

LEDs Shed Light on Energy Savings for Municipalities

Using incentives from PECO Commercial and Industrial Solutions, several southeastern Pennsylvania municipalities replaced outdated street lighting with energy-saving LEDs throughout their communities. Lansdowne and Phoenixville boroughs, along with Middletown Township, were among 35 municipalities that participated in a group lighting upgrade project with PECO coordinated by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission.

Craig Totaro, borough manager in Lansdowne, served on the planning committee to help orchestrate upgrades for his entire region. He said that with incentives from PECO, each community was able to purchase state-of-the-art lighting at a much lower cost. By partnering together when it came time to buy the lights, the communities saved even more.

Total Project Incentives Paid

- Lansdowne
\$19,409
- Middletown
\$80,749
- Phoenixville
\$33,095



“Because of the savings, it made sense for us to upgrade street lighting throughout Lansdowne,” said Totaro. “As a group, we were buying a total of about 20,000 lights rather than just the 600 needed for our municipality alone.”

Not only did each community save money by purchasing the energy-efficient lighting together, but they also received valuable guidance throughout the installation process.

Jean Krack, borough manager in Phoenixville, said the regional upgrade program and the incentives from PECO allowed for a total street light replacement—about 1,400 new LEDs across the community. “It’s a big step, but there is a great return on investment,” said Krack. “LEDs are guaranteed for 20 years, and we’ll see the payback in about seven.”

Middletown Township replaced 2,800 street lights at once. Stephanie Teoli Kuhls, township manager, said the benefits of the upgrades were immediate, improving light quality and community safety, while significantly reducing overall maintenance.

“We had been considering LED upgrades, and the better pricing really helped move the project forward,” said Teoli Kuhls. “Now, our lighting is uniform, and we’ve seen a dramatic cut to maintenance issues.”

John Balent, a foreman for Middletown’s public works department, said the upgrades will provide community benefits for years to come. “Showing taxpayers that we are being diligent with finances is one thing, but also showing the community that we’re willing to be a leader in energy efficiency has the potential to trickle down to residents too,” said Balent. “Anything to help incentivize communities to be more energy efficient can make a positive long-term impact.”

“The incentives were almost like a nice big tip on top of everything, and the application was simple to fill out. Working with PECO, we had to do very little to get those savings.”

*—Craig Totaro, Borough Manager
Lansdowne*



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