



Media Release

Hamilton Community Energy's District Energy Innovations in the Global Spotlight

(HAMILTON, ON) June 30, 2011 – Hamilton Community Energy (HCE) showed industry and government representatives from across Canada and around the world how it is deploying highly efficient and clean energy solutions on an urban scale as part of the Joint Canadian District Energy Association (CDEA) / International District Energy Association (IDEA) Annual Conference.

One of a very few district energy operations in Ontario to integrate conventional district energy equipment with renewable technologies, HCE was selected as a featured tour location not only for its use of ground-breaking technology, but also to demonstrate how municipalities, like the City of Hamilton, are able to seamlessly integrate district energy operations into their urban centres as part of their commitment to sustainable communities.

The international group toured two of HCE's district energy operations including:

- The co-generation plant at 79 Bay St. N. where HCE leverages reclaimed thermal energy to provide hot water district heating, domestic hot water and backup electricity to approximately 2.1 million square feet of municipal, commercial and multi-residential space in the downtown core, and,
- The new hybrid energy system that combines solar thermal, geo-exchange and conventional energy technologies to heat and cool approximately 350,000 square feet of offices, laboratories and the CANMET Materials Laboratory which includes a small steel mill at McMaster Innovation Park (MIP).

“We’re very proud of all of the many energy solutions we’re utilizing in collaboration with the City and strategic partners, like MIP, to drive innovation and reduce Hamilton’s carbon footprint,” says Katie Mills, CFO of HCE “And, I’m thrilled to have had the opportunity to share some of our experiences with our international colleagues. Hopefully, they will return to their communities with valuable learning they can apply to their own energy challenges.”

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Hamilton Community Energy's partnership with CDEA/IDEA is part of its ongoing commitment to educating and developing sustainable, compact communities. HCE's Energy Centre was even built with teaching in mind, incorporating colour-coded pipes and circulating systems and display areas that facilitate the exchange of information. In addition to sharing best practices with industry peers, HCE also invests in environmental and sustainable resources education through various high school and college co-ops and other community programs.

"For a growing district energy operation, I'm impressed with how HCE uses state-of-the-art systems at both the McMaster Innovation Park and 79 Bay Street North facilities," comments Rachel Bolongaro, P.Eng., Renewable Energy Engineer, Hemmera. "HCE is on top of technology for monitoring their energy systems. I was involved in the design of the geo field at MIP and was excited to see how the design has been executed. HCE has demonstrated a strong knowledge of conventional and renewable technology to build an effective and efficient hybrid system. I was really impressed by what I saw on the tour."

About Hamilton Community Energy

Established as a division of Hamilton Hydro Services Inc. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Hamilton Utilities Corporation), HCE is a single source energy solution provider, efficiently generating and supplying clean thermal energy through a sophisticated arterial network of underground and insulated pipes to commercial, residential and institutional buildings in downtown Hamilton. In 2010, HCE partnered with McMaster Innovation Park to provide ground breaking geo exchange and solar thermal technologies that fully integrate district and renewable energy at a new satellite district energy operation. HCE's award winning primary facility, together with its other operations, offers sustainable energy solutions that align with Hamilton's Vision 2020.

For more information, please contact:

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Hamilton Community Energy's (HCE) John Summers, Operations/Maintenance Engineer, shows industry reps from around the world how HCE uses technology to monitor its innovative energy system at 79 Bay St. N. The co-generation plant leverages reclaimed thermal energy to provide hot water district heating, domestic hot water and backup electricity to approximately 2.1 million square feet of municipal, commercial and multi-residential space in the downtown core. HCE's highly efficient and clean energy solutions were being showcased as part of the Joint Canadian District Energy Association (CDEA) / International District Energy Association (IDEA) Annual Conference with more than 800 participants attending from all over the world.

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Hamilton Community Energy's (HCE) General Manager, Ron Harten (in black), explains to industry reps from around the world how HCE is using an innovative hybrid system that combines geo-exchange and solar thermal technologies with conventional energy systems, to heat and cool approximately 350,000 square feet of office and laboratory space at MIP. HCE's highly efficient and clean energy solutions were being showcased as part of the Joint Canadian District Energy Association (CDEA) / International District Energy Association (IDEA) Annual Conference with more than 800 participants attending from all over the world.