

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