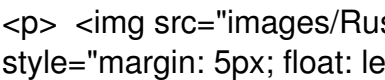


## Earth Hour, Meet John Galt | Allan Besselink

Written by Allan Besselink

Saturday, 28 March 2009 06:03

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 Today is the day to celebrate [Earth Hour](http://www.earthhour.org/home/ "Earth Hour 2009") . I guess it's a "celebration" or perhaps it would be considered some form of 21st century grass roots activism. Perhaps it's symbolic of the impact of carbon emissions on our environment. ♦

The task? At 8:30 pm, turn off your lights for one hour. The thought? Turning off the lights shows the world that climate change is important. By symbolically reducing your [carbon footprint](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carbon?footprint "carbon footprint") for an hour, you are expressing your belief in the need for change - for responsible energy use and for diminishing the effects on the environment. It makes a "statement" about global warming.

In 2008, 50 million people worldwide switched off their lights. We were witness to such global landmarks as the Golden Gate Bridge (San Francisco), the Colosseum (Rome), the Sydney Opera House and the Coca Cola billboard in Times Square (New York) all standing in darkness.

So that's the part that makes sense to most people. But there are some that even consider it symbolic for another reason - the