



KIDS CAN VOTE EARTH BY TAKING PART IN PROJECT LANTERN

Earth Hour has developed Project Lantern, designed to give children from New Zealand and all around the globe the chance to show their vote for Earth vs. Global Warming. The project encourages children to make a paper lantern, decorating it with words and images that express care for the environment and asking leaders for action by making the statement, "I Vote Earth because..."

Handcrafted lanterns from schools around New Zealand will be collected by WWF and used in a public display before sending them off to be displayed in Copenhagen during the UN Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December 2009, the highlight of which will be Earth Hour Copenhagen. At 7:00pm on 16 December 2009, the city of Copenhagen will turn off its lights for one hour – Earth Hour – as the final show of global support for an effective deal at the UNCCC.

On the eve of decision-making at the summit, the eyes of the world will be focused on Copenhagen at this historic moment in time. Earth Hour Copenhagen will be a one-off event where the one million citizens of this city become ambassadors for 6.7 billion people across the planet. This will be the culmination of the Vote Earth campaign.

In the final show of global support the City of Copenhagen will slowly descend into darkness and candles will be lit to signify the commencement of the one hour lights off 'vigil.' In the town centre a parade of children carrying the lanterns made specifically for this project, will slowly wind its way to the central square. Thousands of citizens will gather in support in the town centre and hundreds of millions people will join together in vigils at home, in parks and at official events around the world to await the decision.

Around the world, hundreds of millions have showed their 'Vote for Earth.' Earth Hour Copenhagen will act as the official tally night, whereby the votes from around the world are 'counted' by being broadcast onto a public screen for the world and it's leaders to see.

Earth Hour Copenhagen will demonstrate that the world has voted and Project Lantern gives children a voice, a way to participate and an opportunity to learn more about how decisions are made on behalf of the world's citizens – a decision that affects us all.

Full details about Project Lantern can be found at www.wwf.org.nz

Please spread the word about VOTE EARTH Project Lantern. If you have any questions or ideas about this project please contact Lee Barry, Earth Hour Project Manager, WWF-New Zealand, phone: (04) 499 2930 email: lbarry@wwf.org.nz

