



East Salem Service District Street Lighting Project

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the ESSD Lighting Project?

The East Salem Service District (ESSD) provides or assists in providing services to the East Salem area that is outside of the city limits of Salem. These services include law enforcement, stormwater management, sewer service, and street lighting. Until this year, the ESSD had more than 130 individual lighting districts that had been formed by neighborhood petitions. Each district was paying different fee amounts and had varying levels of participation.

There have been many requests from residents and businesses for additional lighting in the area. Last year the district's governing body created one lighting district which includes the entire ESSD area. This also eliminated the 130+ smaller lighting districts.

With a consolidated lighting district, all residents will pay the same fee throughout the district. It also means that lighting will be installed, if it does not already exist, throughout the district.

When can I expect lights to be installed in my area?

PGE began installing street lights on June 3, 2019, and anticipates the project will take two years to complete. While we do not have a schedule of anticipated installations for each area, PGE is letting us know as lights are installed and we are posting this information on the service district web page. Please check <http://bit.ly/EastSalemLighting> for updates on where lights have been installed.

If you have a suggestion for where lights should be installed, please send your suggestion to service_districts@co.marion.or.us.

How much will I be charged?

While lights are still being installed, the fee will increase incrementally each year. This year property owners will be assessed \$25.62 for street lighting. When all of the lights are installed, the fee is expected to be in the range of \$35-\$40 per year.

How is the fee calculated?

The East Salem Service District pays the monthly bill to PGE for the lighting services. In April, the district will take what was paid the prior year (April of the previous year through March of the current year), add a 2.5% administrative fee, and split that amount equally among all buildable/developed properties in the district with a lot size of at least 4,000 square feet.

How will I be charged?

The fee will be added to your property taxes beginning with the October 2019 property tax statement.

How often will the annual fee increase?

Once all of the lights are installed, the annual fee will only increase if PGE raises their rates.

If I was already paying a lighting fee, is this fee being added to the fee I currently pay?

No. If you were paying for lighting before, this fee will replace the previous fee.

Why am I paying for service before lights are installed in my area?

The most cost-effective manner to enhance lighting throughout the district was to eliminate the 130+ individual districts and create one lighting district. Since the ESSD is one lighting district, all customers are subject to the fee. We anticipate the project will be complete in about two years with improved lighting for all.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Contact the East Salem Service District at (503) 588-5084, email service_districts@co.marion.or.us, or visit <http://bit.ly/EastSalemLighting>.