

LED Street Lights Frequently Asked Questions

What are LED lights?

LED stands for Light Emitting Diode. Traditional lighting sources produce light through a filament that eventually burns out. LEDs produce light when electrons move through a semi-conductor.

How is LED lighting different from the lighting we have now?

LED street lights are different from the current street lights in a number of ways:

- Lower energy consumption
- Lower environmental footprint
- Significantly longer lifespan. On average, LEDs last three times as long as the current lights
- LEDs come in a variety of colors (bright white to yellow orange)
- No mercury, lead or other known disposable hazards
- Night visibility will be improved due to higher color rendering, higher color temperature, and increased luminance uniformity

Why are the current lights being changed?

PWC has an overall plan to reduce energy usage and improve the overall quality of lighting within the City of Fayetteville. LED street lights will enable us to provide the same level of lighting or better; while at the same time purchasing less power from our power supplier. This means that future rate increases will be smaller or may not be required as quickly.

How is PWC paying for the project?

The State of North Carolina has placed renewable energy mandates on all electric utilities and PWC collects a monthly Renewable Energy Rider (REP) charge from customers. LED street lighting will help PWC meet these mandates and the REP charge will help fund the project.

How will I know when the lights are being installed?

Customers who live in the designated installation will receive a postcard from PWC prior to the scheduled installation date or a pre-recorded phone call. Residents may also notice street light improvement signs placed around their neighborhood.

When will the new lights be installed?

The new LED street lights will be installed beginning late fall 2014 through 2017.

Who is installing the lights?

The lights will be installed by PWC crews and PWC contractors.

Will the poles be replaced too?

Yes, in some cases where existing poles aren't adequate.

Will my street be dark at night during the installation?

No, PWC will leave the existing lights in place until the LED lights are installed and ready to be turned on. In some cases, a combination of the new LED street lights and the current street lights may be in place overnight until installation is complete.

Will the bright lights keep me awake at night?

Not likely. PWC will be able to "aim" the new LED fixtures towards the public streets, which will minimize light on homes and businesses.

What is the difference between an area light and a street light?

Area lighting is used to light private areas such as backyards, playgrounds, storage yards and general customer areas. These lights are installed as requested by a customer for a monthly fee. Street lighting is used primarily to illuminate the city's public thoroughfares and residential streets. However, street lighting is also available on private streets at an additional monthly cost to residents.