



Town of Simsbury

STREET LIGHT POLICY

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen on June 11, 2018

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Street Light Policy is to provide guidelines for when, where and how street lights are to be installed and maintained within the Town of Simsbury. The primary purpose for street lighting is to provide illumination on streets and pedestrian crossings to improve visibility and safety of roads and walkways.

This policy outlines Simsbury's procedures on how the Town manages its street light inventory to provide consistency in our operations. The Town may consider the addition, removal, or relocation of a street light in accordance with the conditions specified in this policy.

2. HISTORY

Street lights in Simsbury were historically installed by Eversource or private developers as part of new subdivisions. Lights had been installed along state roadways and at the intersection of two Town owned roadways. Decorative lighting had been installed along Iron Horse Boulevard and in our commercial corridors as part of streetscape projects. These lights had been owned and maintained by Eversource and the Town paid Eversource for the ownership and maintenance through fees on the electricity used by these lights.

In November of 2016 as part of a project headed by the Department of Public Works, the Town purchased all of the street lighting in Simsbury, 652 lights and 127 poles from Eversource. The project capitalized on the advancing technologies and utility incentives associated with energy efficient lighting to dramatically reduce energy consumption and cost. Through this process, the Department of Public Works has taken on the responsibility for the operations and maintenance of the street lights for the Town.

3. INVENTORY

The locations, pole numbers, and specifications of the Town's street lights are to be stored into a Street Light Database. This database is operated and maintained by the Department of Public Works and contains the pole number, fixture type, wattage, age, arm length, warranty and other pertinent information. The Town does not own or manage street lighting inside of private developments.

4. STREET LIGHTING FIXTURE TYPES

All street lighting fixture specifications shall be determined by the Department of Public Works. New street light technologies may be reviewed and considered in relation to this policy's provisions and its benefit to the Town of Simsbury. Specifically consideration will be given to life cycle cost analysis, safety, aesthetics, health and environmental factors*, and warranty.

**The American Medical Association has issued a policy statement and guidelines on the possible negative health effects of some LED street lights, including the disruption of circadian rhythms and excessive blue light wavelengths creating pupillary constriction.*

5. MAINTENANCE & REPAIR TO STREET LIGHTS

Street lights shall be maintained and repaired as soon as reasonably possible to ensure public safety. A Street Light Maintenance Contractor shall be contracted on an annual basis by the Department of Public Works to ensure all street lights owned and maintained by the Town of Simsbury are repaired in a reasonable timeframe.

All requests for street light maintenance are to be sent to the Department of Public Works. The Simsbury Police Department regularly inspects and reports broken lights to the Department of Public Works. The goal is to repair lights within one (1) week of receipt of a reported outage. In the event the electrical supply to the fixture is interrupted, the Department of Public Works will contact Eversource, and additional time will be required.

6. PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR THE ADDITION, REMOVAL AND RELOACTION OF STREET LIGHTS

Consideration for the installation of a new street light on public roads or the removal of existing lights will be conducted following a written request from a Town resident or business owner.

- i. All written requests shall be addressed to:

Department of Public Works
933 Hopmeadow Street
Simsbury, CT 06070

- ii. Requestor's name, address, telephone number, and reason for requesting the street light must be included in the request.
- iii. A description of the area in which the street light is requested must be included. The description shall provide the street name, nearby residences addresses, adjacent pole numbers and other pertinent information.

7. STREET LIGHT EVALUATION

Limited budgets create the need to establish a prioritization system for the removal, relocation, and installation of new street lighting. A Street Light Evaluation will be will be conducted by the Department of Public Works upon receipt of all properly completed written requests. The main criteria for evaluating the

removal, relocation, and addition of street lights will be based on public safety. To determine if an area should have a street light, the Department of Public Works will consider the following:

- i. Night time business and/or pedestrian activity
- ii. Traffic volume
- iii. Accident history in the area
- iv. Municipal engineering standards
- v. Existing poles
- vi. Potential light pollution and negative impacts to nearby residents
- vii. Compliance with all Town Zoning regulations
- viii. Consultation with Police for any other safety factors
- ix. Installation Cost

If following the evaluation of the request the Department of Public Works feels there is adequate evidence supporting the request for the removal, relocation, or the addition of a new street light the report will be presented to the Town Manager for approval or denial of the request. Funding for this work may be taken from the annual street light maintenance fund if funds are available. If funding is not available, a request will be made as part of the annual budget process.

8. STREET LIGHT INFORMATION

For more information regarding the Town's of Simsbury's street lights, or to report a street light outage, please contact the Simsbury Department of Public Works at (860) 658 – 3222.