



Low-wattage design keeps the lights on during blackout

DelphiTech's LED lighting system is low on energy consumption and big on design.

BY Eppo Maertens
Citizen advertising features

Ottawa may have been in darkness on the night of August 14, but at the home of Rodney McInnis the lights were on.

And, what's more, he didn't need a noisy gas-guzzling generator to power them.

With the aid of a high-intensity LED lighting system of his own invention, he kept the 150-foot perimeter of his home lit by plugging the whole system into a UPS battery with just one-fifth the capacity of an ordinary car battery.

"Our lighting system uses less than one-tenth the energy of comparable traditional installations," explains Mr. McInnis, founder and president of DelphiTech. He invented the system that lights the exterior of his home and a growing number of others in the Ottawa area. "I was able to plug my whole out-

door lighting system into a very small battery power supply." He adds that, because the system plugs into a regular outlet, homeowners can achieve the same result by plugging their system into the backup power supply of a regular PC.

To put it in perspective, Mr. McInnis estimates that a conventional 75 watt Halogen fixture burning eight hours per night will cost about \$40 per year in energy consumption and replacement bulb costs. A DelphiTech light, on the other hand, costs about 50 cents to operate and never needs to be replaced. To illuminate a 150-foot perimeter around your home with halogen lighting would cost somewhere between \$300 and \$400 in annual operating costs, compared to \$15 with a DelphiTech system.

"The system can pay for itself within the first few years," says Mr. McInnis. As well as perimeter lighting, he adds it's ideal for accent lighting, ambient lighting in restaurants and museum displays. And because his low-watt fixtures don't

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emit a lot of heat, there is also a savings on air-conditioning bills for interior uses of DelphiTech lighting. It's also a viable lighting option for people who want to go off the grid.

Mr. McInnis developed the system in his basement lab and first unveiled it at the Ottawa Spring Home Show in March. Staff spoke with nearly 1,200 interested home-owners and have been busy installing systems on area homes ever since. He says a major selling point with customers is not only the energy savings, but the aesthetics.

"I designed this lighting system primarily with energy conservation and the savings that would ultimately be enjoyed



Before (top): standard outdoor lighting. After (bottom): DelphiTech outdoor lighting.

by the user in mind," he says, "but as important as that is, some people choose our lights because they like the way they enhance the look of their homes. The effect is distinctive, not at all like traditional outdoor lighting.

"In the case of businesses we can deliver a truly dynamic look with our brighter colour choices. Unlike traditional lights, ours are unfiltered; intense colours appear clearer and more brilliant."

There are currently more than 50 fixtures in production, featuring a variety of lenses and light and fixture colours. Because DelphiTech's lenses can focus light in a way halogen or incandescent

lights can't, Mr. McInnis says they also dramatically reduce light pollution.

The system is an easy retrofit on existing homes or can be installed during initial construction. A visit by DelphiTech includes a no-obligation on-site demonstration. Custom fixtures are manufactured for each individual job.

"From curbside it's easy to identify DelphiTech lighting," says Mr. McInnis. "Our lights are small and unobtrusive in themselves, but they make a dynamic difference in the nighttime appearance of a home. Taking into account light direction and positioning we can create a visual illusion of contour and depth."