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Earth's City Lights, courtesy NASA



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### Columbus, Wisconsin, receives \$159,200 in federal funds for LED streetlights

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*By New Streetlights staff*

The city of Columbus, Wisconsin, has received \$159,200 in federal funds, which will be used to convert 283 existing roadway lights to energy efficient LED streetlights.

The funds were received from the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Grant (EECBG) program. The city initially applied for \$224,000, and city officials had hoped to convert about 45% of existing streetlights with the funds. While the city has adjusted its plans to reflect the lower award amount, officials still hope to convert up to 80% of 643 existing city streetlights within three years.

Before selecting LEDs as its preferred streetlight technology, Columbus conducted a pilot program in 2008. The city tested a variety of LED streetlight fixtures, including products manufactured in China. According to Steve Sobiek, Director of Economic Development/Energy Sustainability, "Streetlights in the pilot were metered and were tested for specific energy consumption." Fixtures from Ruud Lighting's BetaLED division had the best performance in the pilot, according to city officials.

The EECBG award does not require a competitive bid, according to Sobiek, and the city of Columbus has selected BetaLED's LEDway fixtures for the streetlight replacement project.

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