



Leading The Way In LED

Have you noticed the whiter, brighter street lights in downtown Traverse City?

The city is shining a little brighter these days thanks to the installation of over 700 new Light Emitting Diode (LED) lights. The new LED lights, which are courtesy of Traverse City Light & Power (L&P) and a \$250,000 Michigan Energy Efficiency Block Grant, have replaced the city's traditional lighting in a variety of applications.

L&P originally planned to replace 205 street lights, 100 intersection or pedestrian lights and 50 building or wall pack lights, but because of lower than expected bid prices, L&P was able to purchase and install 342 street lights, 313 pedestrian lights and 50 building lights - 705 lights in all.

The LED replacement lights were installed in downtown areas and along the parkway, while the LED pedestrian lights replaced the high-pressure sodium lights used in the gooseneck-style walkway lights, located in the downtown and farmer's market areas. Several Traverse City school buildings were the recipients of the new LED building lights.

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In converting to the new LED lights, a total of 463,618 kilowatt hours will be saved each year - the equivalent to powering over 77 homes for a full year and reducing CO₂ output by 706,273* pounds per year.



L&P's Brian Zionskowski installs an LED street light in downtown Traverse City. L&P recently completed the installation of over 700 LED street lights, pedestrian lights and building lights.

The project began in February 2010, when L&P received the grant, which provided for 80% of the purchase costs of the LED lights. L&P was required to match 20% of purchase costs and complete all installations. Block Grant funds were received by the State of Michigan and distributed through the Michigan Public Service Commission. L&P was one of two municipal electric utilities to receive the maximum grant amount.

Total project expenses, including the lights and installation, came to \$450,267. The state will reimburse \$250,000 of this; while L&P will cover the remaining 20% match expense of \$63,980, plus \$136,287 in installation labor.

* This number was calculated using the Environmental Protection Agency's Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator.

Meet Your L&P Board Members

Light Emitting Diodes

Comments from Jim Carruthers, Board Member since 2008



Currently CFL bulbs are the least expensive energy efficient alternative to incandescent light bulbs, but there is another option. Light Emitting Diodes, or LEDs, are said to offer better light quality than incandescent bulbs, last 25 times longer and use even less energy than CFLs. Unlike ordinary incandescent bulbs, they don't have a filament that will burn out and they don't get especially hot.

LEDs have been used for years to form numbers on digital clocks, transmit information from remote controls, light up watches and tell you when your appliances are turned on. Now you can see LEDs commonly used for traffic signals, street lighting and holiday lights.

The price for LEDs is still quite high, but as technology progresses, it is anticipated that they will become more affordable for the everyday household and rebates and incentives will be offered by your utility. Stay tuned!



Bio

Jim Carruthers is a City Commissioner who also serves on the L&P Board. His interest in renewable energy began in the early 90s when he played a leading role in developing a "green rate" to support the M-72 wind turbine. He believes renewable energy and energy conservation are important for the future. He is an avid sailor, skier and cycling enthusiast who resides in the Central Neighborhood with his two dogs.

Ways L&P is Helping You Save Energy and Money:

- Turn in your old, inefficient refrigerator that is still in working condition and get a \$60 rebate. Please call 1-877-270-3519 for more information and to schedule a free pick-up.
- Receive a \$150 incentive if you upgrade your furnace to an energy-efficient model that includes an Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM) or if you upgrade your central air conditioning unit to one with a 16 seasonal energy efficiency rating (SEER).
- Receive a \$15 rebate for purchasing an ENERGY STAR® qualified dehumidifier or room air conditioner, which can save at least 10 percent on your energy bill.
- Get an Energy Audit performed on your home or business for just \$10! You'll receive an on-site walk-through, energy saving recommendations, an examination of your electric and gas bills and a checklist report of the findings. Call 932-4588 to schedule.



For more information on ways L&P is saving you energy and money, see the website at www.tclp.org.

FREE CFLs

Use the coupon below to pick up three FREE compact fluorescent light (CFL) bulbs, which use about 75% less energy than standard lighting, produces 75% less heat and lasts up to 10 times longer.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, if every American home replaced just one 60-watt incandescent light bulb with an ENERGY STAR CFL bulb we could save almost six billion kilowatt hours a year. That's enough energy to light nearly three million homes, save more than \$600 million in energy costs and reduce greenhouse gases by the equivalent of nearly 750,000 cars.

Recycle CFL Bulbs for FREE at:

- **Local Maxbauer ACE Hardware stores**

3597 Bunker Hill Rd., Acme Ph: 938-2021
734 West Front St., Traverse City Ph: 946-2140
4106 US 31 S., Traverse City Ph: 943-8288

- **Grand Traverse County Public Services Building**

2650 LaFranier Rd., Traverse City

Free 3-Pack of 19-Watt CFL Bulbs (Equivalent to a 75-Watt incandescent bulb)

Coupon redeemable only at the TC Light & Power Service Desk. 400 Boardman Ave. (Governmental Center), Traverse City, MI



Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Account # _____

Phone # _____

Coupon expires June 30, 2011. Limit one coupon per ratepayer household or business. No cash value.

Did you know that most incandescent light bulbs are going to be phased out?

The Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 calls for increased energy efficiency for products, public buildings and vehicles, among other things. The law sets high energy efficiency standards for items such as the commonly used incandescent light bulb. Beginning January 1, 2012, all light bulbs produced must be 25 to 30 percent more efficient than today's technology. If bulbs do not meet these requirements they will be phased out. The process will begin with the 100-watt bulb in 2012, the 75-watt bulb in 2013 and the 60-watt and 40-watt bulbs in 2014. By 2020, all bulbs will have to be at least 70 percent more efficient than today's incandescent technology.

L&P Mission:

To provide safe, affordable, reliable energy services in an environmentally conscious manner.

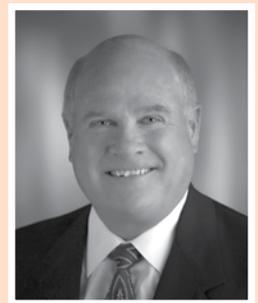
Executive Director Update: Working to Keep Electric Costs Affordable

L&P purchases power from multiple sources, including coal, natural gas, wind and landfill gas electric generation companies. L&P also purchases power from additional power suppliers during periods of high electric demand. To cover the total cost of power, L&P charges a Power Cost Recovery (PCR) on every customer's utility bill.

For every dollar L&P spends, approximately sixty-five cents is used to pay for purchased power. The remaining thirty-five cents is spent on transmission and distribution maintenance, metering, billing, energy conservation and other administrative costs.

The cost of power is increasing for L&P, as with all electric utilities, specifically due to coal transportation costs, addition of state required renewable energy, new power contracts and other state mandates. Even with the cost increases, it is important to point out that L&P still provides considerably lower rates than the surrounding electric providers.

A key element in L&P's Mission Statement is to keep costs affordable for all customers. You can be assured that L&P is working diligently to keep all cost increases to a minimum.



Ed Rice

Ed Rice
Executive Director



Investing Our Energy In You

1131 Hastings St. | Traverse City, MI 49686
Main Office and 24-Hour Service: **922-4940**
Billing / Other Questions: **922-4431**

See the Energy Advisor and L&P Energy Smart Program at: www.tclp.org



Proudly serving our community for 99 years.