



City of Edmonds Media Release

Public Works and Utilities ~ 121 5th Ave N, Edmonds, WA

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CITY PARTNERS WITH SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUD TO CONVERT THE REMAINING 1700 EDMONDS STREETLIGHTS TO LED

New Lights Expected to Improve Safety and Save Energy

(Edmonds, WA) - New LED street lights to improve safety and save energy will soon adorn the streets of Edmonds, thanks to a project being conducted by Snohomish County PUD (SnoPUD). SnoPUD started the project in 2013 to convert street lights throughout its service area – including 2600 PUD-owned street lights in Edmonds - to LED (Lighted Electric Diode) lighting, which are more reliable, offer up to 70 percent energy savings, and improve driver and pedestrian safety through better color lighting. Conversion of the last 1700 lights in Edmonds is expected to begin shortly after the New Year.

“We are delighted to see this new and improved lighting being implemented by SnoPUD on the streets of Edmonds” says City of Edmonds Public Works Director Phil Williams. “We have had significant interest expressed by members of our community about the best possible LED lights for our streets. We are grateful to SnoPUD for agreeing to incorporate the City of Edmonds’ requests regarding the design of their project, even though this will delay the start of the project by several months.”

According to Williams, Edmonds citizens have asked a number of questions about the upcoming conversion of the 1,700 PUD-owned streetlights in Edmonds from High Pressure

Sodium (HPS) technology to a Lighted Electric Diode (LED) based system. This conversion will:

1. Produce energy savings of approximately 70%,
2. Significantly reduce the amount of light impinging on adjacent private properties and buildings, and
3. Do a better job of rendering colors than the yellow/orange light produced by the current HPS fixtures.

Williams says this last item makes streets safer for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists by allowing them to better see one another, which is why LED-based lighting systems are universally preferred by public safety agencies.

LED lights are now available in a wider variety of styles, intensities, and apparent colors than ever before, which allowed the City of Edmonds to work with SnoPUD to create more lighting options for the community and tailor a system to best fit Edmonds.

“One of the options we discussed with PUD is the color of the light; simply speaking, how white do we want the light to appear?” explains Williams. “In designing the street light conversion PUD and the City of Edmonds have looked at several lighting industry studies, in addition to recent recommendations from the American Medical Association. The AMA does recommend continued conversion to LED street lights. They have also recommended a limit on the Color Corrected Temperature (CCT) of the lights themselves. Having looked at all available data from the above studies as well as the lighting options available from SnoPUD, the City of Edmonds has opted for LED lights with a maximum Color Corrected Temperature (CCT) of 3,000 degrees Kelvin to create a good balance between whiter appearing LED light and warmer-colored LED light sources. This approach is consistent with current AMA recommendations. The City of Edmonds has asked SnoPUD to incorporate this preference into their conversion project and they have agreed.”

“Incorporating the City’s request will delay the start of SnoPUD’s street light conversion project by approximately 90-180 days, which means the conversion is expected to begin sometime after January, 2017. We want to thank SnoPUD for pursuing this conversion project and for accommodating the City’s preferences.”

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