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Private outdoor lighting rate

As we make changes to our [street lights in the province](#) to adhere to new federal regulations around the removal of lights containing Poly-Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) by the end of 2025, we've submitted [our application](#) to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) to terminate our private outdoor lighting service and associated rate ([Rate Schedule 1755](#)).

[Read more](#) about our application and how you can get involved.

Terminating our private outdoor lighting service

Our private outdoor lighting service is for BC Hydro-owned and maintained lighting that illuminates private property and hasn't been offered to new premises since 1975. Lighting fixtures can be attached to a BC Hydro distribution pole on public property or attached to poles on private property.

There are approximately 3,500 residential and commercial customers that currently receive this service. Replacing all the lights under this service to meet federal regulations would come with significant costs, which could lead to a substantial rate increase for these customers.

After an extensive review of the service and options, we've determined that we can no longer continue to provide this service in a practical manner.

As a result, we're planning to submit an application to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) this fall to terminate the service.

Regulatory application

Our application includes the following proposals based on whether a customer's light is attached to a pole on private or public property. See [our full application](#) and the [BCUC's Order](#).

Lights attached to BC Hydro poles on public property:

- Customers will be given the option have the light removed or replaced with a new LED fixture and continue their service under the [Overhead Street Lighting Rate](#) (Rate Schedule 1701).
- New customers will be eligible for this service, depending on their location.

Lights attached to poles on private property:

- BC Hydro will stop repairing and start removing lights in October 2022.
 - This will ensure all remaining lights attached to poles on private property are removed before the federal regulations deadline in 2025.
- Customers who still require outdoor lighting will need to purchase and install their own lights.
- As part of the transition, we're proposing to waive the applicable service connection charge. We're also looking at ways we can help make it easier for you to replace the BC Hydro service with your own lighting.

Get involved

You're welcome to participate in this open and transparent regulatory proceeding. You can register as an intervener or submit a letter of comment to the BCUC by Tuesday, December 22. [Learn more about getting involved.](#)

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Street light replacement project

BC Hydro owns and maintains over 90,000 street lights attached to our poles located across the province. Over the next two to three years, we'll be replacing these with energy-efficient LEDs to ensure compliance with new federal regulations that require all light ballasts containing Poly-Chlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) be removed by the end of 2025.

These new street lights will help improve public safety in your community by increasing the visibility of sidewalks and roads at night, as well as help reduce light pollution. LEDs also last longer and require less maintenance.

New street light rate

We've submitted our [application](#) to the BC Utilities Commission (BCUC) to update our overhead streetlight rate (Rate Schedule 1701).

Read the [BCUC's Order](#) on our application and [see the latest on the regulatory proceeding](#).

If you'd like to get involved in the proceeding, you can register as an intervener or submit a letter of comment to the BCUC by Tuesday, December 22. [Learn more](#) about getting involved.

Where we're at

We're working to develop our installation schedule and expect to begin replacing lights in the first communities early next year.

If you have questions about the street light replacement project, please see our [FAQs](#) or contact the project team by [email](#) or call 1 833 828 2224 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Selecting your new LED lights

We'll be reaching out to each of our customers to select the LED wattage and colour temperature to replace each of your current street lights. The information below is to help guide you through your selections.

If you were unable to attend or want to review the materials from our virtual information session held in September, please [see the session slides](#) [PDF, 833 KB].

Colour temperature

Colour temperature is a way to describe the light given off by a light bulb. It is measured in degrees of Kelvin (K) on a scale from 1,000 to 10,000. The higher the Kelvin rating, the whiter the light; the lower the Kelvin rating the more yellow the light.

There are two colour temperature options for you to select from for your new LED street lights – 3000K (warm white) and 4000K (cool white). The two options can be used for different areas in your community, depending on their purpose. Both will give off a whiter light than your current HPS street lights, which are around 2300K and appear more orange.

Both options are used broadly in industry. Some municipalities have used a mix of 3000K and 4000K for different areas, others have selected one or the other. Street light customers can select which colour temperature you would like for each individual light, or you can choose the same colour temperature for all.

The table below shows the approximate difference between the two colour temperatures to help you make your lighting selections.

STREET LIGHTING SERVICES



Street light replacement project

[Request for a street light repair](#)

Reach the project team

Questions about the street light replacement project?

[Email the team](#) →

	Kelvin	Color tone	Typical uses
	3000K	Warmer (or softer) white light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residential neighbourhoods ○ Environmentally sensitive areas
	4000K	Cooler (or neutral) white light	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commercial and Industrial areas ○ Non-residential roadways and intersections

Technical lighting specs

To help you with selecting your lights, [see our comparison chart](#) [PDF, 221 KB] of the LED options available to you.

If you're using a lighting design software program, the [IES files can be downloaded here](#) [ZIP, 220 KB]

If you need help with your lighting design, we encourage you to hire a lighting design consultant as BC Hydro does not provide this service. [BC Hydro's Alliance of Energy Professionals](#) can provide you with referral to qualified lighting consultants.

Frequently asked questions: installation and light selection

- [When will you get to my community?](#) ▼
- [Can I add, remove or change existing BC Hydro street lights?](#) ▼
- [What can I expect between now and the start of installation?](#) ▼
- [Will BC Hydro help me with new lighting design?](#) ▼
- [Is there anything I can do now?](#) ▼
- [Can I opt out of the street light replacement project?](#) ▼

Frequently asked questions: street light rate

- [Why are you changing the street light rate?](#) ▼
- [What is the new rate?](#) ▼
- [Why is the street light rate increasing if LEDs are more energy-efficient?](#) ▼
- [When will the new rate come into effect?](#) ▼

Street light replacement project

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