

NEWS LOCAL

# 1,972 streetlights to be replaced in Owen Sound starting in fall 9



By Denis Langlois, Sun Times, Owen Sound  
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A streetlight in Owen Sound.

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A citywide project to replace nearly 2,000 streetlight heads in Owen Sound with energy efficient LED fixtures is set to begin this fall.

"We've been told that it will take about four to six weeks for the contractor to order the units, so we expect installation will begin sometime in October or November," Chris Hughes, the city's environmental superintendent, said Monday.

It will take several months for all of the lamps to be replaced, he said, so the work might not be finished until spring.



City council voted last week to authorize the mayor and clerk to sign a contract with RealTerm Energy Corp. to convert 1,972 streetlights in Owen Sound to LED technology at a cost of \$1.1 million.

About \$44,000 will be covered by an Ontario Power Authority grant, while the rest will be debentured and repaid over time with the roughly \$228,000 saved each year on energy and maintenance costs because of the switch.

The city expects to repay the loan in less than five years.

"The LED streetlight conversion will benefit the environment by using an estimated 64% less energy, resulting in a greenhouse gas reduction of 90 metric tonnes per year," Hughes said in a report to council.

"All of the high-pressure sodium lamps and housings will be recycled as part of the project. LED fixtures do not contain mercury or lead and don't release dangerous gases if damaged.

"The LED streetlight conversion will also help reduce light pollution. Light from LEDs is very directional and they do not require diffusers or reflectors that reduce lighting efficiency. As a result, light does not shine where it is not wanted, such as into street-side bedroom windows and less light will be directed skyward."

Council directed city officials in March to sign a letter of intent with RealTerm Energy for the design and installation of the new street lamps. The company then did a full audit of the existing streetlights to provide a final contract price for the city.

The replacement project is to include all streetlights in the city except for the decorative ones in the downtown core, which would cost more to convert.

It will cost about \$600 to replace each streetlight with an LED fixture. However, the cost to operate each light is expected to drop to \$57 per year from \$173, according to RealTerm Energy.

The city finished converting all of its traffic lights to LED technology in 2006 but held off changing the streetlights.

An LED streetlight conversion program has been developed by Local Authority Services, a nonprofit organization owned by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) that helps municipalities save money through cooperative procurement efforts and other services.

LAS selected RealTerm Energy and Cree Lighting, following a competitive bidding process, as partners for the project.

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