

# City of Berkeley Advances Citywide LED Streetlight Upgrade to Save Energy and Reduce City Emissions

SAN JOSE, CA, USA, April 2, 2014 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Berkeley's effort to upgrade approximately 8000 streetlights to LED was supported by the [Bay Area Climate Collaborative's Next Generation Streetlight](#) Initiative and the California Lighting and Technology Center at the University of California, Davis.

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*Bay Area Climate Collaborative*

Yesterday Berkeley's city council approved a contract to convert approximately 8,000 city streetlights to LED by the end of 2014. Streetlights currently account for approximately 1,000 metric tons of CO2 output annually or about 13% of the city's total emissions. An LED conversion is projected to cut emissions from streetlights by half, and will directly support Berkeley's ambitious Climate Action Plan goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions locally by 33% between the years 2000 and 2020 and 80% by 2050.

With the energy savings achieved by from streetlight

conversions, Berkeley is expected to save nearly \$400,000 annually, in addition to PG&E rebates estimated at a total of \$650,000. San Francisco-based Tanko Lighting was selected as the winning vendor for the project valued at \$2,921,064. The city will use a \$3 million 1% interest energy efficiency loan from the California Energy Commission to fund the project, which will be paid back over 10 years through the savings generated from installing LED streetlights from vendors including Leotek, Sensity, Holophane and others.

According to Phillip Harrington, Berkeley's Deputy Public Works Director, “Upgrading to more energy efficient lights moves us closer to achieving our ambitious sustainability goals and helps us to continue reducing City government's day-to-day costs and to improve our overall operational efficiency. We would like to thank the Bay Area Climate Collaborative, California Energy Commission and the California Lighting and Technology Center for their support in getting this project to design and construction.”

The Bay Area Climate Collaborative (BACC) and the California Lighting Technology Center supported the City of Berkeley's streetlight conversion through BACC's Next Generation

Streetlight Initiative and with support from the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) program. Activities included cost-benefit analyses, technical assistance, specification development, and guidance on best practices for street lighting.

Rafael Reyes, Executive Director of the BACC stated, "LED streetlight upgrades presents an opportunity for cities to realize significant emissions, energy and cost savings while providing improved lighting. These upgrades provide a major advance for achieving emissions reduction goals. Cities across the Bay Area and elsewhere in the country are switching over to LED streetlights to take advantage of the many benefits from this technology."

About the Bay Area Climate Collaborative:

The Bay Area Climate Collaborative (BACC) is a public-private initiative accelerating the clean energy economy. Major partners include Bank of America, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Environmental Defense Fund, and local governments representing over 70 percent of the Bay Area population. The BACC is driving innovation for electric vehicles, energy efficiency, residential upgrades, and distributed renewables. The BACC's Next Generation Streetlight Initiative provides leading-edge education, resources and guidance to local governments to accelerate the move to solid-state lighting (LED). Tools and resources that are available online, such as the Next Generation Streetlight Guide, provide details on benefits, financing strategies, deployment options, and more for local governments. The overarching goal of the initiative is to catalyze the conversion of 200,000 streetlights in the Bay Area and deliver \$50 million in cost savings and 100,000 metric tons of CO2 avoidance over five years. For more information on the BACC, please visit: <http://www.baclimate.org>

About [CLTC](#):

The California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC) is a not-for-profit research, development and demonstration facility dedicated to advancing energy-efficient lighting and daylighting technologies. Established in 2003 as part of the Department of Design, under the College of Letters and Science at UC Davis, CLTC conducts prototype testing, technology demonstrations and case studies of emerging lighting technologies. The center also provides information, training and resources through its education and outreach programs. <http://cltc.ucdavis.edu>

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