Sustainable Lighting Project Final Report

CEEP 1222 -

Australian Government
Department of Industry

This activity received funding from the Australian Government
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Disclaimer Statement: The views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the Commonwealth of Australia, and the Commonwealth does not accept responsibility for any information or advice herein.
1. Introduction

The City of Boroondara has approximately 12,300 unmetered street lights that provide lighting to roads, paths and public spaces across the municipality. The lights are owned and maintained by two electricity distributors with Council being responsible to fund the operation, maintenance and renewal of the lights. Street lighting is a major cost item for Council with an annual operating budget of $1.4 million. In 2009 street lights were responsible for approximately 38% of Council’s electricity consumption, and 28% of Council’s greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2009 Council adopted a Low Carbon Future Strategy with one of the priority actions being the replacement of approximately 7,300 - 80 watt mercury vapour street lights with an energy efficient alternative. It was proposed that Council should progressively fund the replacement of these lights over several years.

The replacement of the 80 watt lights was completed in May 2014. While it will take 12 months to completely realise the benefit of the cost and energy savings of the project, the monthly electricity and operation, maintenance and replacement invoices have been progressively reduced as the works progressed. It is estimated that the project will have a payback period of around 9 years.

2. Project Background

The City of Boroondara is located in the eastern suburbs of Melbourne, Victoria. It has an area of 60 square kilometres, it is an established municipality comprising of mainly residential properties and parklands. There are 669 kilometres of roads of which are can be classified as following:

- 17 km of Freeways and State Highways, which are the responsibility of VicRoads, including the street lighting;
- 86 km of Arterial Roads, which are the responsibility of VicRoads, but where the cost of providing street lighting is shared with Council on a 60/40 split; and
- 566 km of local roads with Council responsible for the management of the roads and for the cost of providing street lighting.

The municipality is split between two electricity distribution businesses that own and operate the electricity distribution infrastructure, including the street lights. The electricity distribution businesses are regulated monopolies with charges approved by the Australian Energy Regulator. United Energy is the electricity distributor for approximately 20% of the municipality, which is the area south of Toorak Road, and CitiPower is responsible for the remainder. Although street lights are unmetered, Council tenders for the cost of the electricity used by the street lights as they have an agreed deemed consumption and there is a competitive market to supply electricity into the grid. However, the cost to operate, maintain and renew the street lights is a regulated charge and these services are provided by the relevant electricity distribution business of each area as a regulated monopoly service.

The predominant street light used on arterial and collector roads is a 150 watt sodium vapour light, with a range of other types up to 400 watts in power. The predominant type used on local or residential roads was an 80 watt mercury vapour light, which were mostly installed by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria in the period between 1989 and 1992.

Each electricity distribution business has an inventory of approved street lights that it is prepared to install and maintain. Each type of light undergoes an extensive testing regime to ensure it can provide the required level of service and its deemed consumption is determined so that the appropriate charges can be calculated as street lights are predominately unmetered.

Approximately 15 years ago, the issue of climate changes began to focus council’s attention on their major sources of emissions, with street lighting recognised as a major contributor of greenhouse gases as well as being a major cost centre. It was recognised that there were viable alternatives to the 80 watt
mercury vapour street light, and these alternatives included the twin 14 watt T5 linear fluorescent and the 42 watt compact fluorescent street lights. These lights offered a significant saving in both energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions with the T5 light having a deemed consumption of 30.5 watts compared to the 96 watts deemed consumption of the 80 watt mercury vapour light. After a lengthy approvals process, these energy efficient lights were eventually added to the electricity distributors inventory of approved lights approximately five years ago.

Following the adoption of the Low Carbon Future Strategy in 2009, Council set aside $400,000 in the 2010/11 Capital Works plan to fund the replacement of 1,137 - 80 watt mercury vapour lights in the United Energy distribution area and this changeover was completed in March 2012. It was also proposed to fund the replacement of approximately 6,000 lights in the CitiPower distribution area over two or three subsequent years.

In 2012 Council applied for a funding grant from the Australian Government and was successful in obtaining a grant of $460,876 to assist with the changeover of the 80 watt mercury vapour street lights in the CitiPower distribution area. This enabled Council to bring forward the completion of the changeover and realise the financial and greenhouse gas savings earlier than anticipated.

3. Project Timeline

In August 2010 Council officers met with CitiPower staff to commence discussions regarding the changeover of 80 watt mercury vapour lights to twin 14 watt T5 lights and the project delivery method that would be acceptable to CitiPower. Council engaged Ironbark Sustainability, an independent energy consultant, to review an updated list of street lighting types and locations to recommend the appropriate energy efficiency lighting changes. At that time it was estimated that approximately 6,456 lights could be changed in the CitiPower area.

In March 2012 Council submitted an application form for a grant from the Australian Government. The application sought funding of $460,876 for the changeover of 6,250 street lights.

In June 2012 Council adopted its budget for 2012/13 and it allocated $2,735,472 for the changeover of the CitiPower 80 watt mercury vapour lights to energy efficient T5 lights. Included in the budget was a provisional allocation of $460,876 grant income.

In June 2012 the Australian Government advised Council that project had been selected for funding. A draft funding agreement was provided for comment.

In October 2012 CitiPower advised by email that the anticipated changeover costs would be significantly higher than anticipated. Therefore CitiPower were requested to reduce the number of lights in the proposed agreement to 4,800 to remain within the available budget.

In January 2013 CitiPower submitted an agreement for signing for the changeover of 4,800 lights. They advised that the prices submitted by their sub-contractors were significantly below than anticipated in October 2012, therefore Council officers asked CitiPower to prepare a second agreement to the changeover of the remaining 80 watt mercury vapour lights.

In February 2013 the first agreement was submitted to Council for consideration. Council resolved to adopt the officers’ recommendation to enter into an agreement with CitiPower to changeover all 80 watt mercury vapour street lights. The first agreement was signed by CitiPower on 30 April 2013 with an anticipated completion date of 30 June 2013.

In March 2013 the funding agreement with the Australian Government was signed.

In May 2013 CitiPower submitted the second agreement for the changeover of 1,567 - 80 watt mercury vapour street lights, which they identified as the actual number of lights remaining to be changed. The second agreement was signed by CitiPower on 30 May 2013 with an anticipated completion date of 30 September 2013.
In May 2013 CitiPower's sub-contractors began the changeover of the 4,800 street lights in the first agreement. The works were completed in September 2013.

In August 2013 CitiPower's sub-contractors began the changeover of the 1,567 street lights in the second agreement. The works were completed in May 2014 although only a total of 1,506 lights were able to be changed.

4. Project Challenges

The main challenges of this project have been inadequate communication from CitiPower and the failure of their contractors to meet the agreed timelines. The overwhelming majority of street lights are owned and maintained by the electricity distributor, with Council funding the costs of their installation, maintenance and renewal. The provision of unmetered street lighting services is a regulated monopoly administered by the Australian Energy Regulator who approves the service charges. While the public lighting code does allow the customer to install new lights, Council lacks expertise in delivering these services. Only a few councils have pursued the option of engaging a contractor to undertake a bulk replacement of street lights and no councils undertake maintenance work on the lights as they are deemed to be the distributors' assets.

Boroondara is split between two electricity distribution areas, United Energy covers approximately 20% of the municipality and CitiPower the remainder. In 2011 United Energy provided a proposal to replace approximately 1,100 - 80 watt mercury vapour lights in its area with energy efficient T5 lights. This project was completed in 2012 and based on this experience it was decided to request CitiPower to undertake a similar project.

Council initially approached CitiPower in August 2010 however it was not until January 2013 that a formal agreement was forwarded to Council for signing. The agreements contained timelines to complete the project but there were no penalties for non-compliance and Council did not have an option to engage an alternative supplier if the project was not completed on time.

When challenged about the delays in completing the stage one works CitiPower blamed a combination of contractor performance issues and insufficient stock of lights available from lighting manufacturers. Following complaints from Council staff regarding the poor progress and inadequate communication, some email evidence of the reasons for the delays was provided by CitiPower. Following a formal letter of complaint from Council, a meeting with senior staff of Council and CitiPower was held, and some acknowledgement of the poor communication and the slow completion time was given. Despite the indication that CitiPower intended to address the problems, the completion of the stage two works took even longer and the communication did not improve.

One concern of using the T5 light was its inability to accommodate a baffle to reduce the unwanted spill of light. A significant proportion of the lighting requests received by council from residents relate to minimising the spill of light into properties, primarily bedrooms. The design of the T5 distributes the majority of the light at right angles along the road alignment and it was uncertain how intrusive this may be in court bowls and at bends in streets. At the end of the project however only a total of 9 lights were changed to energy efficient 42 watt compact fluorescent light to enable better control of the light spill. While the compact fluorescent lights are not as efficient as the T5 lights they are twice as efficient as the previous 80 watt mercury vapour lights.
5. Project Strengths

The project strengths were that the preferred replacement lights were a proven technology with thousands of T5 linear fluorescent street lights already in use across Australia. The previous agreement with United Energy has demonstrated that the delivery method could be both cost effective and efficient. Despite the delays in completion, the agreements with CitiPower lessened the risk to Council in managing sub-contractors working on a third party's assets.

Although the agreements referred to 80 watt mercury vapour and twin 14 watt T5 lights, CitiPower were also willing to change 125 watt mercury vapour and use twin 24 watt T5 lights where higher lighting levels were required and these changeovers were done for the same cost. This resulted in of 140 - 125 watt mercury vapour being changed to twin 24 watt T5 lights.

6. Project Outcomes

The changeover was finally completed in May 2014 but Council has been progressively benefitting in reduced electricity and maintenance charges since May 2013 as the changeover of lights progressed across the municipality. Although the two agreements indicated that 6,367 lights would be changed, due to a number of technical issues in some non-standard lights the final number of lights changed was 6,306.

Based on recommendations from Ironbark Sustainability twin 24 watt T5 lights were used to replace some 125 watt mercury vapour street lights where improved lighting levels were desirable. This has marginally reduced the potential greenhouse gas emissions savings and electricity usage reduction but it has resulted in improved lighting levels for community. The revised baseline energy efficiency table is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Sustainable Lighting Project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Funding Recipient</td>
<td>Boroondara City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project ID</td>
<td>CEEP 1222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>19 March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell, Victoria 3124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site</td>
<td>The municipal road network within the CitiPower electricity distribution area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activity</td>
<td>To replace the existing 6,250 - 80 watt mercury vapour street lights with energy efficient T5 street lights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency Estimate Method</td>
<td>Australian Energy Market Operator national electricity market load tables for unmetered connection points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline Energy Usage</td>
<td>2,668.24 MWh per year being 6,166 - 80 watt mercury vapour lights (95.8 deemed wattage) plus 140 - 125 watt mercury vapour lights (142 deemed wattage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseline Energy Efficiency</td>
<td>9,605.65 MJ per year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Efficiency Improvement</td>
<td>1727.75 MWh per year being 5,083 - 2x14 watt T5 lights (30.2 deemed wattage) plus 1,223 - 2x28 watt T5 (47 deemed wattage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of activity</td>
<td>$2,735,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Cost Savings</td>
<td>$379,249 per year based on combined energy savings and reduced operation, maintenance and replacement charges payable to CitiPower</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions</td>
<td>2,280 tonnes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Although the project was completed late, the energy and greenhouse gas savings will be ongoing. The project outcome will be a significant contributor to meeting the targets contained in Council’s Low Carbon Future Strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It will also result in ongoing annual savings of approximately $380,000 per year in public lighting charges.

The project has also demonstrated to the wider community the viability of sustainable lighting alternatives in that not only can greenhouse gas savings be achieved but also significant financial savings can be achieved at the same time. These financial savings can recoup the initial capital investment in new energy efficient technology within a few years, following which the savings become cash in the pocket. This has been the preferred approach of Boroondara’s Low Carbon Future Strategy to reduce electricity consumption rather than the alternative of purchasing green power to meet greenhouse reduction gas targets.

7. Demonstration and Communication Outcomes

The project communications included articles published in 2012, 2013 and 2014 in the Boroondara Bulletin, a monthly Council publication that is delivered to 67,000 households within the municipality, see the attachments to this report for copies of some of the articles. Boroondara is divided into ten councillor wards and additional articles were published in Ward Updates which are circulated to each property in a Ward. These publications are also available as pdf documents for downloading on Council’s website as well as a web based version of the Boroondara Bulletin that contained additional articles.

Additional communications activities included media releases and in presentations at environmental and community functions, and the feedback that has been received to date has been positive.

Despite 6,306 street lights being replaced, only 9 complaints were received about the new lights. The complaints related to light spill or glare from the new lights, this related to the age and diminished efficiency of some of the replaced lights. The minimal number of complaints regarding the new lights effectively demonstrated that a well designed energy efficient light consuming less than one third of the electricity is an effective replacement to older less efficient light. Night time inspections indicated that road and path lighting levels were similar before and after the light changeover.

This project provided economic benefit for Melbourne based lighting companies in the supply of the new lights and for the contractors to CitiPower for the installation of the lights.

The project has benefited all ratepayers and residents, regardless of their socio-economic level in the City of Boroondara with ongoing savings in the operational costs of street lighting and improved lighting in a number of activity areas where lighting levels were increased with the installation of twin 24 watt T5 lights.

8. Project Budget

The project budget for this project was $2,735,472, including $460,876 grant income provided by the Australian Government. The project agreement listed that 6,250 light would be changed from 80 watt mercury vapour lights.

Additional information provided by CitiPower indicated that a total of 6,367 street lights were able to be changed, although it was noted that the actual numbers of lights may change due to inaccuracies in their lighting database. Two agreements were signed with CitiPower, the first to change 4,800 lights for $2,012,891 plus GST and the second for 1,567 lights for $672,706. The total cost was within the available budget with some contingency for variations.

A total of 9 lights were subsequently changed due to light spill issues from the T5 light. The lights were changed to an energy efficient compact fluorescent light for a total additional cost of $16,610. At the end of the project a total of 6,306 lights were changed. The reduced total number of lights compared to
CitiPower’s estimate was predominately due to a limited number of non-standard lights not able to accommodate an energy alternative bulb in the light fitting.

In kind administration support and community education activities were undertaken by in-house teams, notably Council’s communications team and the environment and sustainability department resulting in minimal expenditure on external consultants that was originally budgeted for in the agreement. The external audit fees also were less than anticipated.

Consequently the completion of the works came within budget with a saving of $28,270 excluding GST.

The following table is a comparison of the budgeted and final expenditure:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditure Item</th>
<th>Department Funding</th>
<th>Other Contributions (cash)</th>
<th>Estimated Project Costs</th>
<th>Actual Project Costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upon execution of stage 1 agreement</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>$973,000</td>
<td>$1,173,797</td>
<td>$1,173,797</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of the changeover of 25% of stage 1 - 4800 street lights</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>$339,547</td>
<td>$419,547</td>
<td>$419,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of the changeover of 100% of stage 1 - 4800 street lights</td>
<td>$80,000</td>
<td>$339,547</td>
<td>$419,547</td>
<td>$419,547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upon execution of stage 2 agreement</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
<td>$353,624</td>
<td>$403,624</td>
<td>$403,624</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of the changeover of 25% of stage 2 - 1450 street lights</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$114,541</td>
<td>$134,541</td>
<td>$134,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completion of the changeover of 100% of stage 2 - 1450 street lights</td>
<td>$20,000</td>
<td>$114,541</td>
<td>$134,541</td>
<td>$134,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adjustments to installed lights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$16,610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration support</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$26,200</td>
<td>$31,200</td>
<td>$1,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent audit report</td>
<td>$2,876</td>
<td>$2,124</td>
<td>$5,000</td>
<td>$3,045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community education</td>
<td>$3,000</td>
<td>$10,675</td>
<td>$13,675</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$460,876*</td>
<td>$2,273,799</td>
<td>$2,735,472</td>
<td>$2,707,202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Includes $20,000 to be paid at the acceptance of this final report

9. Conclusion

This project has successfully achieved the required outcomes of reduced street lighting costs and reduced greenhouse emissions. The ongoing financial savings in reduced electricity consumption and reduced maintenance charges will be in the order of $380,000 per year. The reduction in greenhouse gas emissions will significantly contribute to Council’s ongoing greenhouse emission reduction target.

This project has demonstrated the viability and benefit of utilising energy efficient technology to achieve savings while maintaining service levels. While the upfront capital cost is significant, the expected payback period will be in the order of 9 years, based on electricity and maintenance costs without the inclusion of any potential carbon pricing that may come into operation in the future.
10. Declaration

DECLARATION

The Authorised Officer of the organisation makes the following declarations:

☐ I declare that I am authorised to submit this Final Report (including any attachments) on behalf of Boroondara City Council.

☐ I declare that the information provided in this Final Report is true and accurate.

☐ I understand, and acknowledge that giving false or misleading information in this Final Report is an offence under the Criminal Code Act 1995.

☐ I understand that final payment will only be made in accordance with the Funding Agreement including on satisfactory completion of Milestones.

Authorised Officer Signature: __________________________ Date: 19/12/14

Name: David Elson.

Position: Manager Asset Management, Organisation: Boroondara City Council.

Witness Signature: __________________________ Date: 19/12/14

Name: Rebekah de Cort.

Position: Team Leader Administration and Support, Organisation: Boroondara City Council.

The use and disclosure of information provided in this Final Report is regulated by the relevant provisions and penalties of the Public Service Act 1999, the Privacy Act 1988, the Freedom of Information Act 1982, the Crimes Act 1914 and the general laws of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Information contained in the Final Report may be disclosed by the Department for purposes such as promoting the program and reporting on its operation and policy development. This information may also be used in answering questions in Parliament and its committees. In addition, the selected project information will be made publicly available. Public announcements may include the name of the grant recipient and of any project partners; title and description of the project and its outcomes; and amount of funding awarded.
11. Attachments
Sustainability Awards profile

The 2012 Boroondara Sustainability Awards unearthed a host of local schools that are leading the way when it comes to sustainability.

This month we profile Canterbury Girls’ Secondary College, which picked up a Gold Award for their Green Team and a Bronze Award for Community Leadership.

Canterbury school inspires green leadership

Known as The Planeteers, Canterbury Girls’ Secondary College’s Green Team is led by the Year 12 Sustainability Captain and includes more than 40 students from years 7 to 12.

Since being established in 2011, The Planeteers have introduced a range of sustainable actions, including a successful recycling and composting program, a “nude food” lunch on World Environment Day, they maintain the school’s veggie garden, attend conferences and initiate school-wide campaigns.

As a collective, they believe that environmental and social issues cannot be addressed in isolation and through outstanding leadership have achieved the following:

- successfully advocated for Fairtrade tea and coffee for the staffrooms
- sold 150 reusable bottles, as an alternative to plastic bottles, with all profits going to fund school wells in Cambodia and Kenya
- collected more than 1,000 signatures for a petition to stop mining on the Great Barrier Reef.

The Planeteers have also worked with Grade 4 and 5 students at Canterbury Primary School, running workshops to inspire action on nude food, recycling, composting, natural ecosystems and re-using shopping bags.

The school’s 2012 Sustainability Captain, Joanna, was recognised as a Student of the Year finalist in the 2012 ResourceSmart Schools Awards for the leadership she has shown on sustainability.

Keep an eye out for the August Boroondara Bulletin to read our next 2012 Boroondara Sustainability Awards profile.

City’s streetlights going green

Suburban streets across Boroondara are switching to energy-efficient lighting technology, saving on energy, greenhouse gas emissions and utility bills.

As a priority action from Council’s Our Low Carbon Future Strategy, CitiPower is part-way through switching a further 6,500 residential streetlights from inefficient globes to efficient compact fluorescent 15 lamps.

Since 2010–11, Council has committed more than $2 million towards the upgrade to energy-efficient residential street lighting, while the Australian Government has also contributed $480,678 via their Community Energy Efficiency Program.

During 2011–12, more than 1,500 lights were upgraded across Ashburton and Glen Iris and this current project will see the replacement of all the remaining Mercury Vapour (MV60)

residential street lights across Boroondara. The changeover is expected to be finished by the end of the year.

This important sustainability project will reduce energy used by these residential streetlights by around 68 per cent, delivering ongoing financial savings as well as reducing carbon dioxide emissions by around 2,900 tonnes per year.
Lynden Ward Update | December 2013

Your voice

The Boroondara Community Voice Panel is a community engagement initiative that lets Council know what the community thinks about certain issues.

Members provide feedback through the use of online surveys and Our Voice, a members-only online discussion forum. Anyone can join, so if you live, work or play in Boroondara, we want to hear from you.

For more information contact the Engagement team on 9278 4444 or visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/community-panel.

Celebrating the new Hawthorn Arts Centre

Community celebrations to mark the opening of the revitalised Hawthorn Arts Centre took place on the weekend of 22 to 24 November.

The celebrations featured a variety of events including a concert and Let's Get Started: Open Day offering a range of arts and cultural programs to suit everyone.

The Hawthorn Arts Centre building is the City of Boroondara's largest and most impressive Historic Icon. The $1.8 million restoration and rework of the Hawthorn Town Hall has restored the heritage building to its second Empire glory. State-of-the-art facilities and functional, adaptable spaces have been designed to accommodate a wide variety of arts and cultural events.

In brief

Council Christmas services

Customer Service will only be closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Years Day. Calls will be automatically transferred to the after-hours service.

Camberwell and Hawthorn Customer Service will operate from 8.30am to 5.15pm (Cashiers close at 5pm).

For information about other services visit http://bulletin.boroondara.vic.gov.au/council-christmas-service-hours.

Christmas and New Years waste collection

Wednesday 25 December 2013 is Christmas Day. Collections for this day have been rescheduled and will be collected on Saturday 28 December 2013.

Wednesday 1 January 2014 is New Years Day. Collections for this day have been rescheduled and will be collected on Saturday 4 January 2014.

Residents are asked to place their waste, recycling and green waste bins out for collection on the Friday night before each collection.

Christmas tree collections

Bookings open on Monday 16 December for Council to collect your Christmas tree from 6 to 9 January 2014. Last bookings take 24 January.

Call Customer Service on 9278 4444.

Sustainability achievements

Council continues to make improvements as part of our Low Carbon Strategy. Council replaced the old and inefficient lamps illuminating the flagpole on the Camberwell Offices clock tower with modern LED spotlights.

A 60W solar photovoltaic system installed on the roof of the Boroondara Waste Transfer Station in Camberwell, will generate nearly 10,000 kWh of free green electricity each year to Council offices.

Approximately 6,000 streetlights were recently changed from 80 watt mercury vapour lights to 14 watt T5 fluorescent lights. With just 50 remaining lights to change, this project will result in a significant reduction in Councils greenhouse gas emissions and electricity costs. For more information about how Council supports environmental sustainability visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/city/environmentstrategies.

www.boroondara.vic.gov.au

Printed on 100% recycled paper.
Green streets light up Boroondara

Residential streetlights across Boroondara have been upgraded to new energy-efficient lamps.

Citipower completed the final stage of the project to change over all Boroondara’s residential street lights to sustainable T5 fluorescent lamps in April, reducing Council’s streetlight energy consumption by up to 69%.

The new streetlights not only mean savings on Council’s energy bill, but also reduce our carbon footprint by over 1,750 tonnes per year—making our leafy green streets even greener.

Council committed $2 million towards the upgrade, with the Australian Government contributing a further $480,000 as part of its Community Energy Efficiency Program.

A total of 6,300 street lights were upgraded across the municipality, replacing 80 watt Mercury Vapour (MV80) lights with twin 14 or 24 watt T5 lights. The upgrade should see savings of up to $370,000 per year in energy utility costs.

The project commenced in 2010, with the first stage replacing more than 1,100 lights in the Ashburton and Glen Iris areas, the new lights are expected to pay for themselves in energy savings within eight years.

The switch over was carried out as part of Council’s Our Low Carbon Energy Future Strategy.

For more information about this Strategy and the sustainable streetlight upgrade, email our Sustainable Living Team or phone 9278 4011.

[ inbrief ]

Council meetings

For up-to-date information regarding meetings or to obtain copies of agendas and minutes, visit www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/council-meetings or phone 9278 4471. Meetings are held in the Council Chamber located at 8 Inglesby Road, Camberwell. All welcome.

Monday 7 July 6.30pm Urban Planning Special Committee
Monday 14 July 6.30pm Services Special Committee
Monday 21 July 6.30pm Urban Planning Special Committee
Monday 28 July 6.30pm Council

www.boroondara.vic.gov.au