



**Brian U. Stratton**  
Mayor

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**For Immediate Release**  
**Monday, December 10, 2007**

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**Energy-efficient Holiday Lights Help Schenectady Lower**  
**Energy Bill**

*General Electric Donated 2,000 LED Lights for Holiday Tree*

Thanks to GE Energy who donated the lights, the City of Schenectady will replace all the incandescent bulbs on its outdoor holiday tree with energy-efficient light-emitting diode (LED) lights. This step expands the city's effort to promote sustainable practices through its holiday energy use. Last year the city began using LED lights for its indoor City Hall display.

LED holiday lights are constructed from solid-state chips that convert electricity into light without using a filament or glass bulb. They can burn for up to 100,000 hours, enough to last through more than 11 holiday seasons. They produce almost no heat, rarely burn out, will not overload electrical circuits and come in a variety of lengths, sizes, colors and styles.

The City of Schenectady is replacing 1,400 incandescent bulbs with 2,000 LED light bulbs on the city's holiday tree located in the west end of Veterans Park near State and Lafayette Streets. At 6:00 pm on December 13, 2007, city residents and local officials will watch Mayor Brian Stratton and his son, Alex, flip the switch.

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“I want to thank the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) for making us aware of how important a role LED lights play in holiday energy savings and thank GE Energy for making it possible for us to make the change to LED lighting on our outdoor City tree,” said Mayor Stratton. “We could not have done this without GE’s help.”

The holiday tree is illuminated each year beginning on or by December 15<sup>th</sup>, ending on January 15<sup>th</sup>. The old bulbs consumed an average of 9296 kilowatt-hours of electricity, or about \$1,115.00 over the season. The 2,000 LED lights will consume only 355 kilowatt-hours of electricity, about \$42.60 worth, during the same period. This will save Schenectady about \$1,072.00 each year. The reduction in energy use will also reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 17,800 pounds each year, the equivalent of planting 7,000 trees each year.

“I’m proud of the City of Schenectady’s many efforts to reduce their energy use. This is one very visible sign of their efforts. I would also like to thank GE Energy for donating the LED lights. Americans are looking for innovative technologies like this to increase energy efficiency,” said Paul D. Tonko, President and CEO of NYSERDA. Tonko adds, “This simple change not only creates big savings for Schenectady, but helps protect the environment and will serve the community for years to come.”

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