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## **Green lights to get greener**

### **New traffic lights are over 80 per cent more efficient than existing lights**

Edmonton... The Alberta government will retrofit traffic signals and beacons on provincial highways with more efficient and environmentally-friendly lamps.

Starting next spring, new light emitting diode (LED) lamps will replace incandescent lamps in traffic lights at approximately 80 highway intersections and in 150 continuously flashing beacons.

"This LED retrofit initiative is a win-win situation," said Dr. Lyle Oberg, Minister of Infrastructure and Transportation. "LED bulbs use 80 to 90 per cent less energy and last up to 10 times longer than conventional bulbs. Taxpayers benefit from lower operating and maintenance costs while the environment benefits from reduced emissions related to less energy use."

Alberta Infrastructure and Transportation currently uses LED traffic signals only in new installations or during major upgrades to existing intersections. By converting all signals and beacons to LED, government will save an estimated \$369,000 per year in electricity and maintenance costs. The retrofit program will cost about \$1.8 million and will pay for itself in approximately five years.

Conventional incandescent lights are replaced at least once per year. The LED lights would only need to be replaced once every five to seven years on average and could last up to 10 years. In addition, LED lights are more reliable than incandescent lights, which require fewer maintenance crew "call-outs" to replace failed bulbs.

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