

## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **New York Parks, Universities and Companies Around the World “Turn it Off” for One Hour on Friday June 16**

**WHAT:** “Daylight Hour.” In advance of the summer solstice (June 21), buildings around the world are turning off their lights for an hour as part of Daylight Hour, [www.daylighthour.org](http://www.daylighthour.org), an annual social media campaign organized by the Building Energy Exchange to raise awareness about using natural daylight in lieu of electric lighting, as part of sustainability, conservation and to reduce carbon footprints.

**WHEN:** Friday, June 16, one hour during work hours (usually midday). Last year, the overall campaign saved enough energy to power 7,600 homes for a day.

**WHO:** Thornton Tomasetti, a leading engineering design firm that strives to be one of the most sustainable firms in its industry, will have 20+ worldwide offices “turning it off,” from its headquarters (in the historic former NY Life building known for its golden top), to offices ranging from Washington DC, Denver and Los Angeles, all the way to Mumbai, Shanghai and Christchurch in New Zealand. Other participants include:

- 40+ NYC Parks’ recreational and nature centers
- City Hall and various other court and municipal buildings
- Numerous CUNY and SUNY schools
- New York Botanical Garden

**WHY:** The times when daylight is most available -- workday afternoons -- coincides with peak demand when business districts demand the most from the grid. That period is also when energy is most expensive and typically the dirtiest and most harmful to the global climate; demand accommodated by older, less efficient plants brought online to meet the surge. The “built” environment accounts for more than two-thirds of greenhouse gas emissions, and a study found that owners and tenants in NYC alone could save \$70 million every year by introducing daylight responsive lighting systems.

**INTERVIEW/PHOTO OPS:** Thornton Tomasetti leadership is available for interviews. Quotes are available from employees who have experienced Daylight Hour. Prior years’ photos are available and/or photo ops can be arranged for June 16 during Daylight Hour.