



New Truck Technology Saves Money, Time and Space

The City of Cedar Rapids recently purchased four new dump trucks with hook-lift technology that expands the use of the trucks for multiple purposes. Hook-lift technology is a hydraulically operated hook system mounted to a standard medium-duty truck chassis. The technology supports the use of multiple body configurations on the same chassis. The vehicle configuration can be changed to match the mission of the day — from salt and sand applications to dump truck operations to asphalt patching — all within minutes.

The multipurpose hook-lift trucks support the City's commitment to sustainability and the iGreenCR program. They reduce the number of single-purpose trucks to be purchased, reduce the amount of vehicle storage and parking space needs, and reduce the City's carbon footprint and impact on the environment.

Over time, the new trucks will save the City thousands of dollars by reducing the overall size of the fleet needed to deliver the same services to citizens, as well as reducing the number of staff hours invested in mounting and dismounting spreaders from dump trucks. City staff anticipates gaining even more efficiencies through better work practices and process improvements exceeding 50-employee-hours a year with the hook-lift technology. •

City Saves Energy and Reduces Light Pollution



We've all seen it: that glow of light over urban areas like Cedar Rapids. That glow is light pollution, and it's caused by excessive, inefficient use of artificial light. Light pollution can have a strong negative impact on the environment. Excess light contributes to air and water pollution through surplus electricity production and atmospheric pollution by preventing nighttime reduction of atmospheric smog.

The City of Cedar Rapids' ongoing energy-saving efforts are leading to a reduction in light pollution. We've replaced exterior lighting at many City facilities with light-emitting diodes (LEDs), as well as replaced traffic signals and more than 400 streetlights with LEDs. These changes have not only decreased the amount of light pollution, but they have also saved the City more than 1.2 million kilowatt-hours of electricity per year. That's the equivalent of the annual greenhouse gas emissions from 168 cars.

We encourage you to take the following steps to help reduce light pollution and save energy in your home:

- Use energy-efficient light sources, like compact fluorescents and LEDs
- Use directional lighting to point light where needed
- Use motion sensors
- Only use light where and when it's needed

For more information on ways Cedar Rapids is saving energy and promoting sustainability, visit www.iGreenCR.com or call 319-286-5711. •

