



WWF

TOOLKIT

2012



Conservation

Climate Change

Sustainability

# WWF's Earth Hour 2012

8.30pm Saturday 31 March 2012

A guide for UNISON branches

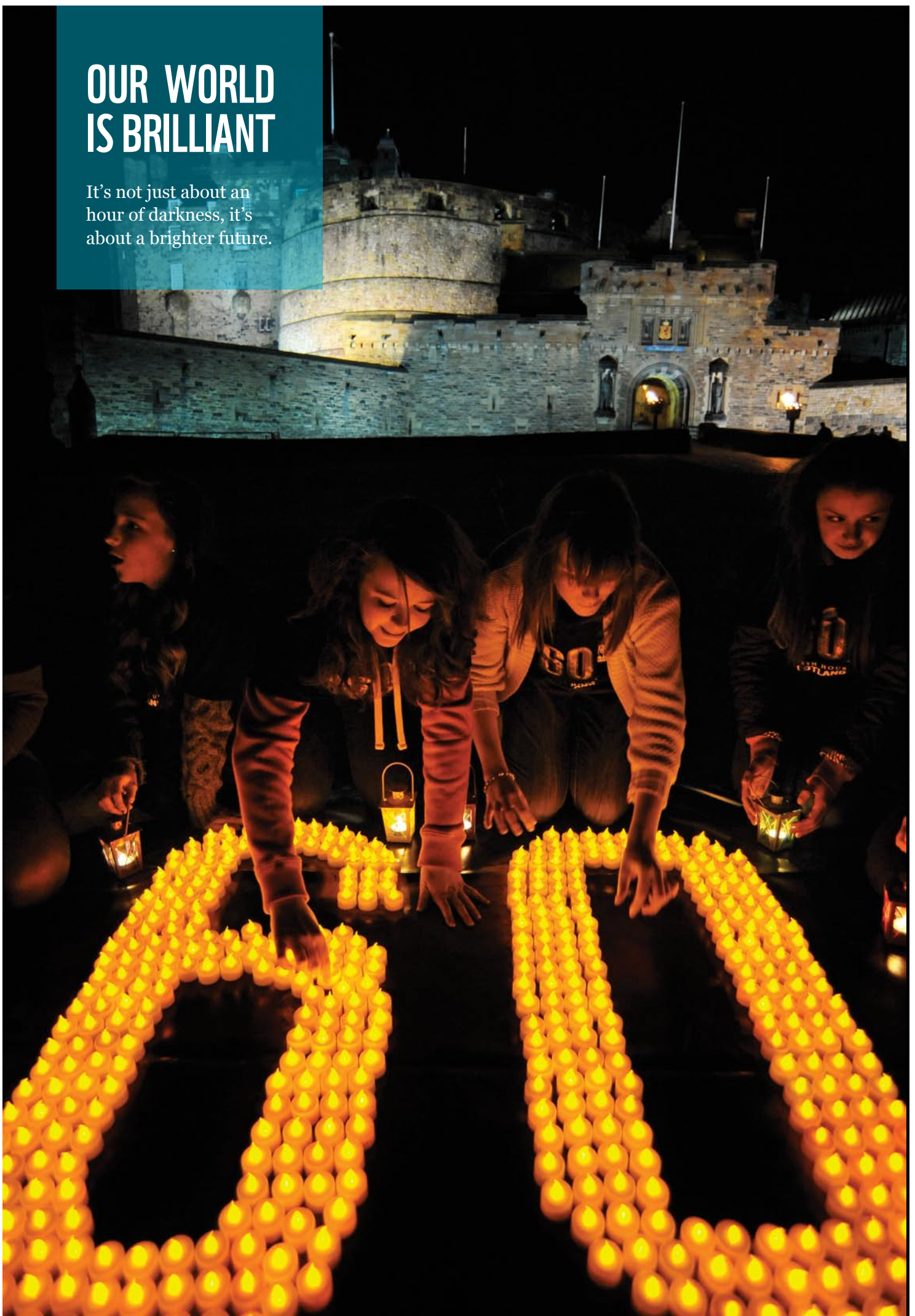


WWF'S  
GLOBAL  
EVENT



# OUR WORLD IS BRILLIANT

It's not just about an hour of darkness, it's about a brighter future.



# LIGHTS OUT! ON SATURDAY 31 MARCH AT 8.30PM FOR ONE HOUR

WWF's Earth Hour is a simple idea that's quickly turned into a global phenomenon. Hundreds of millions of people turning off their lights for one hour, on the same night, all across the planet.

But it's not to save an hour's electricity. It's something much bigger. WWF's Earth Hour is about people coming together to put the focus on this brilliant world we all share – and how we need to protect it. Not just for an hour a year, but every day.

WWF's Earth Hour started five years ago in Sydney, Australia. Over 2.2 million people turned off their lights to show they care about tackling climate change and protecting the natural world. Since then Earth Hour has become a global phenomenon. A record 1.8 billion people across 138 countries came together for Earth Hour in 2011.

Iconic landmarks have switched off and plunged into darkness across the globe – from Big Ben, and Edinburgh Castle to the Sydney Opera House and the Great Pyramids in Egypt.

**Join the hundreds of millions switching off for a brighter future**  
Switch off your lights at 8.30pm on Saturday 31 March and get involved at [wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour](http://wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour)

**We'd like to work with your UNISON branch to help you make Earth Hour 2012 a huge success in your area. Please contact us to find out more.**

**138**  
COUNTRIES  
CAME  
TOGETHER  
FOR EARTH  
HOUR IN  
2011

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# WHAT CAN UNISON BRANCHES DO FOR EARTH HOUR 2012?

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In Scotland, 2011 was our biggest and best Earth Hour yet. Scotland became the first country in the world to secure the support of 100% of its cities and local authorities for Earth Hour. Many major iconic buildings switched off, including Edinburgh Castle, the Falkirk Wheel, Kelvingrove Museum and the Scottish Parliament, as did hundreds of local landmarks across the country.

Earth Hour was supported by the Scottish Government, all 5 main political parties, almost 500 schools and 300 businesses, public bodies and other organisations including UNISON Scotland.

Your local UNISON branch can play a vital role in reducing carbon emissions and engaging with the local community in your area.



*“Climate change is an urgent health and safety issue for the planet and its people. Earth Hour is a brilliantly imaginative way to highlight the need for action and to celebrate our world”*

**Mike Kirby**  
Scottish Secretary  
UNISON Scotland

**Switch Off:** register your involvement online at <http://earthhour.wwf.org.uk/signup> and turn off the lights in your own home for one hour on 31 March 2012 at 8.30pm. Encourage friends, family and colleagues to get involved too.

**Take Part:** WWF’s Earth Hour isn’t simply an hour in the dark; it’s a chance to celebrate our brilliant world. There are many ways your branch could take part in Earth Hour, including:

- Organise an Earth Hour quiz at a branch meeting, at work or in the pub
- Members could hold a candlelit dinner party at home and make use of our handy dinner party guide – or join together to run a branch one
- Bring WWF’s Earth Hour into your office with a bright cake bake off or ‘wear it bright’ day, by digging out your brightest and most colourful clothes
- Plan a torchlight wildlife or stargazing walk to make the most of the hour of darkness

Whatever you decide to do make sure you let us know by adding your event to our interactive map.





**WWF's Earth Hour isn't simply an hour in the dark; it's a chance to celebrate our brilliant world**

**Engage:** if your employer is not already supporting Earth Hour, let them know that your branch could work with them on Earth Hour plans, helping them to become a Greener Workplace. Ask your employer to:

- Switch off the lights in/on their buildings for Earth Hour and register their involvement online at <http://earthhour.wwf.org.uk/signup>
- Email staff and/or customers encouraging them to participate
- Encourage them to host a joint Earth Hour event or 'wear it bright' day or other joint activity with your branch, raising awareness on climate change issues
- Make use of their website, newsletters, Twitter and Facebook to demonstrate their support for action on climate change and encourage members of the public to sign up

UNISON Scotland branches helped campaign for Scotland's Climate Change Act, which places legally binding duties on all public bodies to help contribute to emissions reduction targets. Taking part in Earth Hour 2012 can be part of a council or health board or other organisation's commitment to raising awareness in their area of the need for climate change action. It can also be an important part of Green Workplace campaigning.



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# IDEAS FOR EARTH HOUR 2012

“WWF’s Earth Hour has a unique ability to unite and empower people around the world. It gives everyone the chance to have some fun, to organise their own events, and at the same time be part of an incredibly powerful global message to world leaders of the concern we all share about climate change. We look forward to building on this year’s success in 2012.”

WWF Scotland’s Director, Dr Richard Dixon

## Ideas and inspiration from WWF’s Earth Hour 2011:

© BALDERNOCK COMMUNITY



### East Dunbartonshire

The community of Baldernock put on a ‘Powered Down Knees Up’ at their village hall. Two violinists from the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra played while villagers enjoyed homemade cakes and home made wine and beer!

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### Fife

Students at St Andrews University celebrated Earth Hour in style by holding a torch-lit procession through the town.

Over at the Fairmont Hotel in St Andrews, guests could choose from a glow-in-the-dark putting competition, a pedal-bike challenge, a special green menu in the Squire Restaurant or Earth Wind and Fire cocktails in the bar.

© WWF SCOTLAND



### Falkirk Council and Falkirk BID

Falkirk Council supported its local Business Improvement District, BID, to run an event in Falkirk town centre on the night of Earth Hour. The event saw buildings and landmarks across the town switch off as well as a light display and reading of an original piece by author Alan Bissett. The Council switched off the street lighting for the event along with seven of its largest buildings and also did awareness raising of Earth Hour and climate change with staff and school pupils.

© WWF SCOTLAND



### Perth

Perth changed the event to Perth Hour – a special link up between the Perths of Scotland, Australia and Canada which all switched off their bridges and concert halls!

The local ranger led a special candlelit wildlife walk up Kinnoull Hill while special Earth Hour coffee was on offer at the Bean Shop

# SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

For up to date information and access to resources, visit [wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour](http://wwfscotland.org.uk/earthhour)

## On these pages you will find:

- The WWF Scotland Earth Hour video
- Online sign-up pages to use and promote
- Promotional posters and materials to download and print
- Web banners and graphics for your own website and materials
- Updates of who is participating and what is happening on Earth Hour 2012 around Scotland
- Links to our handy dinner party guide and Earth Hour quiz materials plus other event ideas
- A link to our online interactive map where you can add details of what you're doing for Earth Hour

\* Note that some of these resources may not be available until 2012

There will also be WWF Earth Hour communities on all of the main social sites on the web: Flickr, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter.

We'd like to work with your UNISON branch to help you make Earth Hour 2012 a huge success in your area. Please contact us to find out more.

## Contact:

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Tel 01350 728200

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# Earth Hour in numbers

100%

support from Scottish Local Authorities for Earth Hour in 2011

72

iconic buildings switched off in Scotland



OVER 500

schools in Scotland participated last year

1.8 billion

people came together for Earth Hour in 2011



### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

[wwfscotland.org.uk](http://wwfscotland.org.uk)