



## Street Lighting District Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a lighting district?

In order to obtain street lighting within a specific neighborhood, property owners may petition the local government to establish a lighting district. If a majority of the affected property owners agree with the terms, which includes property assessments to cover the costs of the street lights, a public hearing for the lighting district is conducted by the Board of Trustees to gain input from all affected prior to the approval of the lighting district.

Miami Township oversees more than 102 lighting districts and 883 street lights serving more than 4,500 parcels in the Township. Each September, an assessment is sent to the Clermont County Auditor for each individual parcel in the lighting districts – this will show on your property tax bill under Assessments. Most lighting districts are set up when the subdivision is being developed. There are a few that were set up after the subdivision was established.

The Township deposits the revenue received from the County for the lighting district assessments into a Lighting District Fund. This fund is then used to pay the monthly bills from Duke Energy for the costs associated with maintaining and operating the street lights.

### What are special assessments?

Special assessment are charges against property to pay costs of improvements or services that benefit the property. Although assessments are not taxes, the homeowner pays for the assessment via their bi-annual property tax bill. Lighting is included as an allowable service for special assessments.

### Is every neighborhood street light in Miami Township assessed this way?

No, there are some instances in which neighborhood street lighting is administrated and funded by a home owners association (HOA). There is no involvement from the Township or cost incurred by the Township for subdivisions who handle collection and payment of their own street lights.

### What about the cost of infrastructure and poles?

In most cases, the lighting district is requested by a developer who pays for the infrastructure cost. In these cases, only the cost of energy is assessed and billed to property owners in the district. It is possible for a neighborhood to request lighting after the initial development.

### Who should I contact if my street light is out?

Please contact Miami Township Service Department at 248-3728 to report the outage and we will contact Duke Energy so that they can service the light.