

LED Streetlights Drive Savings in Peoria



Offering big benefits — and a decrease in energy use — light emitting diode (LED) technology has been a bright idea since it arrived on the scene. As more people choose LED bulbs for their homes and businesses, progressive cities like Peoria, Illinois are taking LEDs to the streets.

While producing the same or better illumination as conventional streetlights, LED lights use up to 50% less energy and last up to three times longer — and that translates to savings for the city. It's no surprise that Peoria city leaders were sold on the idea of LED streetlights years ago.

“The energy costs associated with streetlighting are quite significant. We had been wanting to upgrade to LED technology for years, but when we first considered it the technology simply wasn't cost effective,” says Nick Stoffer, Assistant Public Works Director.

By 2020, the time for LED streetlights in Peoria had come — thanks in part to cash incentives from the Ameren Illinois Energy Efficiency Program.

“We provide cash incentives for municipalities to proactively upgrade street lighting to achieve savings sooner,” says Jim Dillon, Senior Manager, Energy Efficiency Operations at Ameren Illinois. “Some of the communities we serve would not be able to complete the upgrades without some assistance.”

In total, the city of Peoria qualified for \$466,000 in utility incentives, which covered over 20% of total project costs, to upgrade 4,000 city-owned cobra-head streetlights. Also, Ameren Illinois incentives help to defray the cost to upgrade city-owned decorative streetlighting and cobra-head streetlights on Illinois Department of Transportation roadways within the City of Peoria.

“Incentives from Ameren Illinois made the upgrades far more affordable and improved the project's rate of return,” says Stoffer. “And going forward, LED lighting will help the city save money forever.”

PAVING THE WAY FOR SAVINGS

Streetlighting can account for as much as 40% of a city's energy budget. By upgrading to high-efficiency LED-based fixtures, municipalities can reduce energy costs by as much as half, saving thousands of dollars that can be reinvested into the community.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- » Reduced energy use by up to 50%
- » Longer life and lower maintenance costs
- » Better quality of light
- » More uniform illumination for better security
- » Less light pollution and wasted energy
- » Ability to integrate with controls for enhanced safety
- » Increased sustainability — LEDs contain no toxic materials and are 100% recyclable

If your community has been looking for ways to further reduce energy use and cut down maintenance costs, an upgrade to LED street lighting could be the perfect fit. Our Energy Advisors can provide a **FREE Energy Consultation** to advise you on lighting upgrades — and show you even more ways to reduce your energy use.



Working with The Efficiency Network (TEN), Ameren Illinois Program Ally Pro Electric, as well as the city’s own electricians, in 2020 Peoria replaced 6,000 outdated city-owned high-pressure sodium (HPS) streetlights with LED lighting with a 10-year guarantee.

The new, long-lasting LED lighting is expected to save the city \$200,000 in annual energy costs. And fewer burned-out bulbs means a safer environment for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians and lower maintenance costs for the city.

As Stoffer explains: “If the new LED lights last 10 years, compared to the three-year life of the old HPS lighting, that means a lot less touching of the light over time. The longevity of the new fixtures will allow city electricians to spend more time on other priorities, such as traffic light maintenance and repairs.”

Beyond budgetary benefits, LEDs offer aesthetic appeal. While high-pressure sodium fixtures cast an orange-yellowish light, LED lighting produces a warmer, white light that is easier on the eyes.

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The City of Peoria chose to go with a 3,000K bulb which offers a softer level of illumination.

Unlike other types of streetlighting, LED systems can be adjusted to provide only the level of illumination needed at any given time. They also allow far more control over the direction in which light is emitted. This makes it much easier to reduce glare, light trespass (the spillover of light into areas where it’s not wanted), and uplight, which contributes to the phenomenon of “sky glow” that reduces visibility of the stars in the night sky.

“This Initiative makes upgrades possible that improve the aesthetics, safety and bottom line of a community,” says Dillon. “And the new lighting will continue to deliver savings to these communities over the 10-year life of the LED bulbs.”

For cities in search of greater sustainability, LEDs contain no toxic materials and are 100% recyclable. And every kilowatt saved helps protect the planet by cutting carbon emissions and reducing demand for new power generation.

“I would absolutely recommend that other communities work with Ameren Illinois to make energy efficiency projects more affordable. If a city is taking a piecemeal approach to upgrading streetlights, the incentives can help them implement upgrades faster,” says Stoffer. “We’re excited to roll out the new LED streetlights in Peoria. It’s something we’ve wanted to do for a long time, and we finally got it done!”

INCENTIVES AVAILABLE FOR MUNICIPAL-OWNED STREETLIGHTS

Municipalities within the Ameren Illinois service territory (regardless of electricity supplier) are eligible to receive cash incentives to offset the costs of LED lighting projects and upgrades.

Replace existing municipal-owned streetlight fixtures with LED lighting.*



Incentive is per watt reduced.

Install new municipal-owned LED streetlights.*



Incentive is per streetlight.

**To qualify, products must be certified by the DesignLights Consortium (DLC).*

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