

Report - Public Services Committee

LED Street Lighting

The Public Services Committee, to which was referred the motion relating to LED street lighting, reports it with the recommendation that Civic Federation member delegates adopt the motion listed on the back of this page.

Sal D'Itri, Chair (Arlington Forest), Robert Atkins (Arlington County Taxpayers Association), Stan Karson (Radnor/Ft. Myer Heights), Amy Levin (Aurora Highlands), Larry Mayer (Lyon Park), Jim Pebley (Waycroft-Woodlawn), Jackie Snelling (Lyon Village), and Eileen Williams (League of Women Voters)

The motion was introduced by Joe Pelton (Chain Bridge Forest) at the June 1, 2010, Civic Federation meeting. The committee studied the motion under the public utilities portion of its jurisdiction.

In an effort to establish and verify facts and fully appreciate the issue's background, committee members extensively discussed the issue among themselves and with senior Arlington County professional staff. In addition, the committee discussed the issue with three Civic Federation committees (Environmental Affairs, Revenues and Expenditures, and Transportation).

The issue boils down to three key points:

- There is ongoing analysis by the county into the technical, economic, social and environmental impacts of converting 12,000 street lights (predominately "Cobra-head" overhang street light poles) owned by Dominion Resources ("Dominion") to LED lighting. The county already plans to convert nearly 4,000 county-owned, carlyle light posts to LED lighting.
- Should the Civic Federation encourage the Arlington County Board and its staff to push Dominion and the Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association ("VEPGA") to develop a conversion plan for Arlington?
- If so, it is desirable to have the community involved a formal process to comment on issues and impacts from LED lights prior to a county-wide move to LED lights

Proposed Resolution on Converting to LED Street Lighting

Whereas, converting the County's street lights to LED units would result in substantial savings in energy consumption and emission of greenhouse gases;

Whereas, the much longer life and extended warranties for LED street lights would significantly reduce maintenance and service costs;

Whereas, the nearly 4000 street lights owned by Arlington County (largely in the Rosslyn-Ballston corridor) are currently being converted to LED lights;

Whereas, Arlington County pays Dominion Resources ("Dominion") about \$250 per year for each of the approximately 12,000 street lights owned by that company;

Whereas, conversion of the street lights owned by Dominion to LED lights would require that company's agreement to installation of LED conversion kits and resolution of issues of legal liability;

Whereas, residents should have an opportunity to observe the use of LED street lights in a residential neighborhood;

Therefore be it resolved that the Arlington County Civic Federation urges the County Board and the County Manager to work with Dominion and VEPGA, a State utilities regulatory body for electricity, to seek near term agreement on ways to improve the efficiency of Dominion-owned street lights in Arlington County, both in terms of reducing electrical and maintenance costs and improving adverse environmental impacts in terms greenhouse gases and dark sky pollution.

And be it further resolved that it would be desirable to have a 4-month demonstration project in a residential neighborhood to give citizens an opportunity to experience and comment on the use of LED street lights.