

## **PERSBERIG VIR GANSBAAI COURANT**

**Tel 028 – 384 1473**  
**Faks 028 – 384 2397**  
[courant@itec.co.za](mailto:courant@itec.co.za)

### **PEARLY BEACH BEWAREA – VAN DIE LESSENAAR VAN DIE VOORSITTER, ELRINA VERSFELD**

Go Beyond the Hour!

This is the 2011 slogan of Earth Hour, which will take place in South Africa on Saturday March 26 between 8:30 and 9:30 pm. Earth Hour is a global event organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) on the last Saturday in March every year. During this hour, households and businesses throughout the world are encouraged to turn off as many lights and electrical appliances as possible. The main purpose of Earth Hour is to raise people's awareness of climate change and all its implications. Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia, with about 2 million participants. Since then many more people and countries around the world have pledged their allegiance to this environmental initiative. In 2010 a record of 128 countries and territories participated in Earth Hour. Many natural and architectural landmarks all over the world were plunged into darkness from 8:30 to 9:30 local time. This year is of particular importance for South Africa in terms of environmental affairs, since Durban has been chosen to host COP17 (the 17<sup>th</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) in December. At this annual conference, world leaders meet to find solutions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. However, Earth Hour gives all South Africans the chance to show their own commitment to combating climate change. This year the participants of Earth Hour are encouraged to "go beyond the hour" and to show their commitment to improving the future of our planet throughout the year.

For more information about Earth Hour go to [http://www.wwf.org.za/earth\\_hour\\_2011](http://www.wwf.org.za/earth_hour_2011)  
Written by Susanne Fuchs.

**VIR PLASING ASB OP 24 MAART 2011.**