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**City of Batavia lights up the holidays with energy efficient
LED decorative light strings**

*NYSERDA helps cities and towns across New York to use energy efficient
lights for holiday displays*

Batavia, NY – December 5, 2008: With help from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and a grant from the Municipal Gas and Electric Alliance (M.E.G.A.) The City of Batavia is making the holiday season a little greener by investing in energy efficient Light Emitting Diode (LED) decorative lights to complement its festive decorations.

The City of Batavia will use 800, C9 energy efficient LED decorative lights, on their community holiday tree. Batavia purchased these lights from web-based retailer EnvironmentalLights. The holiday season in Batavia will be kicked-off on Friday, December 5th, 2008, from 5:00PM to 9:00PM, at “Batavia’s Christmas in the City”, on Main St. at the corner of Bank St.

The City of Batavia is using commercial grade LEDs to decorate their tree, but this year consumers can also find ENERGY STAR[®] qualified LED decorative light strings for their homes. ENERGY STAR qualified LED decorative lights last up to 10 times longer and use 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent lights. They produce almost no heat, last for up to 11 seasons, will not overload indoor or outdoor circuits, and come in a variety of shapes, sizes, lengths and colors. LED decorative light strings are

constructed with solid-state chips that convert electricity into light without using a filament or glass bulb, which makes the lights more durable and shock-resistant than traditional lights.

“Using energy efficient LED decorative light strings will help the City of Batavia save energy and reduce costs for years to come,” said Bob Callender, Vice President for Programs for the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). “These long-lasting lights are a smart way for all New Yorkers to celebrate the holidays efficiently and help the State reach its goal of reducing electricity consumption 15 percent by 2015.”

The energy efficient LED decorative light strings will draw a total of 64 watts of power for the entire holiday season. The Batavia Holiday Tree is illuminated each year for 41 days from December 5th to January 15th. The City of Batavia will be saving about \$268 each year by using these new LED holiday lights.

New York residents can also save over \$30 this holiday season by decorating their own homes with a variety of energy efficient lighting choices that are easy, safe, and last longer than traditional holiday lighting. Other holiday lighting options include:

- **Fiber optic holiday lights** – These cool-to-the-touch lights are a good choice for paths, trees, decks, patios and vaulted ceilings because fiber optic cables make it easier to access and maintain lights in hard-to-reach areas.
- **Rope lights** – These lights last more than 20,000 hours and make a safe choice for decorating trees, doors and windows.
- **ENERGY STAR Candelabra Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)** – These CFLs use about 75 percent less energy, produce the same lumens, and generally last 10 times longer than the average incandescent bulb. They can be used in candlesticks and menorahs instead of an open flame.

For a list of statewide retailers that sell energy efficient lighting products, visit www.GetEnergySmart.org or call toll-free 1-877-NY-SMART.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) uses innovation and technology to solve some of New York's most difficult energy and environmental problems in ways that improve the State's economy.

M.E.G.A., serving 20 upstate New York Counties and over 100 municipalities and school districts, aggregates these individual, municipal energy customers into a larger group and uses this buying power to obtain lower energy prices, for both electricity and natural gas. M.E.G.A. has provided a \$1,000 grant to the City of Batavia, one of its members, toward the purchase of these energy-efficient LED holiday lights.

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