



**LELD begins system-wide streetlight conversion:
Energy efficient bulbs will maintain current lights at lower cost**

The Littleton Electric Light Department (LELD) has begun a system-wide streetlight conversion program, replacing mercury vapor fixtures with metal halide ones that will operate at lower wattages but still improve light quality and cost less to operate.

While a replacement program had long been planned, the department was challenged to maintain the town's streetlights at a cost of 75 percent less than previous years, based on last year's annual town meeting vote that reduced streetlight funding from \$52,000 to \$12,000, according to General Manager Savas Danos. Faced with the possibility of shutting off all but a minimum of lights at critical intersections, Danos said the department instead opted to investigate more energy efficient replacement bulbs for the entire system.

Although long-lasting, the mercury vapor lights currently used in the system tend to give off a murky hue. The metal halide replacement bulbs cast a white light source for a truer rendition. While Danos said he expects the conversion will require a capital investment of approximately \$150,000, annual operating costs are estimated at \$12,000 per year which, based on current power costs, meets the town meeting appropriation for the streetlighting article.

Last year, residents were asked to state their preferences on both the style of lens and the strength of candlepower of new streetlights at two trial locations. Respondents overwhelmingly indicated a preference for metal halide lights, with a flat lens, at 50 watts in residential areas and 100 watts at intersections. The department's engineering staff concurred with the public's recommendations.

Relamping the system's 600 lights will take several months to complete, Danos explained, and will begin with major roadways and the common area first, before progressing into residential areas. Residents can track the progress of the program by checking the department's website, www.lclwd.com for ongoing updates.