



State of Washington Transportation Improvement Board

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State of Washington, Puget Sound Energy and Avista Utilities to partner on LED Streetlight Program Relight Washington

Olympia, WA -- The switch to LED streetlights is hitting its stride across the country in 2015, particularly in Washington State where a landmark arrangement between the State and two major utilities will facilitate the installation of these cost-saving streetlights in numerous small cities at no cost to the cities. Small cities have lagged nationwide in LED conversion because they cannot afford the initial capital cost. If all the small cities (population less than 5,000) were in one location in Washington, they would form the second largest city in the State, with 40,000 streetlights. The new program - called Relight Washington - is the result of an agreement proposed by the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board (TIB.)

The Relight Washington program will provide funding for LED fixtures and installation costs to small cities owning streetlights. In small cities with streetlights owned by Avista Utilities in Eastern Washington or Puget Sound Energy (PSE) in Western Washington, the Relight Washington program will provide funding to help offset costs for the installation of new energy efficient LED streetlights which is already underway.

“In Washington, we are moving small cities to the front of the LED line because they need the savings the most,” said Steve Gorcester, Executive Director, Washington State Transportation Improvement Board.

The TIB first tested installation of 2,000 LED streetlights in six small cities in 2013. A return on investment study found that energy, maintenance and environmental benefits returned more than twice the installation cost over 15 years. As a result of those findings, the TIB proposed and funded a statewide program starting in summer 2015.

The effort dovetails with a call in 2014 by Governor Jay Inslee to update street lights as part of the state’s overall energy strategy. Streetlight installation will begin this summer and continue until all small city streetlights are energy saving LEDs. Inslee praised the utility companies for their long-term, community-minded approach.

“With the help of Avista Utilities and Puget Sound Energy, our small cities can now share in the benefits of new energy-saving technology,” Inslee said. “Relight Washington is a win for consumers, a win for cities and a win for our efforts to reduce carbon pollution.”

“This is an exciting project for PSE to be working on with the Transportation Improvement Board. It allows us to help smaller cities upgrade to LED street lighting when they might not be able to do it on their own,” said Jason Teller, PSE’s vice president of Customer Solutions. “And those cities will see the benefits right away.”

“Small cities are an important part of what makes eastern Washington a special place to live and work. Through the support of the Transportation Improvement Board and its Relight Washington program, the small cities will be able to reap the benefits of LED streetlights, including energy savings, better light quality and reduced environmental impact. Avista is proud to be a part of this innovative program,” said Don Kopczynski, vice president of energy delivery for Avista.

The state also provides grants to cities and counties through the Department of Commerce, and the Department of Enterprise Services prequalifies energy service companies to assist and finance LED replacement of street and public facility lighting.

The TIB makes and manages state street and sidewalk grants to cities and county urban areas statewide. Most street construction and maintenance projects in small cities are partially or fully funded by the TIB. Revenue comes from three cents of the state fuel tax and driver’s license renewal fees. Avista provides street lights to 46 small cities in Eastern Washington. Puget Sound Energy serves 57 small cities in King, Pierce, Skagit, Whatcom and Kittitas Counties.

Attachment

Eligible Agencies in the PSE Service Area

Algona	Ellensburg	North Bend
Beaux Arts Village	Enumclaw	Oak Harbor
Black Diamond	Everson	Orting
Blaine (LED Completed)	Ferndale	Pacific
Bonney Lake	Fife	Rainier
Buckley (LED Completed)	Hamilton	Roslyn
Bucoda	Hunts Point	Roy
Burlington	Kittitas	Sedro Woolley
Carbonado	La Conner	Skykomish
Carnation	Lake Forest Park	Snoqualmie
Cle Elum	Langley	South Cle Elum
Clyde Hill	Lyman	South Prairie
Concrete	Lynden	Sumas
Coupeville	Medina	Sumner
Covington	Milton	Tenino
Dupont	Newcastle	Wilkeson
Duvall	Nooksack	Yarrow Point
Edgewood	Normandy Park	Yelm

Eligible Agencies in the Avista Service Area

Airway Heights	Hatton	Pullman
Albion	Kettle Falls	Reardan
Almira	Lacrosse	Ritzville
Asotin	Lamont	Rockford
Clarkston	Latah	Rosalia
Colfax	Liberty Lake	Spangle
Colton	Lind	Sprague
Colville	Malden	Springdale
Creston	Marcus	St. John
Davenport	Medical Lake	Tekoa
Deer Park	Millwood	Uniontown
Endicott	Northport	Washtucna
Fairfield	Oakesdale	Waverly
Farmington	Odessa	Wilbur
Garfield	Othello	
Harrington	Palouse (LED Completed)	