

Guide to Converting Utility-Owned Streetlights to LED

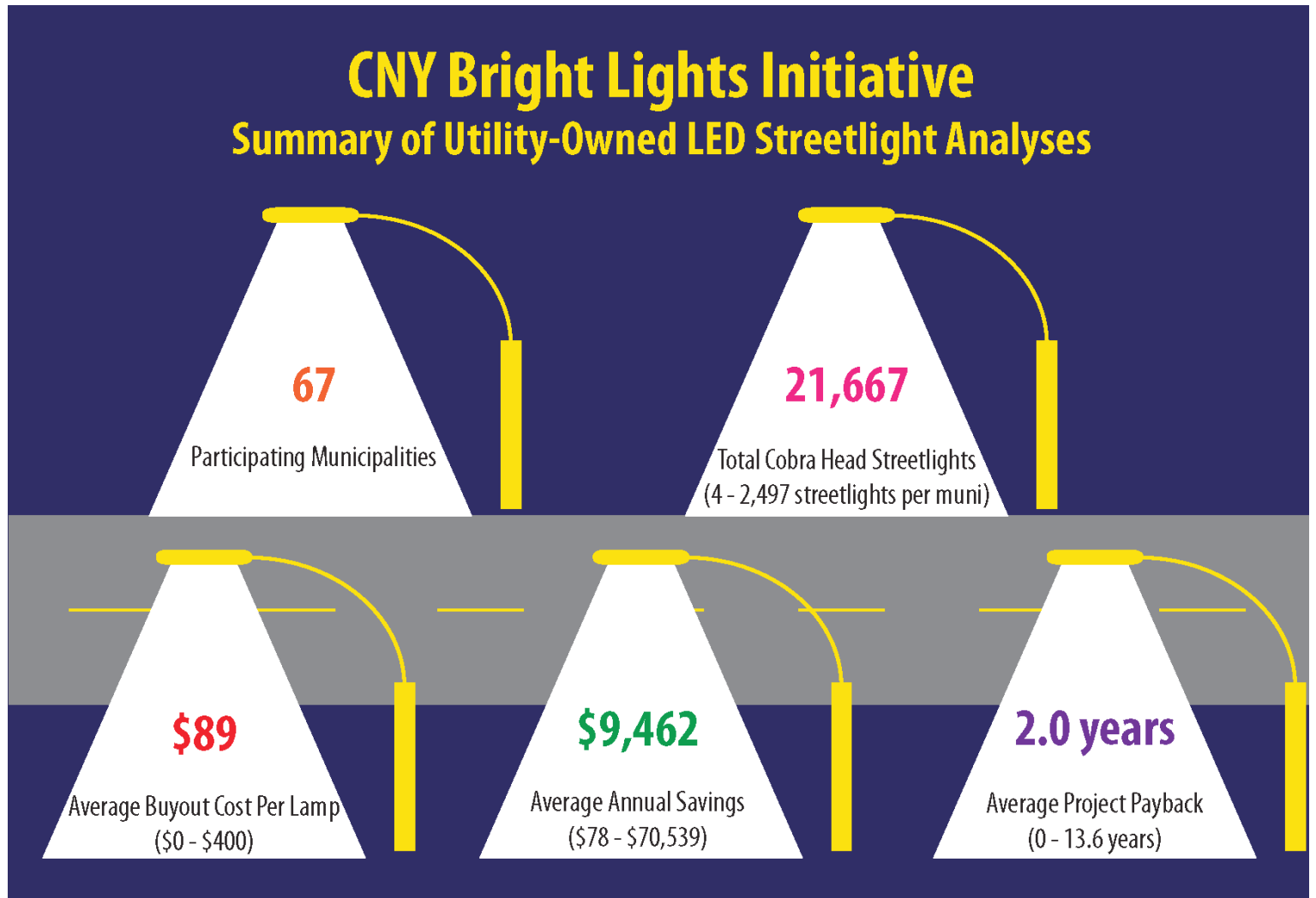
LED streetlights use 45-70% less energy and last longer than traditional streetlights. Converting to LED streetlights will reduce both operating costs and greenhouse gas emissions for municipalities. For these and other reasons, converting streetlights to LED is an attractive option for municipalities.

New York municipalities in National Grid, NYSEG, and RG&E territories have the option to convert their streetlights to LED while the utility maintains ownership. Municipalities also have the option to purchase their streetlights from the utility and then convert to LEDs, with an updated process for doing so that became effective November 1, 2016. Both options are explained in detail below.

LED Conversion Option	Steps
1. Municipal Purchase Option	<p>The municipality contacts the utility and asks for a purchase price quote. The utility has 90 days to respond with a quote. The municipality then has a 180 day evaluation period to determine if they want to move forward with the purchase.</p> <p>Municipalities must purchase a minimum of 100 lights or 10%, whichever is greater, or all lights if less than 100.</p> <p>Within 60 days of executing purchase agreement, the utility is responsible for submitting to the NYS PSC for final approval, which may take 3-6 months.</p> <p>The municipality then owns and maintains the streetlights. They may use internal staff for maintenance or hire a contractor for maintenance. The utility will no longer charge a monthly rental fee or maintenance fees, but there may still be a pole attachment fee if connected to utility-owned poles.</p> <p>The municipality is then responsible for converting to LED. Municipalities can use their own staff or hire a contractor to perform the work.</p> <p>Pros: more LED wattage and color options; depending on utility tariff, potential for greater savings in long term; control over maintenance contract; available to all lights; smart control options available.</p> <p>Cons: more expensive overall and will take longer to implement; need new maintenance plan (either internal or with third party).</p>
2. Utility Ownership Option	<p>The municipality is responsible for paying the utility the remaining book value of lights being replaced. The municipality can contact the utility directly or through the CNY RPDB to receive the cost figure and an inventory of existing streetlights.</p> <p>The municipality then must determine which wattage of LED they would like to replace each existing lamp with. Municipalities in National Grid territory must convert 100 lights or 15%, whichever is greater. Municipalities in NYSEG and RG&E territories must convert 100 lights or 20%, whichever is greater. Municipalities in all utility territories must convert all lights if they have less than 100.</p> <p>Municipalities then submit a formal letter to the utility requesting the conversion. The utility will convert the lamps to LED. The utility will maintain ownership of the lights and will be responsible for ongoing maintenance. Municipalities' monthly electricity charges will be adjusted downward in accordance with the LED tariff structure.</p> <p>Pros: quick, relatively cheap and easy to implement; no change in maintenance provider.</p> <p>Cons: fewer LED wattage and color options; less savings in long term, depending on utility tariff; only available to cobra head lights; no smart control options available.</p>

Through the CNY Bright Lights initiative, the CNY RPDB is available to provide free cost-benefit analyses of either or both options. So far, more than 60 municipalities in CNY have participated and received assistance with LED streetlight conversion through the CNY Bright Lights initiative.

The graphic below summarizes information related to the municipalities that have worked through the CNY Bright Lights initiative to consider the utility-owned LED streetlight option. Payback periods include utility incentives, where available (National Grid communities).



Converting at least 50% of cobra head streetlights to LED is one of ten NYSERDA Clean Energy Community (CEC) action items. If a municipality in CNY completes four of ten CEC actions, they can become a designated Clean Energy Community eligible for NYSERDA grant funds, where available. More information on the Clean Energy Communities program may be found by visiting NYSERDA's website, www.nyserdera.ny.gov/cec.

Contact Amanda Mazzone at amazzone@cnyrpdb.org or (315)-422-8276 x1215 for more information, or visit www.cnyenergychallenge.org/cny-bright-lights.