

Model specification for LED streetlights is issued

The Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium, which Seattle City Light leads on behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy, has published guidelines for converting to light-emitting diode (LED) roadway lighting. The Model Specification for LED Roadway Luminaires is for cities, utilities and other local agencies interested in switching from traditional lighting technologies to solid-state lighting, which uses LEDs instead of filaments or gases.

"Converting our nation's streetlights to LED technology could make a substantial dent in our energy consumption while also improving quality of illumination – but only if the right choices are made," said Consortium Director Edward Smalley of Seattle City Light. "The new specification will help cities, utilities and others make better choices."

Available online at www.ssl.energy.gov/specification.html, the model specification is designed specifically for LED lighting products. The flexible format allows guideline users to modify default values to fit their local design criteria, the consortium said.

Purchasers will be able to use the new specification to put together effective bid documents for LED street lighting products, the consortium said. It also will help guide the industry and provide a common basis for manufacturers to design products that meet their customers' needs.

The specification is available with two different user-selectable options to accommodate the different preferences commonly found between municipalities and utilities. The System Specification option is designed to maximize application efficiency, and characterizes luminaire performance by incorporating site characteristics such as mounting height, pole spacing, and number of lanes. The Material Specification option emphasizes luminaire efficiency, which characterizes luminaire performance without consideration of site characteristics.

A "living document" that will be adapted as needed, the model specification will be followed by a supplemental design guide at a later date, the consortium said.

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