

**City of Billings City Council  
November 12, 2019**

Deborah Singer, Senior Key Account & Economic Development Specialist  
Deborah.singer@northwestern.com

### **NorthWestern Energy's LED Street Lighting Project Update**

In 2019, the City of Billings was the first city to have NorthWestern Energy street lights converted to energy saving LEDs (Light Emitting Diode), as a part of the utility's four-year statewide street lighting LED conversion program. These conversions involved installing new LED fixture heads to replace High Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights. NorthWestern **converted 4,077 streetlights in 124 street lighting districts (SILMDs)** in the City of Billings to LEDs. The Billings LED conversion is projected to **save about 1.7 million kWhs (kilowatt-hours) per year**; equating to about **\$195,000 in annual electric savings** to City and the residents located within these SILMDs

### **City of Billings Receives \$108,870 in Energy Efficient Rebates**

NorthWestern Energy has awarded \$108,870 in rebates and incentives for installing energy efficient equipment in City facilities from July 2018 to September 2019. Rebates were awarded for 29 Efficiency Plus (E+) Commercial Lighting projects involving 1,883 energy efficient LED lights installed at the Airport, Fire Stations, Met Transit, Public Works, BOC, Fleet Services, Parking Garages, and the 911 Center. Logan Airport also received an E+ Business Partners incentive for an energy efficient chiller project. The benefits for the City extend beyond the rebates, as these projects are estimated to **save 1.21 million kWhs per year**, equating to about **\$182,900 in annual electric cost savings** to the City.

These energy efficiency projects were a team effort and involved numerous City departments. Projects were initiated by a team composed of City staff, utility representatives and consultants working together to identify energy savings for the City.

Including the most recent projects, **in the last ten years the City implemented 58 energy efficiency projects; qualifying for \$875,596 in energy efficiency rebates** from NorthWestern. These projects are estimated to save **5.06 million kWhs per year, equating to about \$495,600 in annual electric cost savings**. The City has also received **\$171,823 in NorthWestern Energy E+ Renewable Energy grants** funded by Universal Systems Benefit (USB) credits for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems at Fire Stations 3 & 6, the Billings Parks & Recreation Community Center, the downtown MET Transit Center, and the new Library.

The City and NorthWestern have worked in partnership for years to improve the energy efficiencies in City facilities, and reduce energy consumption while reducing operating costs. "The City of Billings has been a leader in energy management, by looking for opportunities to save energy, and participate in the utility's energy efficiency rebates programs," according to Deborah Singer, NorthWestern Energy's Senior Key Account and Economic Development Specialist.

NorthWestern Energy appreciates the City's partnership with the LED street lighting project and congratulates the City of Billings on these recent energy efficient retrofits of their facilities.