

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

LED STREET LIGHT CONVERSION

LEDs are increasingly becoming a popular alternative to compact fluorescent, fluorescent and incandescent light bulbs in homes and offices. Even Buckingham Palace and the Times Square New Year's Eve ball are lit by LEDs.

Q. What is an LED?

A. LED (Light Emitting Diode) uses electrical current that passes through a small microchip, which illuminates resulting in an intense beam of light. LEDs have been around for decades and have been replacing almost all conventional light sources due to their extreme efficiency and longevity.

Q. What is the timeline for the LED Street light Conversion project?

A. Cedarburg Light & Water has budgeted 150 LED replacements per year. We anticipate completing the installation of all LED street lights in 2021.

Q. Why are the lights so bright?

A. LEDs produce a strong light at the source; however, the lumens cast to the ground are similar to what they are replacing. The old high pressure sodium (HPS) fixtures needed approximately 280 watts to produce the same light levels as the new 92 watt LED fixtures.

Q. Why is the color different?

A. Cedarburg Light & Water evaluated different manufacturers and received input from other municipalities as to the design, photo metrics and color for the new fixtures. In 2015, we implemented a test area on McKinley Blvd. and received input from citizens and city staff. A neutral light color in 4000k (kelvin) was chosen over yellow 2700k and blue 6000k. An advantage of the neutral light is that it is easier for the human eye to distinguish colors and creates a better visibility at night than the traditional 2700k.

Q. What are the benefits of LED streetlights?

A. Chief among the advantages of LEDs is that they have extremely long lives. Because of their long lives, LEDs are a great option for places where replacing light bulbs is expensive, inconvenient or otherwise difficult. Other benefits include:

- Reduced energy costs – saving money and greenhouse gas emissions
- Less maintenance – saving money and less street light outages
- Light color is better for night time visibility
- LEDs provide consistent light output over a longer period compared to HPS bulbs

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