

Business Lighting Incentives 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 Incentives (BLi) Program.

Q: What's new for 2026?

A: There are a few changes for the 2026 Business Lighting Incentives (BLi) Program.

1. Applications are moving online. Starting in 2026, all Business Lighting applications must be submitted through our new web-based platform for a faster, paperless process. Visit our website for details.
2. The types of incentives offered by the BLi program for 2026 remain the same as for 2025; however, bonuses for AELC fixtures (new and existing) have increased.
3. 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 projects follow the 2018 WSEC as their energy baseline, while BLnc projects use the 2021 WSEC.
4. The BLi program is continuing to support 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!
5. Use the website QR code at the bottom of this piece for more detailed incentive information. Or use the application QR code to apply for your Business Lighting incentives.

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 2021 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 controls projects all require a pre-inspection and a post-inspection to verify the installation of fixtures as well as the controls programming. A second post-inspection may be required to confirm the controls settings if not completed during the first post-inspection.

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 programming 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: 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.



Application: PSE-BusinessLighting.AESC-Inc.com



Website: PSE.com/BusinessLighting



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