Business Lighting Incentive Program

Frequently asked questions

At PSE, we want our customers to have the information and support needed to get the most out of our energy-management programs. Thank you for being an important part of our energy-saving efforts. Below is a list of frequently asked questions that we receive about our Business Lighting Incentive (BLi) Program.

Q. What's new for 2024?

A: There are a few changes for the 2024 Business Lighting Incentive (BLi) Program.

1. The types of incentives offered by the BLi program for 2024 remain the same as for 2023; however, incentives are higher for new fixtures and the LLLC "bonus". Additionally there is a new LLLC bonus for adding LLLC to existing LED fixtures. Use the QR code on this piece to visit our website for detailed incentive information.

2. The Business Lighting Tenant Improvement (BLti) and Business Lighting New Construction (BLnc) lighting-only projects will continue to reference the Washington State Energy Code (WSEC). BLti reference the 2015 WSEC and BLnc projects reference the 2018 WSEC as the baselines for energy use.

3. The BLi program is supporting vulnerable and impacted communities with higher incentives. Projects must be a PSE Rate Schedule 24 and meet vulnerable and highly impacted definitions. Schools and public facilities in highly impacted areas also qualify. Check with the Business Lighting Team to confirm eligibility!

    Email us at businesslighting@pse.com.

Q: Is pre-approval required before the existing lighting is removed?

A: Yes, if the project is a lighting retrofit project as PSE needs to verify the baseline energy usage from the existing lighting installation.

No, if the project is a BLti or BLnc lighting-only project as the WSEC is referenced to determine the baseline for energy use.

Note: In all cases, PSE will review and approve the application and the customer and/or payee will be sent a grant agreement (a contract), which must be signed and returned to PSE within 90 days of receipt to ensure the application and the estimated incentive amount are approved.

Q: What's the best way to contact the BLi team?

A: Please email us at businesslighting@pse.com.

Q: What are Luminaire Level Lighting Control (LLLC) requirements?

A: An LLLC is an interior LED luminaire with the following integrated into each luminaire: a dimming driver, an occupancy sensor and a daylight sensor. Each LLLC luminaire shall have installed control logic that allows configuration and re-configuration of the luminaire settings for high-end trim, daylight sensitivity and set points, and occupancy sensitivity and timeouts. Each LLLC luminaire shall have installed wireless networking capabilities to allow multiple luminaires to be grouped to share occupancy and daylight information with all other LLLC luminaires installed in the space. The system must have local override switching capability, as required by the 2018 WSEC.

Q: What are Network Lighting Control (NLC) requirements?

A: An NLC system is where interior LED luminaires have integrated dimming driver(s) and control logic that allow configuration and re-configuration of the luminaire settings for high-end trim, daylight sensitivity and set points, and occupancy sensitivity and timeouts from a central control. Each NLC system shall have at least one occupancy sensor and one daylight sensor installed in the space and shall have installed wireless networking capabilities to allow multiple luminaires to be grouped to share occupancy and daylight information with all other NLC luminaires installed in the space. The system must have local override switching capability, as required by the WSEC.

Q: What are Advanced Exterior Lighting Control (AELC) requirements?

A: An AELC system is where each exterior LED luminaire includes the following automatic control abilities: (1) a photocell or astronomical time switch to turn the lights off during daylight hours; (2) a dimming driver with the high-end trim set to maximum 90% power; (3) an occupancy-sensing control to dim the power to at least 50% when no activity is detected for 15 minutes or more, or controlled through a time-based control system to dim to at least 50% power for at least six hours per night.

Q. Is the process different when there are LLLC, NLC or AELC fixtures/controls?

A: Yes, these projects require three inspections: pre-inspection, post-install inspection, and 45 days controls operational inspection.

Additionally, two grants will be created for the project. One for the base incentive and the second for the LLLC, NLC and/or AELC bonus.

The controls require initial start-up programming, which includes: occupancy sensors set to turn the lights off, daylight sensors to dim, high-end trims set, and fixtures grouped together to work with the space and the occupants. This start-up programing can be done by either the contractor installing the fixtures, the owner, the owner's representative or a third party.

Q: What are BLi requirements for selectable wattage fixtures?

A: We agree that field-selectable wattage fixtures are a good option for distributors and we want to support their use, but we also need to be able to justify the selected wattage to management and external auditors. The BLi team uses the highest wattage shown on the specification for downlights and easily accessible fixtures, unless the manufacturer lists a recommended setting for its replacement lamp wattage. For high/low bay and exterior pole fixtures, the BLi team uses the recommended manufacturer's wattage listed on the specification sheet for the replacement lamp wattage. In circumstances where the manufacturer does not list the recommended wattage, the energy management engineer or BLi team will discuss with the submitter what a reasonable setting should be for the space use.

Additionally, the BLi application currently checks for wattage reduction comparing the existing type to the new type and shows a yellow caution if it is greater than 75%. If the application shows the yellow caution on field-selectable wattage then the selected wattage is not acceptable and a higher wattage must be selected.

Q: How do I enter existing LED fixtures on the BLi application?

A: Existing LED fixtures must be entered as a NEW fixture on the fixtures page of the application and the "Use as Existing?" cell for the fixture must be changed to "Yes." This will allow the fixture to be selected on the installations page as an existing fixture.

Q: Does the BLi program require DLC®?

A: No, the program does not require fixtures or controls to be on a DLC® qualified product list.

For LED fixtures and lamps, all fixtures and lamps must meet PSE specifications with the following REQUIRED listed on the manufacturer's specification sheet:

- UL or ETL listing
- Power Factor > 0.9
- Manufacturer's warranty greater than five years
- Total input watts (combined LED modules and driver wattage)
- CRI: see terms page on the Business Lighting application (generally 80 or higher)

Q: What is the definition of "lighting components"?

A: LED module(s), driver(s), sockets, etc. that are individually field-installed and not wired together and assembled by a lighting manufacturer.

Q: What are BLi invoice requirements?

A: The invoice(s) submitted, as .PDFs only, must have the following breakdown that match the signed grant as well as the workbook:

1. Quantity, manufacturer and model number of each different light fixture (unit pricing not required)
2. Materials subtotal
3. Labor subtotal
4. Miscellaneous items subtotal
5. Tax
6. Invoice total (before PSE incentive)

Should there be any change to the project (change of fixtures, wattage or quantities) than what the grant states, please notify PSE before the project work has been completed. Otherwise, there is a risk of the incentive not being fully paid.

Q: What is required for photo and video verification?

A: Requirements are as follows:

1. Photos or videos must provide substantial evidence of pre- and post-project conditions.
2. Photos or videos shall include a general shot of each space/area, showing the lights, along with close-up shots of each unique light fixture.
3. Verification may include a virtual site visit through video conferencing apps.

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