

West Peoria Lighting District 3rd Municipality in Illinois to Convert to LED Lighting

Building strong towns requires the ongoing maintenance of existing infrastructure. The West Peoria Lighting District (WPLD) has accomplished this through its successful conversion of the existing high-pressure sodium lighting to Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting, giving West Peoria the distinction of being the third municipality in Illinois to convert its streetlights to the newest, energy-efficient technology.

The WPLD, led by President John Walker, Treasurer Guydeen Roos, and Secretary Randy Kleist, embarked on a two-and-a-half-year project with goals to save energy, reduce maintenance costs, provide better light quality, and extend the life of the lighting. The district began installing LED lights in 2017, working with Ameren Illinois through the Act On Energy program to focus on repairing streetlights that needed it. The project was expanded over the next two years to include all 242 streetlights. The project paid for itself in less than two years, at a cost of \$50 per light. The project has saved the city more than \$16,000 per year in energy costs, which has ultimately reduced the property tax burden on residents. LED lights last for more than 10 years, which means that the city will no longer have to replace them as often.

Lighting is important for a community's safety and appearance. The WPLD offers a post-light rebate program to property owners in West Peoria. Property owners in West Peoria can receive a \$150 rebate for installing a new post light with a dusk-to-dawn photocell. To qualify, the light must be installed in the front yard of a residence.