Power A Clean Future Ohio
LOCAL COMMUNITIES LEADING THE WAY

Energy Efficient Outdoor Lighting Fixtures

Outdoor lighting is a major cost and energy consumer for communities. Communities can switch traditional lights to LED technologies, reducing energy costs by 50% or greater if advanced lighting controls are installed. These high efficiency lights reduce carbon emissions through their lower energy usage and have potential additional benefits of reducing light pollution and increasing public safety.

WHAT IS IT?

Upgrading outdoor lighting fixtures, including street lights, involves substituting traditional sodium lights with LED technologies. LED fixtures use less energy, last longer, and are compatible with advanced lighting controls related to public safety and energy efficiency measures.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

LED bulbs can significantly reduce annual operating costs, both because LED lights last longer and use less energy than traditional sodium lights. Switching to LED lighting offers energy savings of about 50% over conventional technologies. Because many communities have either municipal-owned or utility-owned outdoor lighting, pressure from communities is helpful to making the transition. High efficiency outdoor lighting also opens up the doors to more advance street lights, including lighting that can change intensity and brightness.

BENEFITS

LED lights can operate on advanced networks that can improve safety and allow for more control over brightness level.

Municipalities can limit the amount of blue light LED lights emit

LED technology can cut energy consumption by up to 80%.

When implemented properly, LED lights require less maintenance.

LED bulbs have a lifespan 25 times that of incandescent light bulbs.

Communities can combine with solar cells to reduce carbon emissions even further.

HOW CAN COMMUNITIES IMPLEMENT THIS POLICY?

Communities must first determine whether the municipal government or some other entity owns the streetlights. In many Ohio communities, the local utility owns the streetlights. Communities should also check with their local utility to see if the utility offers a pilot project or incentive to install new LED lights, and communities may work with utilities to acquire streetlights for a long-term lighting program. A community's local government may have to pass legislation authorizing an agreement with the local utility to allocate funds for and authorize upgrades to streetlights. Communities can also try to work with utilities to secure grants and rebates for LED conversion.

The U.S. Department of Energy also provides numerous tools for communities interested in switching to more energy efficient outdoor lighting. In addition to information on financial support, the federal government offers regulatory and technical resources.