

**From Orangeville.org – Posted July 13, 2010**

## **Orangeville Hydro launches home energy audit program**

Under the Power of 1 umbrella - Orangeville Hydro launches its first Home Energy Audit Lending Program. Residents within Orangeville Hydro's service area will be able to borrow the Home Energy Audit kit for up to two months to help them capture energy leaks in their home. There is even an opportunity to purchase the monitoring unit at The Source for a discounted price, as well as the Energy Meter and the Thermal Draft Detector at Canadian Tire, both available at Canadian Tire.

A home energy audit is an evaluation performed on homes, to determine how much energy your home consumes, while evaluating which measures can be taken to make homes more energy efficient.

Conducting a self home audit is the first step in understanding where your home leaks most of its energy. Leaks may come from part of the building envelope, gadgets used in the home, or energy wasting habits formed over time.

Orangeville Hydro is offering two home energy audit kits:

The **Energy Consumption Audit** allows homeowners to measure the consumption of various appliances and gadgets in their home, to identify both which devices use a lot of electricity, and target phantom load. Wasteful energy habits are also revealed by this auditing process.

The **Energy Consumption and Draft Detector Audit kit** contains two devices; the PowerCost Monitor and Thermal Leak Detector. The Power Cost Monitor is designed to measure your whole home and to target phantom load. Phantom load exists when electricity is drawn from a device in a powered off state, and can account for up to 15% of your electricity use every month. Not only will the device measure energy use from appliances and gadgets, but it will also provide estimates of your monthly bill, based on existing behavioural tendencies. The Black & Decker Thermal Leak Detector is designed to identify air leaks in your home through a point and click laser mechanism.

"The goal of the program is to help our community identify energy leaks in their home and to provide them with solutions on how to save money, while contributing to the reduction of greenhouse gases," says Orangeville Mayor Rob Adams. "As a community, we want to commit to reduce energy consumption every year, realizing each of us can make a difference."

"This is just one of many ways Orangeville Hydro is giving back to the community." says Orangeville Hydro President, George Dick. "We will continue to develop and implement programs and tools to help homeowners and businesses better manage their energy consumption, to establish greater energy efficiency standards, and to have communities invest in renewable sources of energy."

By using electricity wisely, we can all better manage our electricity bills and help the environment at the same time.

Orangeville Hydro is also holding their first FREE Home Energy Audit workshop on Saturday, July 17<sup>th</sup> from 9 - 10:30 a.m. at the Orangeville office. Please contact Orangeville Hydro's Conservation Co-ordinator at 519-942-8000 to confirm your attendance by Thursday, July 15.