City receives $206,080 grantto buy, install LED street lights.

Gothenburg has been awarded a $206,080 grant to buy energy-efficient street lighting.

City administrator Bruce Clymer said the switch to light-emitting diodes (LED) is estimated to save the city about 58% in energy costs a year.

“I’m excited because energy conservation is becoming a way of life,” Clymer said. “The energy savings is well worth it for the community and it’s what people ought to be working toward.”

With a price tag of $257,600 to replace 400 street lights throughout the city, Clymer said the city’s share is $51,520.

LED lights use less power, he said, and have longer life spans than traditional fluorescent or incandescent bulbs.

Estimated savings for the community, he said, would be about $20,462 annually.

Another plus is that the bulbs are supposed to last 30 years compared to the two- to five-year lifespan of high pressure sodium bulbs used now.

In addition to saving energy, Clymer said the bulbs will improve lighting quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

He described LED bulbs as more of a white light compared to HPS bulbs that throw out more of an amber light.

“You can see traditional lights about five blocks away,” Clymer explained. “It will look totally different because LEDs don’t give off as much light.”

Once more information is received from the Nebraska Energy Office, the administrator said the city will seek bids for the LED bulbs.

Clymer said the bulbs will be replaced this fall and winter by the city crew.

“They’ll assemble them in the city shop and then pull the old bulb and socket and wire in the new light,” he explained.

Clymer said the city will contract with

Find the complete story in our print edition. Receive the entire issue of the Gothenburg Times on-line in PDF format each Wednesday for only $25 per year. Call 308-537-3636 to subscribe.