

## **LED Lights Offer Environmental, Economic Advantages**

The Otsego County Conservation Association would like to commend the recent conservation efforts implemented by the Otsego Electric Cooperative in Hartwick.

Due to the January 1, 2008 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ban on the manufacturing and importing of mercury vapor lamp ballasts, the 175-watt “dusk-till-dawn” area lights previously used by the Otsego Electric Cooperative have been discontinued. After considerable research and testing, the electric cooperative has settled on an alternative.

The recommended replacement lights are Evluma luminaires. These light emitting diode – or LED – lights use one quarter of the energy of their predecessors and offer an environmental as well as economical advantage, putting out as much light as mercury vapor lamps while decreasing glare, light trespass and sky glow (all contributing factors to light pollution). Evluma luminaires also last longer and require less maintenance than mercury vapor lights.

To see the Evluma LEDs in action, take a drive by the Otsego Electric Cooperative, located on County Highway 11.

“Notice the new lights as you pass – there’s no longer a ball of light shining in your eyes, nor is there a lot of light going straight up into the sky,” said OCCA Special Projects Manager Martha Clarvoe.

Clarvoe, a neighbor of the electric cooperative, has worked on lighting issues for several years and feels that the Evluma lights are a great improvement.

“There is less wasted light and therefore less wasted energy. An Evluma LED uses less than 200 kwh in a light test lasting 365 days, compared to the 800 kwh used by a mercury vapor light,” Clarvoe said.

Installed properly, the Evluma should put more direct light on the ground where one needs it and improve security issues because it creates fewer shadows, while 50 feet from the base, Evluma LEDs illuminate every bit as well as the mercury vapor lights they replace.

“There should be no need to shield your eyes as you walk up to these lights, because the light is directed at the ground and not shining in your face,” said Clarvoe.

The new lights are inserted into the old fixtures, so you won’t notice much of a difference in the daytime, Clarvoe added. At night is when you’ll really see the change.

For information on light pollution and safety, see the following brochure created by the International Dark-Sky Association, [http://docs.darksky.org/Docs/ida\\_safety\\_brochure.pdf](http://docs.darksky.org/Docs/ida_safety_brochure.pdf).

Also, OCCA’s “Starry Nights in Otsego County: Addressing Light Pollution” – [http://www.occainfo.org/documents/LIGHTBROCHURE\\_000.pdf](http://www.occainfo.org/documents/LIGHTBROCHURE_000.pdf) – explains what constitutes light pollution and offers better choices to prevent sky glow, light trespass and glare.

Both of these brochures and additional information can be accessed via the OCCA website, [www.occainfo.org](http://www.occainfo.org). Those with questions or concerns regarding night lighting may contact OCCA at (607) 547-4488 or [admin@occainfo.org](mailto:admin@occainfo.org).

Photo One (attached): The Evluma light on the pole as seen at the Hartwick Town Offices (right) next to the Highway Department building, which has a mercury vapor “dusk-till-dawn” light mounted on the corner of the building. The difference in glare and light trespass is very evident, and security is not compromised, as illumination from the Evluma extends beyond the recycling bins.

Photos Two and Three (see link): <http://www.evluma.com/seethedifference.html>