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## ***City of Miami Flagship City for Earth Hour 2009***

*City to Host a Week of Events to Raise Awareness of Climate Change*

(Miami, FL) **The City of Miami has been chosen as a Flagship City by the World Wildlife Fund for Earth Hour 2009, the international climate change awareness campaign.** Earth Hour promotes international attention to the threats of climate change and urges individuals, businesses and governments to commit to voluntarily and safely turning out their lights for one hour at **8:30pm on Saturday, March 28, 2009.** This week, the City of Miami is sponsoring a variety of events to spread the word about Earth Hour. Mayor Manny Diaz, known for his strong support of environmental initiatives for the city, is also encouraging residents and businesses to host their own Earth Hour events in celebration and to further promote community and international collaboration in the face of global climate change.

"We are honored to be named a Flagship City for 2009. Earth Hour is just one step we can take to support environmental sustainability across the City," says Mayor Diaz. "It is a call to action on climate change and a more sustainable Miami."

Last year, the City of Miami earned the proud distinction of being the first American city to turn off its lights, at a special kickoff event at the iconic Bank of America Tower at International Place. WWF VP Leslie Aun came to the City of Miami the Monday before Earth Hour to join Mayor Diaz in celebration of Miami's active role and the participation of a number of iconic buildings.

While the core initiative of this year's campaign remains the same – to turn off the lights for one hour – 2009 will also emphasize long-term sustainable goals. The City of Miami campaign is asking businesses, schools and residents to think about how they can incorporate Earth Hour into their daily lives, from turning out lights when leaving a room, unplugging unnecessary electronic equipment to turning off decorative lighting on buildings late at night on a regular basis.

During Earth Hour 2009, Miami will once again turn off or dim the lights at many of Miami's buildings and famous landmarks, including the Bank of America Tower, the Freedom Tower, and City Hall. Suburban mayors, businesses, schools, universities, building and condo associations, hotels and many others have already committed to participating.

Here's how individuals, businesses and organizations can participate in Earth Hour 2009:

- Register at [www.EarthHourUS.org](http://www.EarthHourUS.org)
- Turn off your lights from 8:30-9:30 p.m. local time on Saturday, March 28, 2009
- During that hour, replace your old light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent bulbs
- Commit to reducing your energy consumption in the year ahead
- Visit [www.EarthHourUS.org](http://www.EarthHourUS.org) to find out how to continue making a difference in the fight against climate change after Earth Hour, such as writing to your elected officials

Earth Hour is a completely voluntary program. Planners for the event have been working closely with city public safety officials and building engineers to ensure that while Miami makes a dramatic statement with its lights out, it will do so safely. Just as in 2008, street lights, lobby lights in public spaces,

hospital lights and any lights deemed to impact public safety or vital services will remain on. It is also strongly recommended to use flashlights instead of candles during Earth Hour.

To register for Earth Hour or for more ideas about how to celebrate Earth Hour, visit [www.EarthHourUS.org](http://www.EarthHourUS.org)

# # #

**Signature Earth Hour Miami events** will take place during the week leading up to and including Earth Hour on Saturday, March 28, including:

**Event: Next-In-Line-Young Professionals networking event**

**Date:** March 25 (Wednesday)

**Time:** 7:00 -9:30

**Location:** Cabana One, Mayfair Hotel

**Contact:** Sasha Dolciger - [sdolciger@beaconcouncil.com](mailto:sdolciger@beaconcouncil.com)

**Event: Mayor's Earth Hour Kickoff Event**

**Date:** March 26 (Thursday)

**Time:** 6:00– 8:00

**Location:** Bank of America Tower at International Place – Sky Terrace

**Summary:** VIP/Invite-only Press Event – Mayor will turn off lights (symbolically & temporarily) at 7:50pm

**Event: MiaSci Networker at Miami Science Museum (Mayor's Event 'AfterParty')**

**Date:** March 26 (Thursday)

**Time:** 6:00-11:00

**Location:** Miami Science Museum

**Summary:** a “Happy Hour with Substance” Young professionals, science aficionados, art enthusiasts and other 21-45 year olds - open bar, hors d'oeuvres, our exhibits and the sounds of renowned South Florida DJs.

**Contact:** Adriana Villar [avillar@miamisci.org](mailto:avillar@miamisci.org)

**Event: Chamber Green Luncheon at Sonesta Hotel**

**Date:** March 27 (Friday)

**Time:** 12:00 – 2:00 pm

**Location:** The Sonesta Hotel in the Grove

**Summary:** Featured speakers Edith McClintock of Dream in Green Foundation and Robert Ruano, City of Miami's Director of Sustainable Initiatives, Noel Gourmelen, PhD student at Geodesy Laboratory, Division of Marine Geology and Geophysics, UM Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, just back from a project in Antarctica, with a fantastic slide presentation, and Frank Couzo, Sales & Marketing Director of Sonesta, the first green hotel in the Grove. Featuring the Wines of the sustainable local winery, Schnebley.

**Contact:** Richard Issa – [info@coconutgrove.com](mailto:info@coconutgrove.com)

**Event: Earth Hour on the Rooftop**

**Date:** March 28 Saturday

**Time:** 8:00-9:30 pm

**Location:** MDCC Wolfson Campus on rooftop of building 3, 5<sup>th</sup> floor

**Summary:** Showcase Generation Engage Project Switch & Save video, website, marketing materials and speech by an Ambassador about the project. Band and food will be provided

**Contact:** Ali Ingersoll [ali.ingersoll@generationengage.com](mailto:ali.ingersoll@generationengage.com)

**Event: A Night Under the Brickell Stars**

**Date:** March 28 Saturday

**Time:** 7:00-10:00 pm

**Location:** Mary Brickell Village

**Summary:** Come and enjoy an intimate dining experience at one of our many fine restaurants and shopping while relished in soothing music under the Earth Hour Stars

**Contact:** Cecilia Maldonado [cmaldonado@marybrickellvillage.com](mailto:cmaldonado@marybrickellvillage.com)

**Event: Miami Childrens Museum**

**Date:** March 28 Saturday

**Time:** 3:00-6:00 pm

**Location:** Miami Children's Museum 980 Mac Arthur Causeway, Miami Fl 33132

[www.miamichildrensmuseum.org](http://www.miamichildrensmuseum.org)

**Summary:** The Museum will feature Earth Hour Activities through the event.

**Sponsors:**

**Contact:** Danielle Black [Danielle@miamichildrensmuseum.org](mailto:Danielle@miamichildrensmuseum.org)

**Event: Miami Science Museum – Earth Hour Fair for the Family**

**Date:** March 28 Saturday

**Time:** 12:00-4:00 pm

**Location:** The Miami Science Museum

**Summary:** Daytime kid-friendly activities

**Contact:** Adriana Villar [avillar@miamisci.org](mailto:avillar@miamisci.org)

**Event: Leadership Miami: Bike the Grove Bike Rack Ribbon Cutting**

**Date:** March 28 Saturday

**Time:** 4:00-6:00 pm

**Location:** Peacock Park

**Summary:** An inauguration of a Lebo-designed bicycle rack. About 200 cyclists expected.

**Contact:** Laura Molina, [fumarine@gmail.com](mailto:fumarine@gmail.com)

**Event: Grove Chamber's Dinner & a Movie series at Arts & Minds Center**

**Date:** March 28 Saturday

**Time:** 8:00 pm

**Location:** 3138 Commodore Plaza

**Summary:** Candlelight dinner on the terrace at Al Fresco Restaurant, with an outdoor screening of Al Gore's award winning documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth".

**Contact/Reservations:** [info@coconutgrove.com](mailto:info@coconutgrove.com)

**Event: CocoWalk Earth Hour Celebration**

**Date:** March 28 Saturday

**Time:** TBD

**Location:** CocoWalk in the Grove

**Summary:** at restaurants and shops: screening of new version of Day the Earth Stood Still

**Contact:** Cynthia Bettner - [cbettner@cocowalk.net](mailto:cbettner@cocowalk.net)

**Event: Ultra Music Festival**

**Date:** March 28 Saturday

**Time:** 8:30 pm – 9:30pm

**Location:** Bicentennial Park 301 North Biscayne Boulevard Miami, Florida 33132

**Summary:** Stop by the Earth Hour booth at the UMF event. UMF will turn off nonessential lights.

**Contact:** Heather Read [heath.read@gmail.com](mailto:heath.read@gmail.com)