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NEWS RELEASE

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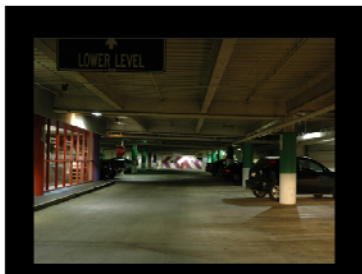
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City sheds light on new fixtures using less than half the power, last twice as long, ultimately will save one million local taxpayer dollars

The City will reduce electricity use by more than 50 percent in its parking garages by replacing the existing lighting with new light-emitting diodes known as LEDs. The lighting retrofit is expected to save the City more than \$1.1 million over 11 years. The new fixtures are being installed at five of the eight public parking garages owned by the City. Making use of a federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the U.S. Department of Energy that acts as a revolving loan program, SMUD incentives totaling \$181,000 and a \$289,000 rebate from the Energy Technology Assistance Program (ETAP)* allowed the City to afford the \$1.3 million up-front cost of converting to the highly energy efficient LED fixtures.

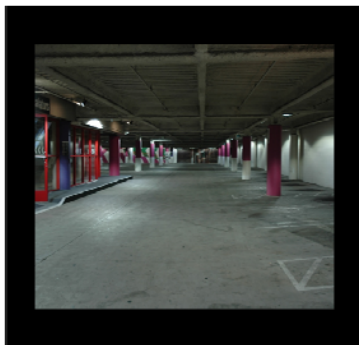
There was no out-of-pocket cost to the City.



“Before” LED lights, above, and “after” installation, below.

The energy cost savings spanning the estimated 11-year life of the LEDs at five City parking garages is equivalent to a cost savings to the taxpayer of \$1.1 million and is analogous to the environmental benefit of planting more than 250,000 carbon absorbing trees.

“This announcement is an illustration of how Recovery Act investments are reducing energy use in communities across the country and saving the taxpayers money,” said U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu. “Innovative energy efficiency projects like this one in Sacramento are an important step as we move towards a clean energy economy.”



The more than 1700 new fixtures in the five parking garages will realize a return on investment on average within five years. The LEDs used in the parking garages give off cool, white light and use far less electricity than the conventional High Intensity Discharge (HID) lights. During the LEDs' estimated 11- year life span they will require little maintenance, while the HID fixtures would have required four or five lamp changes. The LEDs consume 70 watts compared to 210 watts for HID fixtures. In addition the LEDs contain no mercury, as do the HIDs.

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Energy efficient lighting-2

Most of the LED fixtures have motion sensors for even greater efficiency. The lights will switch to a lower level when no movement of vehicles or customers is detected, reducing consumption to 28 watts for even greater energy savings.

“From an aesthetic perspective, the lighting also makes for a better-looking garage as opposed to a dim and dingy garage. Cool, white light and less glare give the impression of a more welcoming, safer environment for customers,” said Matt Eierman, manager of the City’s off-street parking operations.

LEDs also being tested in City street lights

Sacramento is one of the first in the region to install LEDs in both mast-arm and historic street lights. The pilot project is underway on Arden Way (in front of Arden Fair Mall), Del Paso Boulevard (at Arden Way), 16th Street (near Fremont Park), Dixie Avenue (near Winner’s Circle Park), and Pocket Road (from Greenhaven Drive to West Shore Drive).

The entire capital cost of 200 lights was made possible through the EECBG and a SMUD grant. The lights not only use less electricity, but also last at least twice as long, meaning operations and maintenance staff time changing bulbs will drop as well.

The pilot project will be revisited next year to see if it’s successful. “But so far, the data is promising,” said Sompol Chatusripitak, an electrical engineer in DOT who pursued the grant funding for the garages and the streetlights. “Assuming a 10 year life, the cost savings in energy and labor is \$1,000 per light, or \$200,000 over 10 years,” he added.

Should the project advance, the next step is to develop specifications for LED units for future installations, possibly requiring future light fixtures to all be LEDs.

1,000 gift bags to be given to parking customers

As part of the City’s commitment to sustainability, the City will be handing out 1,000 Just Check It bags to 1,000 customers parking on Friday, August 26 at the Downtown Plaza Garage East, 597 L Street, which is the first garage to be converted to LEDs. The bags, compliments of sustainability partner CalRecycle, contain a tire pressure gauge and other tools to remind motorists about the importance and benefits of proper tire maintenance – including better gas mileage. CalRecycle is the state's leading authority on recycling, waste reduction, and product reuse. For more information visit, www.JustCheckIt.info.

About the Energy Technology Assistance Program*

The Energy Technology Assistance Program (ETAP) provides technical support, implementation assistance, rebates, and training to accelerate the adoption of advanced, market-ready energy efficiency technologies in local government and public institutions in California. ETAP funding is provided by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, administered by the California Energy Commission, and is an Energy Upgrade California™ Program. ETAP runs through March 2012 and approximately \$1.8 million in rebates is currently available to help fund additional projects. For more information visit www.energy-solution.com/etap

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