



Together, Building
a Better California



LED Streetlight Upgrade Program

As part of our commitment to provide customers with safe, reliable, affordable and clean energy, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is upgrading its non-decorative, high pressure sodium vapor (HPSV) streetlights with more energy-efficient, light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures.

PG&E owns, operates and maintains approximately 160,000 non-decorative HPSV streetlights. PG&E is converting these streetlights in collaboration with cities, counties and non-municipal organizations that opt in to our voluntary program. We work closely with local communities to determine when and where to install LED streetlights, and we notify all customers of replacement activity in their neighborhood at least one week prior to our arrival.

Recent Recommendations from the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association (AMA) released a policy statement asserting that LED streetlights are an important environmental innovation that can lower reliance on fossil-based fuels and encourage cost savings and efficiency. The AMA's statement included guidelines and recommendations regarding the types of LED lighting best-suited to replace traditional streetlights.

The AMA encourages use of LED streetlights with the lowest possible emission and intensity of blue light to cut glare and light levels. The AMA also advises shielding streetlights to reduce glare, and suggests that communities consider streetlights that could be dimmed at night.

PG&E's streetlights use lighting science and shielding to direct light toward the ground and minimize light pollution. Our streetlights feature current industry best practices to control excess light. That means our LED streetlights create a better-quality light with lower light output. Our lights also come with dimming capabilities for future consideration as technology evolves.

The AMA's report specifically recommends that projects avoid "poorly designed" LED streetlights. PG&E buys its lights from leading manufacturers, such as Cree.

For those reasons, PG&E is confident in the safety and deployment of our LED fixtures. Still, we constantly look for ways to improve our technologies. PG&E has already reduced the correlated color temperature (CCT) of our fixtures from 6000 Kelvin (6000K) to 4000K. We have started test installations of 3000K fixtures, and we will continue to evaluate other improvements that are well-tested, clean, safe and reliable.

We also continue to follow the conversation taking place among academics, professional/industrial organizations and government. Several online resources are hyperlinked here for a more comprehensive view of that discussion.

PG&E continuously monitors new technology with a goal of bringing the most appropriate solutions to our customers. You can reach the Streetlight Upgrade Program directly at [1-877-743-2677](tel:1-877-743-2677) or streetlightupgrade@pge.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

"Some media coverage of concerns about blue light, light at night, and dark-sky issues can give the impression that LEDs are the enemy, when in fact they're a critical part of the solution."

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE):
"Get the Facts: LED Street Lighting"

"In general then, it is erroneous and misleading to use a metric developed for one purpose and then apply it to another purpose, particularly with regard to the impact of light on human health."

Lighting Research Center at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

"Of primary concern to the IES is the potential for this report and its ensuing press to misinform the public with incomplete or inaccurate claims and improper interpretations."

Illuminating Engineering Society (IES)

"NEMA also questions the wisdom of assigning significant weight to this recommendation since outdoor lighting design requires a complex analysis of many criteria. Outdoor lighting systems will vary depending on the application and local conditions. Tradeoffs in the considerations of visibility, environmental impacts, energy efficiency, cost, personal safety and security need to be optimized, which cannot be achieved with a single solution."

National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)