

City of Berkeley LED Streetlight Project – Questions and Answers

1. Why did the City of Berkeley change to LED streetlights?

The City is reducing its energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions and maintenance costs associated with streetlights. Installing LED streetlights saves energy, helps meet our Climate Action Plan goals, requires less maintenance, and provides the community with better light quality on streets and roadways.

2. What are LED streetlights?

LED stands for Light Emitting Diodes. LED streetlights are extremely energy efficient, have long life spans, and produce better color and light quality than typical High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights.

3. What are the benefits of the LED streetlight upgrade?

- More even and efficient distribution of light
- Reduced energy consumption resulting in energy savings and reduced greenhouse gas emissions
- Reduced outages with longer lasting bulbs
- Reduced maintenance costs
- Better quality light and increased safety

4. What kind of streetlights did the City of Berkeley have?

For decades, the City used High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights, because they were the better choice over the older Low Pressure Sodium (LPS) lighting. HPS streetlights cast an orange light which makes it hard to differentiate colors, especially of cars and clothing. The LPS fixture lighting was darker still, and had less color differentiation.

5. What color of light are LED streetlight fixtures?

Contrary to the orange light that HPS fixtures produced, LED streetlight fixtures are a neutral, natural white light (4,000K) under which it is easier to see true colors.

6. How many streetlights were replaced with the LED streetlights?

This project replaced all the approximately 8,000 streetlights and path lighting throughout the City of Berkeley as well as some area lighting in parks.

7. How is the City of Berkeley paying for the LED streetlight conversion project?

Funding for this project will come from a low interest (1%) loan from the California Energy Commission, combined with rebates from Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). The City will utilize the energy savings resulting from the project to repay the loan over the next ten years. There will be no net costs from the City's General Fund.

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

The City expects to save estimated 2.37 million kilowatt hours of energy per year, and more than \$323,000 in annual energy costs to the City.

9. What is the City doing with all of the old streetlights?

The existing High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights will be removed and disassembled. All components will be recycled or transferred to qualified environmental disposal vendors.

10. Who was the contractor for the installation?

Tanko Lighting team performed the installation. See website: www.tankolighting.com

For more information, see: www.cityofberkeley.info/streetlights. Questions, call 311