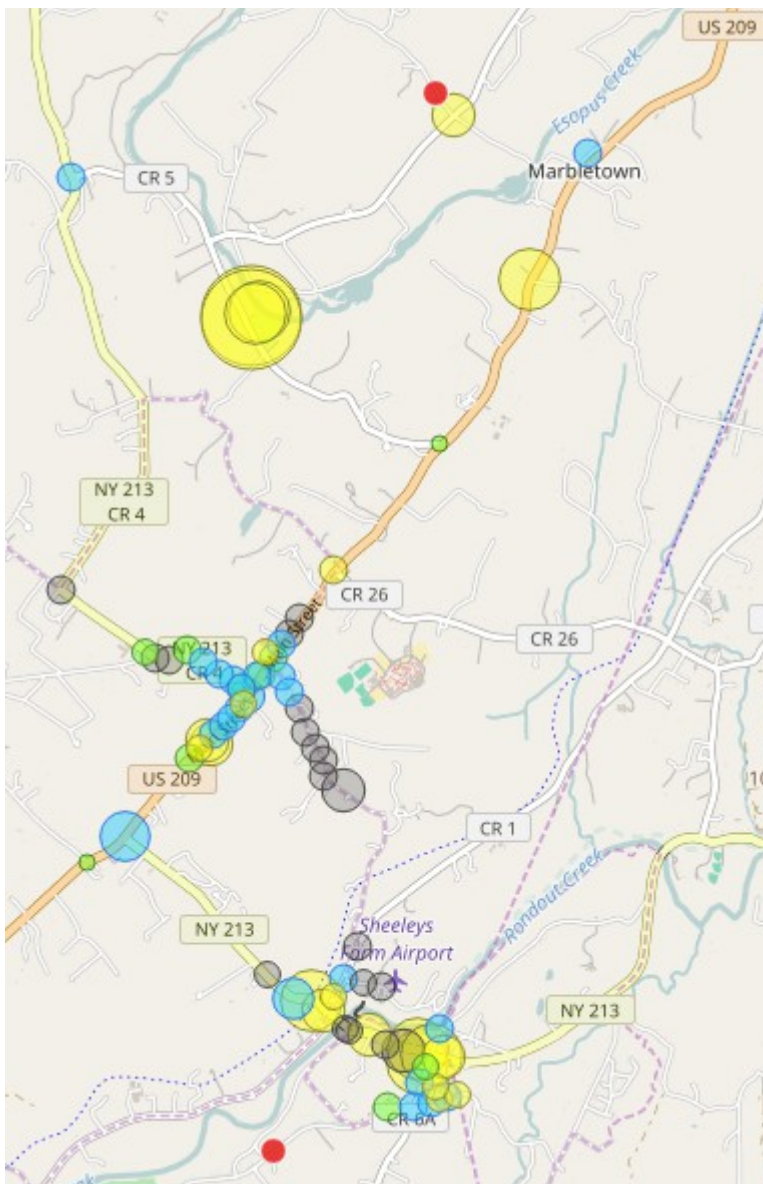


Marbletown Streetlight Audit Cuts Lighting Budget Over 30% And Counting

Light Pollution Reduced and Electricity Usage See Similar Savings

In November 2015, the Marbletown Town board asked the town's Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC) to survey the Town's streetlights. The goal was to identify unneeded lights, and to help with the Board's decision making regarding the best way to convert the remaining lights to modern LEDs. LED streetlights use less electricity, are less expensive to own and maintain, and direct their light downward where is useful, helping to curb light pollution.

Starting with a rudimentary listing of the streetlights the Town was paying for from Central Hudson, the ECC's volunteers Tom Konrad and Jason Zimmerman used smart phones and free online mapping software from ArcGIS to create an interactive map of the town's streetlights. Readers can explore this map at <http://arcg.is/2dDmB0e>.



A portion of the map showing the hamlets of High Falls and Stone Ridge is shown to the left.

Misbilled lights

In the process, the ECC identified three lights which the town had been paying approximately \$500 a year for, but which either did not exist, or which were lighting private parking lots, and also were being paid for by the private customers. Two of these are shown in red in the map section.

The Town was able to recover over \$5500 in bill credits for the misbilling.

Removals and Additions

The ECC identified approximately 25 lights which were potentially unneeded. The town then contacted county law enforcement, local fire departments, and property owners near each light to see which could be safely eliminated. A public hearing was also held on September 20th during which the Board heard from residents on the topic.

This process resulted in the board requesting that Central Hudson remove 23 of the town's 81 lights (mapped in gray), and also add two new lights on 209 at the intersections with Schoonmaker and Tongore roads.

LED conversions