

LED Lighting Press Release



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

200 E. High St. • P.O. Box 1087 • Grants, New Mexico 87020 • (505) 285-6656 • Fax (505) 287-2234

CDEC Now Offers LED Street and Security Lights

GRANTS – Continental Divide Electric Cooperative is upgrading to Light Emitting Diode (LED) street lamps and security lighting for residential and commercial use.

CDEC's decision to phase out high-pressure sodium lighting in favor of LED follows months of analyzing the newer technology's benefits and cost. "The price for LED street and security-light fixtures has drastically dropped in recent years, making the transition more affordable for our co-op and its members," CDEC Engineer Jose Molina said.

Earlier this year, CDEC obtained approval from the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission to implement a rate to charge co-op members for energy consumption by LED street lamps and security lighting.

Currently, CDEC members with an existing 250-watt sodium light pay \$14.25, per month. The rate for a new 153-watt LED light – which produces light equivalent to the 250-watt sodium fixture – is \$8, per month. In addition to being energy efficient, the LED street lamps and security lighting are expected to require less maintenance and come with a 10-year warranty from the manufacturer. The fixtures are designed to last as long as 20 years – 100,000 lamp-hours – and produce a better quality, white-colored light, as opposed to the yellowish light produced by high-pressure sodium lighting.

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The installation fee for LED street and security lighting will be the same fee CDEC currently charges for high-pressure sodium fixtures – \$460, per lamp. For a limited time, however, co-op members will only pay \$379, per LED lamp installation, thanks to an energy-efficiency equipment rebate made available by the co-op's power supplier Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association.

"It's a good idea to take advantage of the Tri-State rebate, because this newer technology will eventually become the current one and there won't be any incentives in the future toward the purchase of these LED lamps," Molina said.

CDEC's 153-watt LED lamps are rated at 15,000 lumens and sufficiently light an area of approximately 9,600 square feet (120 feet by 80 feet). Currently, CDEC does not offer an LED equivalent for its 400-watt sodium fixtures. Eventually, the co-op will discontinue offering both the 400-watt and 250-watt high-pressure sodiums.

For more information on CDEC's new LED lighting, as well as other rebates available to co-op members for energy-efficient equipment installations, call the co-op's Grants office at (505) 285-6656 or its Gallup district office at (505) 863-3641.

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