

# New Castle County

## Street Light Fund

### Overview

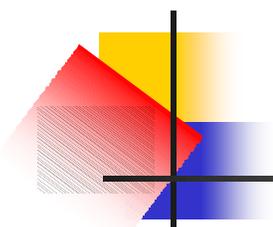
---



J. Michael Strine, Chief Financial Officer

September 26, 2006

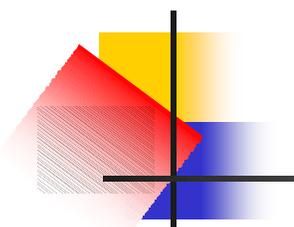
*Presentation to County Council*



# New Castle County - Street Light Fund OVERVIEW OF Title 9, Chapter 21 of the Delaware State Code

---

- Upon the petition of a majority of the property owners of any unincorporated community or village in New Castle County, County Council may enter into a contract with any utility company to light and illuminate the streets or highways within a community or village.
- County Council shall levy for the installation and maintenance of such lights, an annual tax based on the full annual cost of such lighting, plus up to but not exceeding 10% thereof to cover the costs of administration and billing.
- This tax is collected by New Castle County at the same time and in the same manner as other county taxes.



# New Castle County - Street Light Fund

## OVERVIEW OF

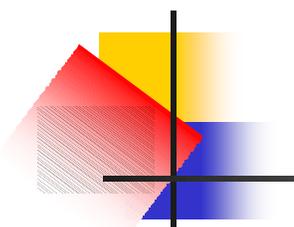
### Title 9, Chapter 21 of the Delaware State Code

---

- Street Light Tax is a real property tax and shall constitute and remain a statutory lien on such property, together with any penalties that may accrue thereon, until such taxes and penalties are paid in full.
- The Office of Finance receives all light taxes collected.
- All funds collected are maintained in a separate account.
- If, after payment of all contracts there remains any available cash balance in the light account, it will be applied to reduce the light tax rate for the succeeding taxable year (the available cash balance at June 30, 2006 (unaudited) is \$162,325).

# New Castle County - Street Light Fund

## Light Styles



All styles of street lights are grouped into six types. New Castle County receives six street light bills per month - one for each type. The types are...

- **Types with no current styles available:**
  - Wood Pole Incandescent
  - Wood Pole Mercury
  - Metal Pole Mercury
  - Limited Ornamental Mercury
  
- **Types with current styles:**
  - Turn of The Century
    - Granville
    - Granville With Ribs
    - Arlington
  - Ornamental Pole Mercury
    - Traditionaire

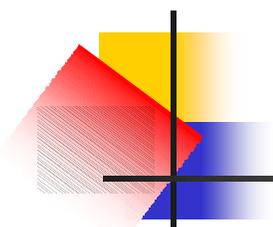
# New Castle County - Street Light Fund

## Street Light Rates

### FY1993 to FY2007

Fiscal Year	Turn Of Century		Ornament Mercury		Wood Incand		Wood Mercury		Metal Mercury		Lt'd Install	
	Rate		Rate		Rate		Rate		Rate		Rate	
	Rate Change	% Change	Rate Change	% Change	Rate Change	% Change	Rate Change	% Change	Rate Change	% Change	Rate Change	% Change
FY1993	17.80		7.50		0.40		4.20		10.60		2.80	
	14.40	80.90%	1.50	20.00%	0.90	225.00%	1.15	27.38%	2.55	24.06%	1.20	42.86%
FY1994	32.20		9.00		1.30		5.35		13.15		4.00	
	(16.15)	-50.16%	(1.85)	-20.56%	(0.80)	-61.54%	(0.25)	-4.67%	(0.15)	-1.14%	(0.05)	-1.25%
FY1995	16.05		7.15		0.50		5.10		13.00		3.95	
	(1.45)	-9.03%	(0.05)	-0.70%	(0.05)	-10.00%	(0.40)	-7.84%	(0.80)	-6.15%	(0.45)	-11.39%
FY1996	14.60		7.10		0.45		4.70		12.20		3.50	
	(1.90)	-13.01%	0.50	7.04%	(0.10)	-22.22%	(0.35)	-7.45%	0.30	2.46%	0.10	2.86%
FY1997	12.70		7.60		0.35		4.35		12.50		3.60	
	(2.55)	-20.08%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.25	5.75%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
FY1998	10.15		7.60		0.35		4.60		12.50		3.60	
	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
FY1999	10.15		7.60		0.35		4.60		12.50		3.60	
	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
FY2000	10.15		7.60		0.35		4.60		12.50		3.60	
	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
FY2001	10.15		7.60		0.35		4.60		12.50		3.60	
	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
FY2002	10.15		7.60		0.35		4.60		12.50		3.60	
	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
FY2003	10.15		7.60		0.35		4.60		12.50		3.60	
	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
FY2004	10.15		7.60		0.35		4.60		12.50		3.60	
	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
FY2005	10.15		7.60		0.35		4.60		12.50		3.60	
	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
FY2006	12.47		4.50		2.25		5.15		12.30		1.82	
	2.32	22.86%	(3.10)	-40.79%	1.90	542.86%	0.55	11.96%	(0.20)	-1.60%	(1.78)	-49.44%
FY2007	15.81		10.56		2.10		8.10		19.41		5.00	
	3.34	26.78%	6.06	134.67%	(0.15)	-6.67%	2.95	57.28%	7.11	57.80%	3.18	174.73%

*Street Light rates are in cents per \$100 of assessed value.*



## New Castle County - Street Light Fund Average Street Light Bill FY2007

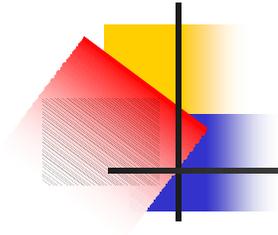
---

- All homeowners pay the Street Light Tax per New Castle County Code Section 14.06.302 (B). Seniors and disabled citizens are NOT exempt from paying this tax:

Light Type	Average Bill
Turn of the Century	\$ 159.22
Ornamental Mercury	\$ 85.54
Wood Incandescent	\$ 13.11
Wood Mercury	\$ 37.15
Metal Mercury	\$ 73.30
Limited Installation	\$ 91.50

The average taxpayer in Unincorporated New Castle County is paying \$342.60 in County property taxes for the year.

Senior Citizens are paying approximately \$100 per year in County property taxes.



# New Castle County - Street Light Fund

## Current Pole Styles

---



**Standard Pole**  
12 foot, aluminum



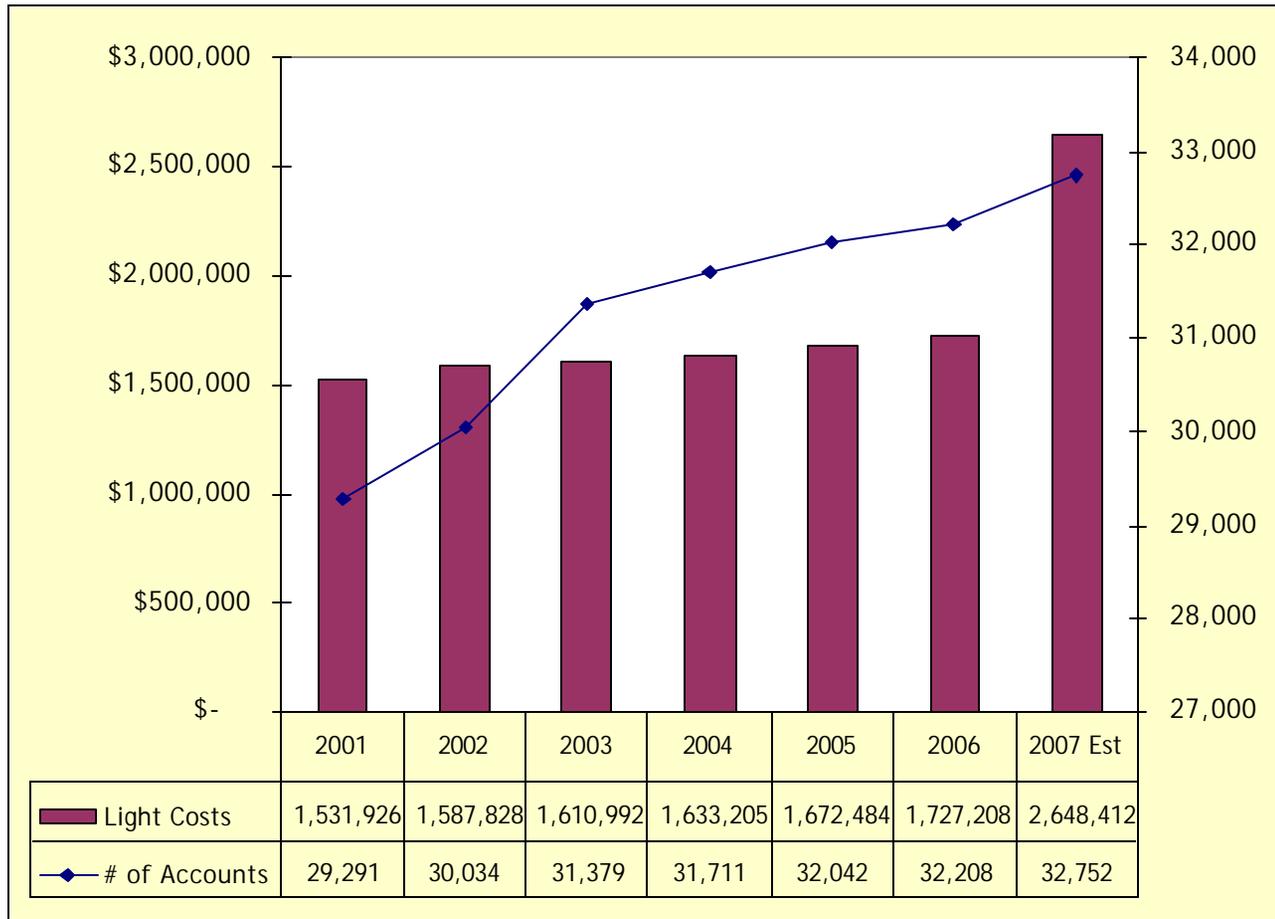
**Optional Pole**  
10 or 12 feet, fiberglass  
or aluminum



# New Castle County - Street Light Fund

## Current Light Styles

### Ornamental Pole Mercury - Traditionaire



# New Castle County - Street Light Fund

## Current Light Styles

### Turn of the Century

Arlington



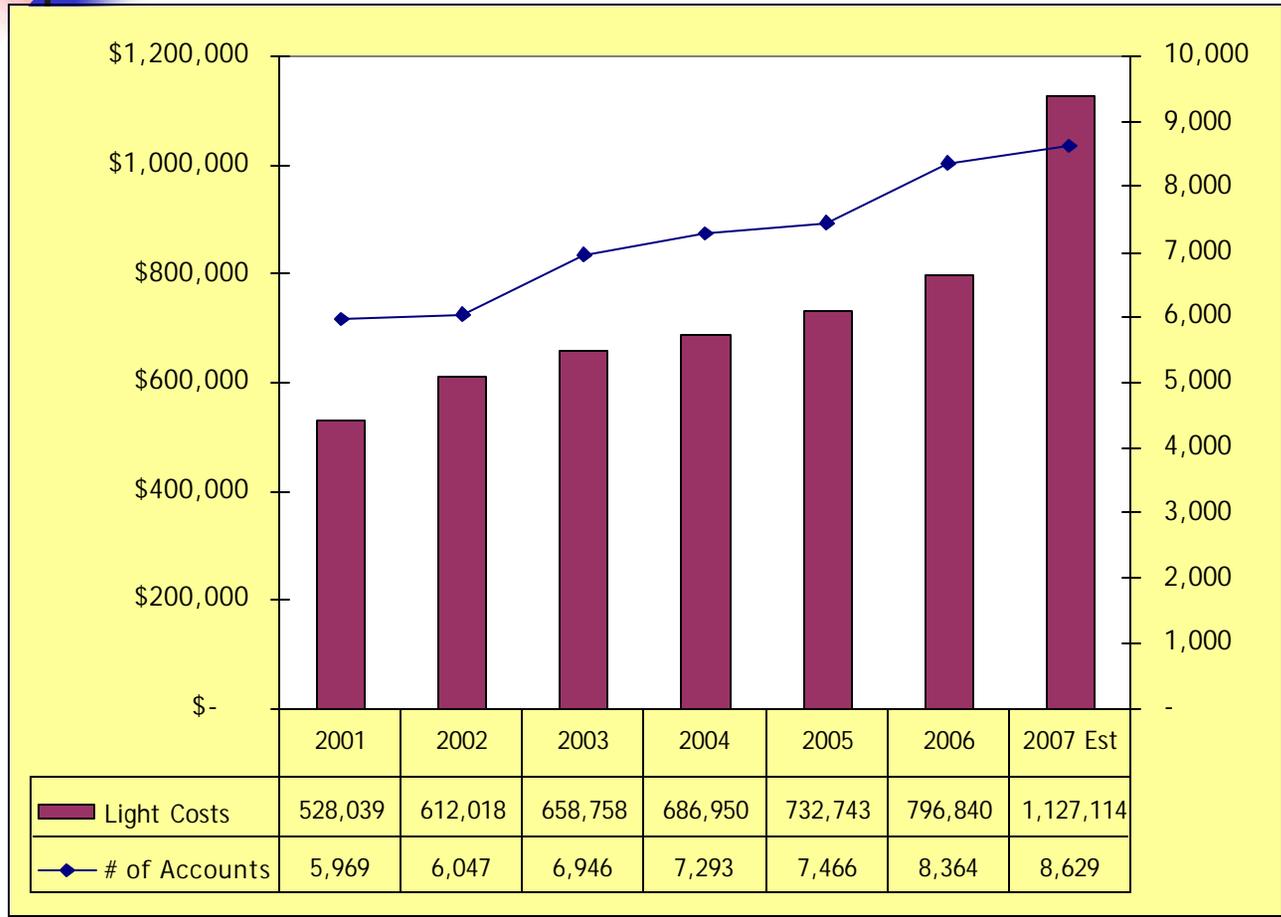
Granville and Granville with Ribs



# New Castle County - Street Light Fund

## Current Light Styles

### Turn of the Century



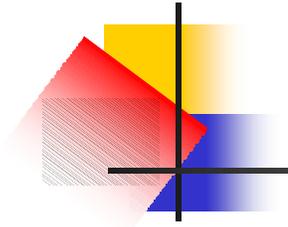
- Turn of the Century accounts have increased by 2,660 parcels or 45% since 2001.
- Turn of the Century lights make up 43% of all new street light accounts since 2001.



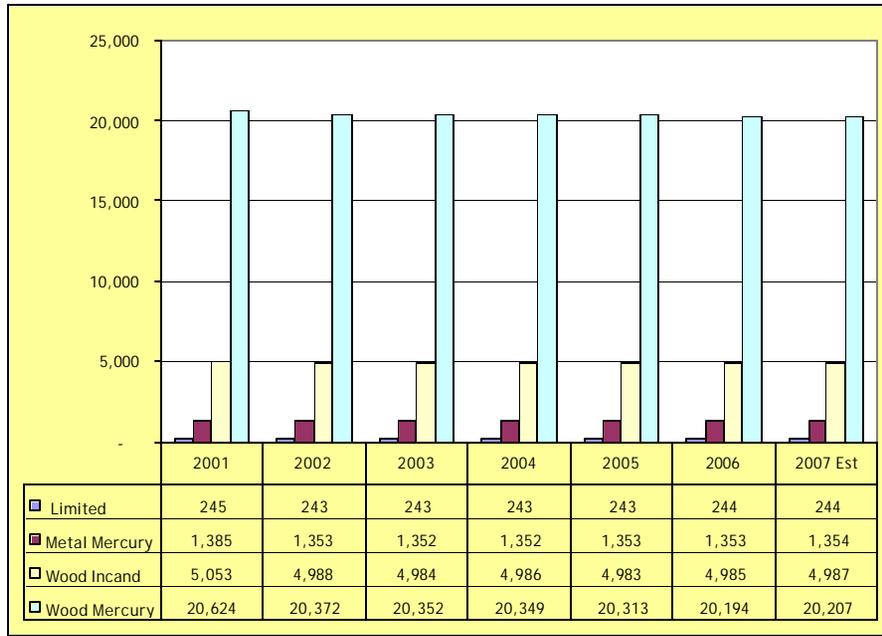
# New Castle County - Street Light Fund

## Other Light Styles

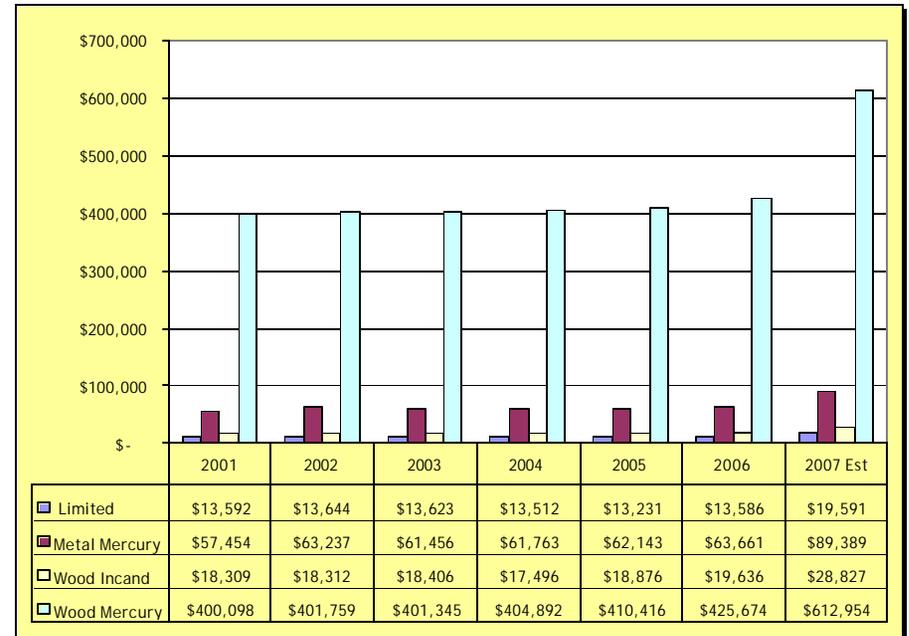
### Limited, Metal Mercury, Wood Incandescent, and Wood Mercury



Number of Accounts



Cost by Fiscal Year



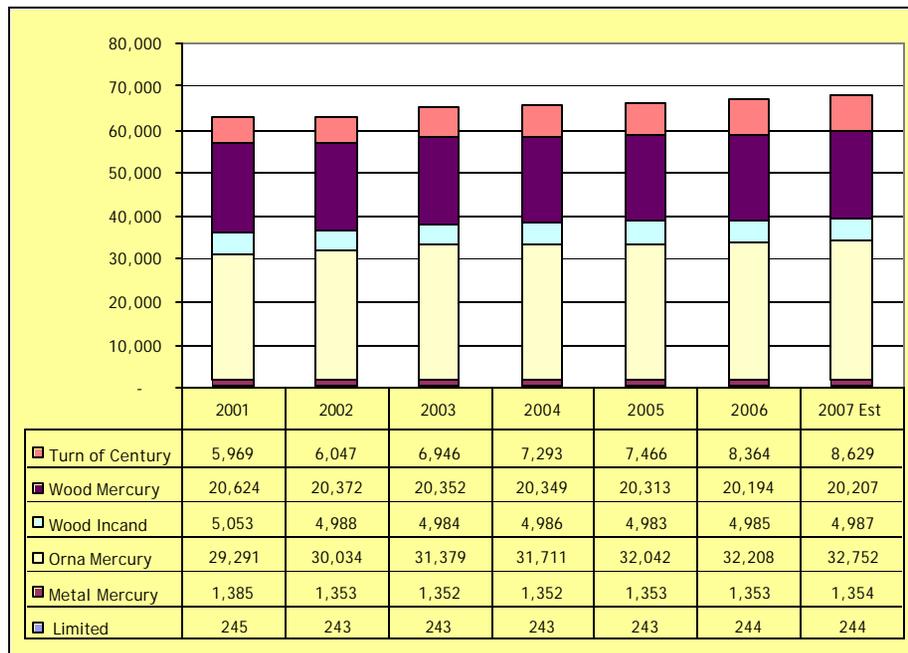
*The number of accounts have remained relatively constant over the past years due to the fact that these types of light styles are no longer installed by Delmarva Power.*

# New Castle County - Street Light Fund

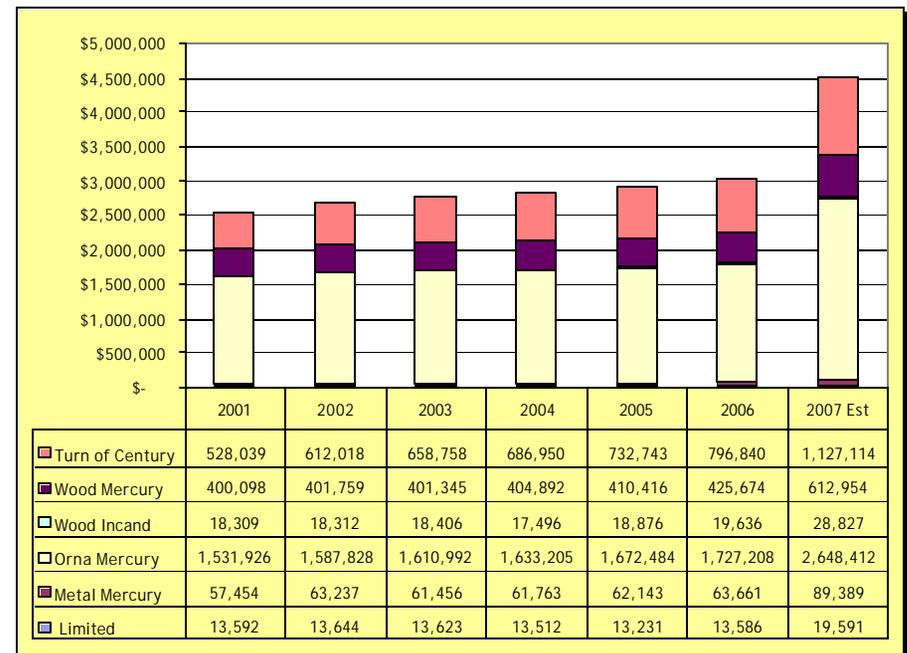
## All Light Styles

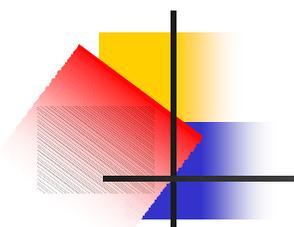
### - Annual Cost and Number of Accounts

Total Number of Accounts



Total Cost by Fiscal Year

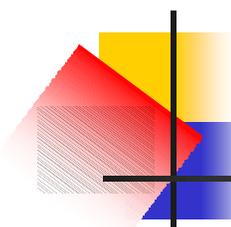




## New Castle County - Street Light Fund Expenditure History

FY	Limited	Metal Mercury	Orna Mercury	Wood Incand	Wood Mercury	Turn of Century	Total	\$ Change	% Change
1997	13,772	58,466	1,332,552	18,856	410,104	382,021	2,215,771	30,230	1.4%
1998	13,824	57,446	1,363,534	18,601	402,266	409,352	2,265,023	49,252	2.2%
1999	13,544	56,488	1,399,413	18,140	394,999	449,323	2,331,907	66,884	3.0%
2000	13,747	57,376	1,483,167	18,540	379,278	498,026	2,450,134	118,227	5.1%
2001	13,592	57,454	1,531,926	18,309	400,098	528,039	2,549,418	99,284	4.1%
2002	13,644	63,237	1,587,828	18,312	401,759	612,018	2,696,798	147,380	5.8%
2003	13,623	61,456	1,610,992	18,406	401,345	658,758	2,764,580	67,782	2.5%
2004	13,512	61,763	1,633,205	17,496	404,892	686,950	2,817,818	53,238	1.9%
2005	13,231	62,143	1,672,484	18,876	410,416	732,743	2,909,893	92,075	3.3%
2006	13,586	63,661	1,727,208	19,636	425,674	796,840	3,046,605	136,712	4.7%
2007 Est	19,591	89,389	2,648,412	28,827	612,954	1,127,114	4,526,287	1,479,682	48.6%

\* Does not include annual general and administrative charges.



# New Castle County - Street Light Fund TIMELINE FOR BUILDERS

## *Office of Finance - Treasury Division*

DAY 1-3	Builder submits notarized petition to NCC Treasury. Petition must include type of lights and a list of streets to be lighted, deed for property, two copies of recorded subdivision plan, and contact person.
---------	---

## *Office of Finance/Office of Law*

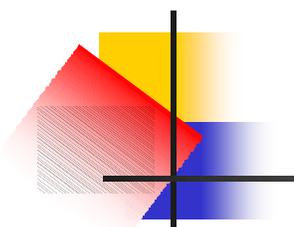
DAY 4-6	Treasury reviews the above documentation and forwards the original petition, copy of the deed and one copy of the recorded subdivision plan to the Office of Law for review.
	Treasury begins to file for this new subdivision and stores copies of all information sent to the Office of Law.

## *Office of Law/Office of Finance*

DAY 7	The Office of Law reviews the petition and prepares the Ordinance request for submission to County Council for approval and forwards the legislation to the Office of Finance, Division of Budget to review and approve the fiscal note.
-------	--

## *Office of Finance/Executive Office*

DAY 8-22	The Office of Finance approves the fiscal note and forwards the ordinance to the Executive Office for the next Council agenda.
----------	--



# New Castle County - Street Light Fund TIMELINE FOR BUILDERS - Continued

---

## *Executive Office/County Council*

DAY 23-29

The Executive Office reviews the legislation and upon approval, forwards it to the Clerk of Council for introduction at the next Council meeting.

## *County Council*

DAY 30-34

Clerk of Council advertises the legislation.

DAY 37-41

The street light ordinance is introduced by County Council.

DAY 51-55

The street light ordinance is approved by County Council.

## *County Council/Office of Finance*

DAY 52-64

Clerk of Council sends signed copy of legislation to Treasury.

## *Office of Finance/Delmarva Power*

DAY 56-68

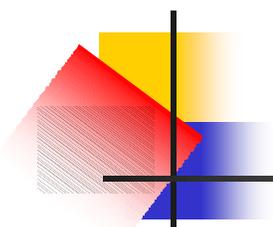
Treasury sends a copy of the signed ordinance to Delmarva Power.

## *Delmarva Power*

DAY 69-70

Delmarva Power begins their process for installing the approved street lights.

NOTE: New Castle County will only light an entire subdivision, not pieces or sections. The exception to this rule would be if the builder actually filed a separate subdivision plan for each section.



# New Castle County - Street Light Fund

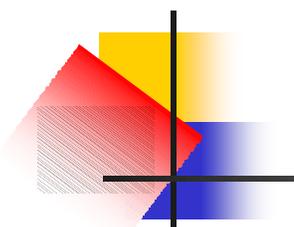
## TIMELINE FOR HOMEOWNERS

---

Variation from Builder process:

- Homeowner's Association must first contact Delmarva Power to determine what type of light and pole they want.
- Homeowner's Association must provide Treasury with the choice of light and provide contact information for the requesting area.
  - Upon notification to Treasury, Treasury completes the following:
    - Provides a Homeowner's Petition to the contact person.
    - Produces report reflecting the parcel numbers, owner's name and addresses, assessed valuation, type of light, and annual light tax amount.
- Contact person must return the Homeowner's Petition with more than 50% of the signatures in favor of street lights.
- Rest of process is the same as the "Builders" process.

NOTE: New Castle County will only light an entire subdivision, not pieces or sections.



# New Castle County - Street Light Fund Other Information

---

- A subdivision already having lights from this program may add additional lighting in certain areas. The subdivision would be responsible for any charges from Delmarva Power for the installation of these additional lights. After installation, the electric charges would be incorporated into the New Castle County billings.
- If an older subdivision wants lights and Delmarva Power has to run underground wiring, the subdivision would be responsible for any costs involved in this project. After installation, the electric charges would be incorporated into the New Castle County billings.
- No homeowners are exempt from paying the street light tax.