

LED Street Light Conversion Q&A

City of Bellevue



1. What are LED streetlights?

Light Emitting Diode (LED) technology has been used in solid state lighting for decades. More recently, LED technology has advanced to streetlight applications. LED streetlights are extremely energy efficient, have long life spans, and produce better color and light quality than typical high pressure sodium (HPS) streetlights.

2. What kind of streetlights are in the City of Bellevue?

The City of Bellevue owns and operates approximately 3,100 streetlights, 170 of which are LED. The remaining streetlights utilize high pressure sodium (HPS) lamps.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) owns and operates approximately 5,600 streetlights within Bellevue, mainly in residential areas. 280 of these are LED and the remaining are HPS. Bellevue pays a flat rate to PSE to provide this lighting.

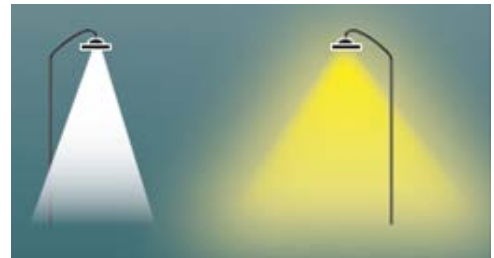
3. Which of the City's streetlights will be converted to LED?

This project will replace 4,242 streetlights to LED mainly in residential areas. The locations of the streetlights to be converted can be found on the project map at www.bellevuewa.gov/ledconversion.htm.

4. What differences will I notice with LED streetlights?

The main difference that the public will notice is the color of the light that is produced with the LEDs. LEDs produce a whiter light that is comparable with moonlight.

The advantage of whiter light is that it is easier for the human eye to distinguish details and colors. Generally, police prefer the whiter light and this is one of the reasons auto dealerships use white light – they want you to see the true colors and all the details.



5. Why is the City of Bellevue doing an LED streetlight conversion project now?

This project supports the Environmental Stewardship Initiative Strategic Plan 2013-2018, which encourages implementation of energy and water conservation retrofits and operational improvements for municipal facilities, streetlights and traffic signals, and pump stations.

In 2014 Bellevue was awarded \$265,732 through a Department of Commerce Energy Efficiency Grant. Additionally, PSE is offering rebates amounting to \$238,916 on the new LED fixtures. These two time-sensitive incentives will offset the cost of the project to Bellevue and will not be available at this level in the future.

6. What are the benefits of the LED streetlight fixture project?

The main benefits of LED lighting include:

- Reduced energy use, which results in cost savings and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- Longer fixture life, resulting in lower maintenance costs.
- Light color that is better for nighttime visibility.

7. How much will this project cost the City of Bellevue?

The net cost to Bellevue will be \$596,000 after the Department of Commerce grant funds (\$265,732) and rebates provided by PSE (\$238,916) are included.

8. How much will the City of Bellevue save when it upgrades to LED streetlight fixtures?

Bellevue estimates an annual savings of \$173,000 in energy costs.

9. How long will the project last?

Fixture replacement work is scheduled to begin in March 2015 and is projected to be complete in 2016.

10. When will the lights in my neighborhood be replaced with LED fixtures?

The project web page (www.bellevuewa.gov/ledconversion.htm) contains a schedule broken down by geographic locations. PSE is partnering with the City of Bellevue on this large project and is committing resources to meet this schedule, but unforeseen weather/power events may cause some delay. The schedule on the web page will be updated as the project progresses.

11. What will the construction impact be?

Crews with bucket trucks will remove the old streetlight and install the new LED fixtures. Each streetlight conversion takes 10-15 minutes to complete. Residents may see short term lane closures or other traffic control in place during the work. There are a few locations where new lights will be added to an existing utility pole. These installations will take slightly longer to complete.

12. What will happen to the streetlights that are removed?

Newer fixtures will be salvaged for reuse, and older fixtures will be recycled.

13. What if I have a streetlight outage in my neighborhood before the new LED fixtures are installed?

Streetlight outages will be addressed in the normal manner. They can be reported online at <http://assist.bellevuewa.gov/> or via email at signalshop@bellevuewa.gov or by using the MyBellevue app on a mobile device.



Questions or Comments?

Kam Szabo, Project Manager
kszabo@bellevuewa.gov

More info at
www.bellevuewa.gov/ledconversion.htm

