

March 23, 2010

[Earth Hour party ideas!](#)



Earth Hour madness

We're four days away from [Earth Hour](#) — it's this Saturday, March 27 from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. **Do you know what you're going to do yet?** OK, we're all going to **turn out the lights**. Then what? Activities for adoring love birds aside, what fun things can you do in the dark? Here are a few ideas.

- Have a **local wine and cheese party** by LED lantern or flashlight. You could even charge outdoor solar lanterns or [light strings](#) outside during the day, then bring them in to light up the party in the evening.
- **Play a little game I'll call "Watts Up?"** If you have a [power monitor](#), you could move around the house with a flashlight, guessing the power usage ("draw") of various things you have plugged in. Test them with a power monitor to see how much the electronics, appliances and so forth actually draw. I'd recommend "Price is Right" rules: the closest without going over wins! Bonus points for unplugging everything as you go!
- **Take some memorable photos.** Get sparklers for your friends together and get them to write "2010" or "Earth" or whatever turns your crank for the camera.
- Take your friends **star gazing** – and supply the hot chocolate. Here's a [Homemakers recipe](#) for White Hot Chocolate.

Of course, I'm not planning to do any of these things — after enjoying a nice meal with my family, we'll head to City Hall to watch the lights going off. (Although they might appreciate some of that hot chocolate!) **What are you planning to do** for Earth Hour?