

Williamstown, MA LED Streetlight Conversion Project FAQ

1. What is happening to Williamstown's street lights?

The majority of streetlights currently used in the Town of Williamstown are High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights. While HPS is one of the most common streetlight technologies across the country, HPS streetlights are not energy efficient and produce orange, low quality light under which it is difficult to see color. Recently, many cities are transitioning to more effective LED lights. Williamstown is converting to LED lights too.

2. Why are we converting to LED streetlights?

Light Emitting Diodes (LED) are a technology that have been used in small electronic devices, such as calculators and digital clocks for decades. More recently, LED technology has advanced to streetlight applications. LED streetlights are very energy efficient, have long life spans, lower maintenance costs, and produce better quality light than HPS streetlights.

3. What color of light do LED streetlight fixtures produce?

In contrast to the orange light that HPS fixtures emit, LED streetlight fixtures produce a cooler, more neutral-colored light under which it is easier to see true colors. We have selected one of the warmest LED lights for Williamstown, 2750 K. These lights are approved by the International Dark Sky Association.

4. Why does the new LED light appear to be different than HPS light?

HPS fixtures tend to produce a bright spot directly underneath the fixture, while LED streetlights are designed to evenly distribute light. This dispersion of light improves visibility by decreasing sudden contrast between light and dark areas. We have also completed an in-depth design, which ensures that adequate lighting is provided by each LED fixture.

5. How much will the Town of Williamstown save when it upgrades to LED streetlight fixtures?

By replacing 553 streetlights, the project is expected to reduce energy use by 70%, over 95,000 kwh annually, and yield approximately \$60,000 annually in energy and maintenance costs with a 3-year project payback.

6. When will the project be completed?

We started in 2019 with a listening session with residents. Then we conducted a Town-wide audit that provided precise locations and characteristics of all existing streetlights. The audit is being followed by installation of the new, energy efficient LED cobra head streetlight fixtures, which will begin in March 2022 and is projected to be completed in May 2022. The existing HPS streetlights will be recycled in accordance with all federal and state environmental guidelines.

7. Can the lights be controlled?

Yes! We have included a lighting control system with this project. Once all the lights are installed, and our Department of Public Works staff have been trained, (sometime later in May) we will reduce the light output to 70%. We may, in the future, dim lights even more on low traffic residential streets for a few hours in the night.

8. Who do I call?

For more information or if you think a street light is shining in a window or onto your property, please call Department of Public Works 413-458-3500 ext. 216.

This work is a joint effort with Williamstown Cool Committee, the Williamstown Fire District and the Town of Williamstown.