

CUNY ENERGY INSTITUTE

METACAPACITORS FOR LED LIGHTING

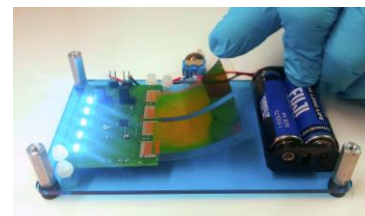
PROJECT TITLE:	Metacapacitors		
ORGANIZATION:	The City University of New York (CUNY) Energy Institute	LOCATION:	New York, NY
PROGRAM:	ADEPT	ARPA-E AWARD:	\$1,568,278
TECH TOPIC:	Other	PROJECT TERM:	9/2/10 - 9/1/13
WEBSITE:	www.metacapacitors.com		

CRITICAL NEED

All electric devices are built to operate with a certain type and amount of electrical energy, but this is often not the same type or amount of electrical energy that comes out of the outlet in your wall. Power converters modify electrical energy from the outlet to a useable current, voltage, and frequency for an electronic device. Today's power converters are inefficient because they are based on decades-old technologies and rely on expensive, bulky, and failure-prone components. Within the next 20 years, 80% of the electricity used in the U.S. will flow through these devices, so there is a critical need to improve their efficiency.

PROJECT INNOVATION + ADVANTAGES

CUNY Energy Institute is developing less expensive, more efficient, smaller, and longer-lasting power converters for energy-efficient LED lights. LEDs produce light more efficiently than incandescent lights and last significantly longer than compact fluorescent bulbs, but they require more sophisticated power converter technology, which increases their cost. LEDs need more sophisticated converters because they require a different type of power (low voltage direct current, or DC) than what's generally supplied by power outlets. CUNY Energy Institute is developing sophisticated power converters for LEDs that contain capacitors made from new, nanoscale materials. Capacitors are electrical components that are used to store energy. CUNY Energy Institute's unique capacitors are configured with advanced power circuits to more efficiently control and convert power to the LED lighting source. They also eliminate the need for large magnetic components, instead relying on networks of capacitors that can be easily printed on plastic substrate. CUNY Energy Institute's prototype LED power converter already meets DOE's 2020 projections for the energy efficiency of LED power converters.



IMPACT

If successful, CUNY Energy Institute's capacitors and advanced power circuits would lead to flexible, efficient, and reconfigurable power supplies for many types of electronic devices, including energy-efficient LED lights.

- **SECURITY:** This project could contribute to a smarter, more advanced, and more reliable grid.
- **ENVIRONMENT:** This project could drive adoption of energy-efficient lighting—reducing electricity use and harmful emissions.
- **ECONOMY:** This project could cut the cost of an LED circuit in half, reducing the cost of energy-efficient lighting for consumers. The market for these types of converters is expected to grow to \$4.3 billion by 2016.
- **JOBS:** Successful projects like this could create high-skill jobs in fields like engineering, research, and manufacturing.

CONTACTS

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