



LED Traffic Control Signals

In the 1990's, the City of Corning converted its traffic control signals from incandescent bulbs to LED lighting. These traffic signals have several advantages over incandescent models, but the three main advantages are improved visibility, longer shelf life, and lower energy costs.

Visibility

One major advantage of these traffic lights is increased visibility. Incandescent bulbs are covered by color filters and reflectors which could affect how much light actually reached drivers' eyes. LED traffic lights use an array of bright LEDs that do not require additional filters or amplification. If a single incandescent bulb burns out, the entire light sequence is disturbed. Conversely, several LEDs can fail in the new control signals without causing a noticeable disruption.

Lower Maintenance Costs

LED lights can be more expensive to purchase. These expenses are usually offset by lower maintenance costs. If an incandescent bulb burns out, which typically happens 1-2 times per year, a City employee must replace the bulb while traffic is diverted. LED light panels often last ten years or more.

Energy Savings

LED traffic lights also provide energy savings. A standard incandescent lightbulb may use 100 watts of electrical power, but an equivalent LED panel uses 15 to 20 watts to achieve the same intensity.