



## News Release

For Immediate Release

### ***District of Summerland Streetlight LED Retrofit Project***

September 17, 2018

Summerland, BC: The Streetlight LED Retrofit Project, made possible with funding from the Federal Gas Tax fund is in the final stages with 885 streetlights being converted to LEDs. It is expected that the project will generate an annual savings of over \$72,000 in operating costs and a payback period of 4.6 years. The Streetlight LED Retrofit Project will reduce the District's electricity consumption by almost 600,000 kWh (80%) each year, while providing a better quality of light on the streets of Summerland.

Installations of the LED fixtures will start the week of September 24 and are expected to be completed in mid-October. Through the project, approximately 70% of all streetlights within the District of Summerland will be converted to LEDs. This project covers all "cobrahead" and "dusk to dawn" style lights within the District. The District is also reviewing the business case for converting the other streetlight styles (collectively called "decoratives") to LEDs, and that analysis will be discussed with council during the 2019 budget process.

Through the review of Summerland's existing streetlight network, some areas were found to be underlit according to roadway lighting standards - this will be addressed with the new streetlights. Also, the lighting design takes into account that the lights will become dirty over time and that (like all lights) they will also dim with age. As such, residents should note that in some cases the new lights may appear brighter at first.

The distribution patterns of the LED lights were designed to minimize light shining onto private property and into green spaces, and to preserve Summerland's dark skies. Additionally, a colour temperature of 3000k was selected to address concerns about the potential health impacts of more "blueish" lights. Residents with questions or concerns about a particular light should contact the District to determine if some adjustment is required.

Mayor Peter Waterman states *"The District of Summerland is excited to be taking this step to improve the lighting in our community while also providing a net savings to our taxpayers. Our investment in energy efficient LED lighting means that our residents and businesses can enjoy brighter, safer streets at the same time as we reduce our demand on the grid for electric power. Switching our streetlights to LEDs is not only energy efficient, it makes great economic sense as well. With a payback period of only 4.6 years, the Streetlight LED Retrofit Project makes sense for our residents today and many years into the future."*

The Streetlight LED Retrofit Project is one of many ways in which the District of Summerland is demonstrating its commitment to be energy efficient and fiscally responsible. Energy audits of all major District-owned buildings as well as a green fleet study are planned over the next 6 months, and will form the basis for a renewal of the District's Corporate Climate Action Plan. A renewal of the Community Climate Action Plan will also be taking place in the coming months; residents or businesses interested in participating in that process should contact [climate.action@summerland.ca](mailto:climate.action@summerland.ca) or call 250.404.4068 to be added to the District's climate action email list, through which updates and more information will be provided.

For more information regarding Summerland's climate action initiatives, visit [www.summerland.ca/climate-action](http://www.summerland.ca/climate-action)

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