

Taiwan saves electricity with new traffic lights

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Under the Tw\$550-million (\$18-million) project launched in 2009, the [traffic lights](#) have had their traditional bulbs replaced with technology using [light emitting diodes](#) (LEDs), the Bureau of Energy said.

LED lights consume only one tenth the electricity of traditional bulbs, meaning the project is estimated to save 247 million [kilowatt hours](#), enough for 67,700 families on the island, it said.

"LED traffic lights are not only energy-saving, but also safer, as they are brighter and more easily visible to motorists," Kao Shu-fang, an official at the bureau, told AFP.

Encouraged by the success, the economic ministry plans a more ambitious project, which aims to retire 800,000 "energy-guzzling and environmentally unfriendly" mercury-vapor street lamps over the next five years.

The project is expected to cost the government Tw\$18 billion, Kao said.

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