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Grant to Help Fund Longer-Lasting, Energy-Efficient Traffic Signals

A \$9,840 grant just received from the *Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation* will help the Village move a step closer to replacing the incandescent traffic signal bulbs with longer-lasting, more energy efficient LEDs at all of the community's 39 signaled intersections.

This is the second year the *Clean Energy Foundation* has awarded the Village a grant for traffic signal bulb replacement with LEDs – or light emitting diodes. A \$26,850 grant last year was used to replace bulbs with LEDs in signals along the entire route of Oak Park Avenue, as well as at high traffic intersections on Washington Boulevard and Chicago Avenue.

With this second grant, bulbs will be replaced on Ridgeland Avenue at Harvard Avenue, Garfield Street, Harrison Street and Jackson Boulevard, making more than half of all traffic signals at Village intersections LED-equipped.

Each replacement actually is a cluster of small LEDs configured to fit existing traffic signals. LEDs use solid state electronics to produce highly visible, colored light. They last longer, use 85 percent less energy and are more visible than traditional incandescent bulbs, factors that reduce operating and maintenance expenses, and enhance safety.

"LEDs are ideal for traffic signals," said Public Works Director John Wielebnicki. "From the motorist's perspective, LEDs are brighter and much easier to see regardless of weather conditions. And from a maintenance perspective, the replacement cycle is much longer than traditional incandescent bulbs, which means crews can focus on other tasks."

For more information on the Village's traffic signal upgrading efforts, call 358.5700 or email publicworks@oak-park.us. Information on the *Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation* is available at www.illinoiscleanenergy.org.

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