

ERTH



CORPORATION



Central Elgin LED Conversion

About The Municipality of Central Elgin

The Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin is a rural and small town municipality on the shores of Lake Erie. Central Elgin was formed in 1998 with the amalgamation of the Township of Yarmouth and the Villages of Belmont and Port Stanley. It is part of Elgin County.

Municipality of Central Elgin

Population: 12,723 (2006)
Land Area: 280 km²

Why LED conversion?

ERTH's LED Street Light Upgrade Program promises many benefits, including over 50% savings in municipal street light electricity bills. In addition to a quick pay back of initial investment strictly through savings, the LED Upgrade Program provides an environmentally friendly solution with a 10 year photocell and fixture warranty. The LED lights also provide a brighter and cleaner illumination which can help increase safety in a municipality's neighbourhoods. With 868 street light fixtures in the Municipality of Central Elgin, the cost savings are significant.

The process

ERTH met with the Municipality of Central Elgin's council several times to go over data and finances. ERTH provided Central Elgin with real data based on their actual street light energy costs. This data showed them the potential cost savings as well as proving how quickly the investment would be paid off. Once all of the information was presented to council, the LED Street Light Upgrade Program was approved for the municipality.

Central Elgin was able to choose the exact fixtures they preferred to be installed. In May 2012, ERTH began work on installations and received pre-approval of the OPA retrofit incentive application at the same time. 100% of the old street lights were recycled in this environmentally friendly conversion process. 50% of the street lights required rewiring. The project was complete in October 2012.



Highlights

- Projected savings of 56% of the municipal street light energy costs.
- Received a one-time OPA retrofit rebate of \$15,357.
- Estimated savings of \$24,500 in maintenance costs in the first year.
- Projected total savings of over \$2.3 million over the asset lifetime.
- LED lights use 56% less wattage than old lights helping to reach municipal CDM targets.
- Pay back is achieved strictly through savings before warranty expires.
- 100% of the old materials were recycled.

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The results

During the initial meetings and presentations, ERTH projected that the Municipality of Central Elgin would have their investment in the LED Street Light Upgrade Program completely paid off through energy savings prior to warranty expiry. ERTH also projected that the total savings in energy costs and maintenance after the first year would be \$73,874.53. This would save the Central Elgin 56% on the operating costs of their street lights.

In addition to the cost savings from reduced energy usage and maintenance, ERTH assisted Central Elgin in receiving financial assistance from the Ontario Power Authority (OPA). This one-time rebate amounted to \$15,357.

Several months after installation, Central Elgin provided actual data showing savings to the municipality through their street light energy and operating costs. In March 2012, prior to the installation, the street lights in Central Elgin used 37,483 kilowatt hours (kWh) for the month. In March 2013, new LED street lights used only 17,142 kWh saving 54.27% in energy. The Ontario government also significantly increased the price of street light energy costs in early 2013. Central Elgin was able to benefit from a reduced impact of the cost increase because they had already converted their street lights to LED.



Customer testimonials

Lloyd Perrin is the Director of Physical Services for The Corporation of the Municipality of Central Elgin, and he has been one of the biggest supporters of the program since its inception.

According to Mr. Perrin, "Our existing High Pressure Sodium street lights were installed in the late 80's under a previous energy saving initiative. Those assets were at the end of their useful life and needed replacing. With the ever increasing cost of power, Central Elgin wanted to look at alternatives of improving service to our residents while saving long term operating costs. The LED Street Light Upgrade Program was an easy choice. When a medium sized municipality like ours is able to replace an asset and save nearly a million dollars in operating costs over the life of that asset it is difficult to argue against such a program. The program will help us save money in the long run while providing our community with clear illumination. The conversion program makes sense financially and environmentally."

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The reception of the new street lights has been very positive from citizens of Central Elgin and the municipal council strongly encourages other municipalities to participate in the LED Street Light Upgrade Program offered by ERTH.

About ERTH Corporation

ERTH Corporation provides an array of products and services within the utility and energy industry. These services include street lighting and traffic signal programs, an award winning LED Street Light Upgrade program, water and electric meter services, powerline construction and engineering services. ERTH represents the former companies of Coulter Water Meter Services, CRU Solutions, and ECALIBER.

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