

KUMON GREEN TEAM

LIGHTS OUT!



On June 22nd, many locations from Kumon North America participated in Daylight Hour- an annual social media campaign observing daylight in our office spaces. Participants all over the world turned off their lights for one hour during the sunniest time of year to reflect on sustainability and well-being in their work environment.

Going lights-free does not have to be reserved only to Daylight Hour, especially when Canada's energy consumption is three times higher than the world's average.

Turning the lights off is one of the many tactics a company can adopt to fight the effects of climate change and conserve energy. Turning off the lights reduces carbon emissions and other harmful greenhouse gases. The average Canadian household uses 11,135 kWh of electricity per year. Canada alone produces fifteen metric tons of carbon dioxide per capita: that means one person's annual carbon footprint would weigh about as much as three African elephants!

In 2018, when Kumon Canada Inc. relocated both its corporate Head Office and warehouse, KCI President Mike Shim envisaged and implemented significant environmental upgrades. The spaces were designed to maximize the use of natural lighting and reduce artificial lighting through LED motion sensors that turn off when rooms are vacant. Artificial lighting usually sucks up about a third of electric use in a commercial building. The use of occupancy sensors for control of lighting can save up to 30% in electrical energy. This allows for more natural light to seep through which can save up to 75 percent of the energy used for lighting in buildings.

Kumon has an annual goal to reduce electricity consumption in offices by 5.9% and in April, 2021 – March, 2022 we decreased consumption by 9%. Imagine if more offices reduced their lighting, what would the reduction of their carbon footprint be?

