

# University of Montana Activates Smart Lights for Efficiency

## The Problem

The University of Montana campus is supported by an expansive network of more than 500 outdoor lighting fixtures. Historically, those streetlights were managed through a mix of internal facility managers, energy providers, and maintenance contracts — with a complex chain of communication between them.

For Jason Skelton, the university's Associate Director of Maintenance and Facilities Services, that meant driving the entire campus to manually spot outages, compile lists, and call in repairs. The reactive approach translated to slow restoration times and high lifecycle maintenance costs.

## Stakeholders + Requirements

When the university decided to upgrade its streetlight network, it engaged lighting specifier Andy Moore of Blacksheep Engineering to help develop a better approach to lighting. The process began with a structured stakeholder evaluation that surfaced three distinct priorities:

- Campus leaders wanted energy efficiency and operational cost savings
- Maintenance teams needed a streamlined, simplified workflow
- Student leadership sought a quality campus experience through fine-tuned lighting levels and color temperature

One requirement cut across every group: future-readiness — a single manufacturer, a single solution, and the ability to expand capabilities without pulling new wiring infrastructure.





## The Solution

Only one solution met every requirement: Ubicquia's Intelligent Streetlight Solution.

The campus' upgraded LED luminaires were made intelligent in seconds each with the installation of UbiCell®, a smart edge device that enables real-time data collection and control. Actionable insights, scheduling, and dimming controls are accessible through UbiVu® Ubicquia's AI-powered asset management dashboard.

The university is leveraging the platform's remote control and diagnostic capabilities, including:

- Critical alerts such as pole tilt detection
- Lighting schedules driven by astronomical clock rather than light sensors
- Identification of clustered outages that signal circuit-level issues
- Visibility into outages and maintenance needs from anywhere

## The Result

Six months into deployment, the University of Montana is already seeing the impact of shifting from reactive to proactive lighting management — and the results from the initial 300+ node rollout were compelling enough to drive a commitment to expand the system campus-wide.

### **Operations + Maintenance Efficiency**

With real-time alerts and remote diagnostics, the facilities team can instantly identify unpowered fixtures, dispatch crews efficiently, and resolve issues before they affect campus life.

### **Enhanced Campus Experience**

Student leadership prioritized visual comfort and security. The university selected a 3000K color temperature for a warmer, more comfortable nighttime environment. Lights

now consistently activate 30 minutes before sunset and remain on 30 minutes past sunrise — giving students, staff, and visitors a more predictable, secure campus.

### **A Partner Committed to Long-Term Success**

Throughout deployment and activation, the Ubicquia team remained responsive, collaborative, and focused on delivering a system built for the university's specific environment.

### **A Smarter, Safer Campus—Powered by Ubicquia**

The University of Montana now has centralized visibility, intelligent controls, and reliable lighting across campus. What once required manual patrols and reactive fixes has become a streamlined, data-driven operation — built for efficiency and longevity.