

Street Lighting FAQs

Who is responsible for the street lights in Essex?

The majority of street lights along the highway are owned and maintained by Essex County Council. This also includes illuminated road signs and bollards. Regular inspections are carried out to ensure that our street lights are working properly; a higher priority is given to faults that could be dangerous such as exposed electrical wiring; these are normally made safe within two hours of being reported.

Why are some of the street lights turned off at night?

Since 2014 70% of Essex County Council owned street lights have adopted a part night lighting (PNL) policy. PNL was introduced to reduce light pollution and contribute towards financial savings. As a result of rolling out PNL, carbon emissions have been cut, resulting in an additional saving to Essex County Council of £145,000 in carbon taxes to central government.

Illuminated signs and bollards are not part of Part Night Lighting implementation.

What are the operating hours of street lights?

The operating hours of PNL are 1am - 5am, six days a week, and midnight to 5am during the early hours of Monday morning.

How do I report a broken/ faulty street light?

Essex County Council operates a central management system which helps control the street lighting more efficiently. Sensors on the top of each column detects any faulty issues and sends a report to our street lighting team so they can arrange for an engineer to attend.