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**Banner year for energy management at City
*Barrie recognized for energy reduction efforts in 2016***

(Barrie, ON) The City of Barrie's efforts in reducing energy has been paying off. This past year, the City's energy reduction initiatives not only saved money, but also won a couple of awards.

In September, the City received the *Energy into Action Innovation* award for a recent project completed to reduce energy usage on ground water wells. The City added Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) controls on six ground water well motors. The VFD controls enable the City to run the motor in the wells at the speed required to produce the desired flow of water at any given time. This results in a much more efficient system because the City does not need to run the pumps at full capacity all of the time. The project reduced electrical consumption by 369,000 kWh annually (equivalent of powering 493 homes for one month) reducing energy costs by \$55,000 per year. The project will pay for itself in just under three years with the reduced energy costs in addition to the \$94,000 incentive received from PowerStream.

The City was also recognized with a *Mayors' Megawatt Challenge* award for reducing energy usage at the Allandale Recreation Centre by 18.7%. This was accomplished through education and behavior changes as well as facility improvements. The award was handed out last month by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority. The *Mayors' Megawatt Challenge* is a collaborative program which helps municipalities work together to lower their energy and operating costs while contributing to the health and well-being of their communities.

"We're really pleased with the accomplishments from this past year," said Barry Thompson, Manager of Energy Management. "These initiatives are the result of a culture of conservation that the corporation has embraced. We have staff at all levels coming up with innovative ideas big and small that contribute to energy savings for the City."

On October 22, 2012, City Council adopted an Energy Management Plan, which outlines a strategy for the City to meet the Provincial reporting requirements established under the Green Energy and Economy Act and reduce energy consumption within facilities. To date, the City has avoided \$1.2 million through 68 projects/initiatives.

To view the Energy Management Plan visit Energy Efficiency via www.barrie.ca/conservation.

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About Barrie – Barrie is an exciting, caring and progressive community that 143,000 people call home. Situated 90 km north of the Greater Toronto Area on beautiful Kempenfelt Bay, Barrie offers an excellent life style and multitude of recreational opportunities. We are committed to the growth of prosperity of Central Ontario's leading City and most dynamic waterfront community.