2026

DLC

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

This year, the DLC has been deeply engaged in shaping the most significant update to our technical requirements in more than five years. Guided by extensive stakeholder input, our Solid-State Lighting (SSL) V6.0 and Light Usage for Nighttime Applications (LUNA) V2.0 Technical Requirements will take effect in early 2026. As we move toward implementation, our highest priority is supporting energy efficiency programs and manufacturers in adopting these new policies with the greatest possible impact.

A central focus of SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0 is expanding the role of advanced controls as a pathway to meaningful energy savings, reduced operating costs, and enhanced occupant satisfaction. Across North America, efficiency programs are seeking ways to accelerate energy and cost savings for customers, while broadening access to modern solutions. To support this, the DLC will provide resources that help programs integrate new control-focused product categories, including options tailored for small buildings, midstream incentive delivery, and cost-effective LED-to-LED upgrades that incorporate integrated controls. These categories will give programs greater flexibility in designing offerings that deliver verified, persistent savings.

Equally important is data access and performance transparency, which enable energy efficiency programs to verify actual savings and strengthen customer confidence. SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0 emphasize measurable performance and compatibility-based product selection, helping programs incorporate technologies that deliver real-world results. In 2026, the DLC will also update the Networked Lighting Controls (NLC) Technical Requirements, including additions for outdoor lighting and accessories that can unlock deeper savings.

Recognizing that system integration represents one of the greatest opportunities for decarbonizing commercial buildings, the DLC will launch a focused effort in 2026 to help members navigate this emerging landscape. This initiative will highlight how lighting, controls, HVAC, sensors, and other building systems can work together to reduce peak demand, support decarbonization, and deliver optimized whole-building performance. We will provide best practices and coordination strategies to help program administrators incorporate integrated-system pathways into incentive structures and advance deeper energy savings.

The DLC will also continue expanding awareness of LUNA as both an efficiency resource and a tool for reducing light pollution. With nearly 950 (known) North American municipalities having lighting ordinances, opportunities abound to help communities adopt rebate-eligible products that meet environmental and affordability goals.

Across all this work, collective action remains the key to achieving the greatest impact. As 2026 unfolds, we look forward to partnering with you to deliver high-quality, data-driven lighting and integrated solutions that advance energy savings, decarbonization, and sustainability for all.

Christina Halfpenny
Executive Director, CEO
DesignLights Consortium

MISSION

As an independent nonprofit organization, the DesignLights Consortium (DLC) provides decision makers with data and resources on quality lighting, controls, and integrated building systems to reduce energy, carbon, and light pollution.

VISION

We envision a net-zero future where lighting, controls, and integrated building systems enable energy savings, decarbonization, and sustainability for all people and the environment.

VALUES

INTEGRITY: We are dedicated to the work we do and are committed to honesty, transparency, and environmental stewardship.

IMPACT: We hold ourselves accountable for the outcomes of our work and actively pursue opportunities that best support our environmental mission.

COLLABORATION: The input of our stakeholders is paramount. We diligently pursue opportunities for cooperation and comprehensive feedback.

DIVERSITY: We are committed to inclusion, representation, and a voice for all those affected by our work.

SSL V6.0 AND LUNA V2.0

NETWORKED LIGHTING CONTROLS

GOAL

Support market adoption of SSL V6.0 & LUNA V2.0 by implementing the new requirements, strengthening QPL integrity, advancing research to prepare for future revisions, and assisting member program planning.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

ENGAGEMENT AND ADOPTION:

- Host Member meetings and committee sessions to gather information regarding timing, incentive needs, and program updates that support SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0 adoption.
- Facilitate the Member-exclusive Program Planning Working Group to assist with implementing SSL V6.0 and control categories.

PROGRAM SUPPORT:

- Provide guidance to Members for integrating SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0 into rebate and incentive programs.
- Lead regional rollouts, lunch & learns, and direct engagement to support adoption and system integration.
- Deliver targeted marketing, webinars, and technical resources promoting SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0.
- Conduct gap analyses to inform future technical requirement updates that add program value.
- Enhance the 2026 surveillance process to ensure the integrity of SSLV6.0 and LUNA V2.0 listings, collaborating with manufacturers to develop an efficient and transparent approach.

GOAL

Advance connected-lighting adoption by integrating SSL V6.0 control requirements into the NLC QPL, enabling easier efficiency program implementation, and strengthening support for networked lighting systems that deliver whole building savings of over twenty percent through NLC–HVAC integration

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

LARGE BUILDINGS:

- Update and enhance the NLC–HVAC Integration Toolkit guidance with refreshed guidance, templates, and best practices to support program design and implementation for large buildings.

SMALL TO MEDIUM BUILDINGS:

- Develop criteria for LLLC compatible accessories to support integration in small business settings, providing a useful tool for trade ally networks.

NETWORKED LIGHTING CONTROLS REQUIREMENTS V6.0

- Update to add guidance for outdoor controls and promote use of Industry standard for system-configuration reporting, giving efficiency programs greater assurance in proper setup, reliable system performance, and verified energy savings

QPL IMPROVEMENTS:

- QPL updates to better support systems integration through linking NLC and SSL QPLs to clearly show capabilities and compatibility.

HORTICULTURAL LIGHTING

LIGHT USAGE FOR NIGHT APPLICATIONS (LUNA)

GOAL

As Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) markets mature, the DLC will continue to drive innovation and quality assurance by strengthening the QPL's role as the industry benchmark for performance, efficiency, and control integration. We will ensure that Members, growers, and manufacturers benefit from clearer differentiation of high-performance products and guidance for supporting reporting.

GOAL

Through outreach, education, and communication initiatives, the DLC will strengthen its position as a trusted resource for sustainable outdoor lighting. We promote outdoor lighting design that balances energy efficiency, safety, and light-pollution mitigation, while providing utility representatives (and their municipalities) with tools to develop energy-saving programs in their jurisdictions.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

CONTINUE WITH HORT ADVISORY GROUP:

- Collaborate with utilities and energy efficiency programs to gather feedback and plan for future updates

HORTICULTURAL TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS V5.0 DRAFT

- Develop the Horticultural Technical Requirements V5.0 draft to expand adoption by raising efficacy thresholds, exploring a premium classification for greater savings opportunities, and improving crop-type reporting integration

INTEGRATE CONTROLS:

- Investigate opportunities to further integrate and enhance control capabilities.
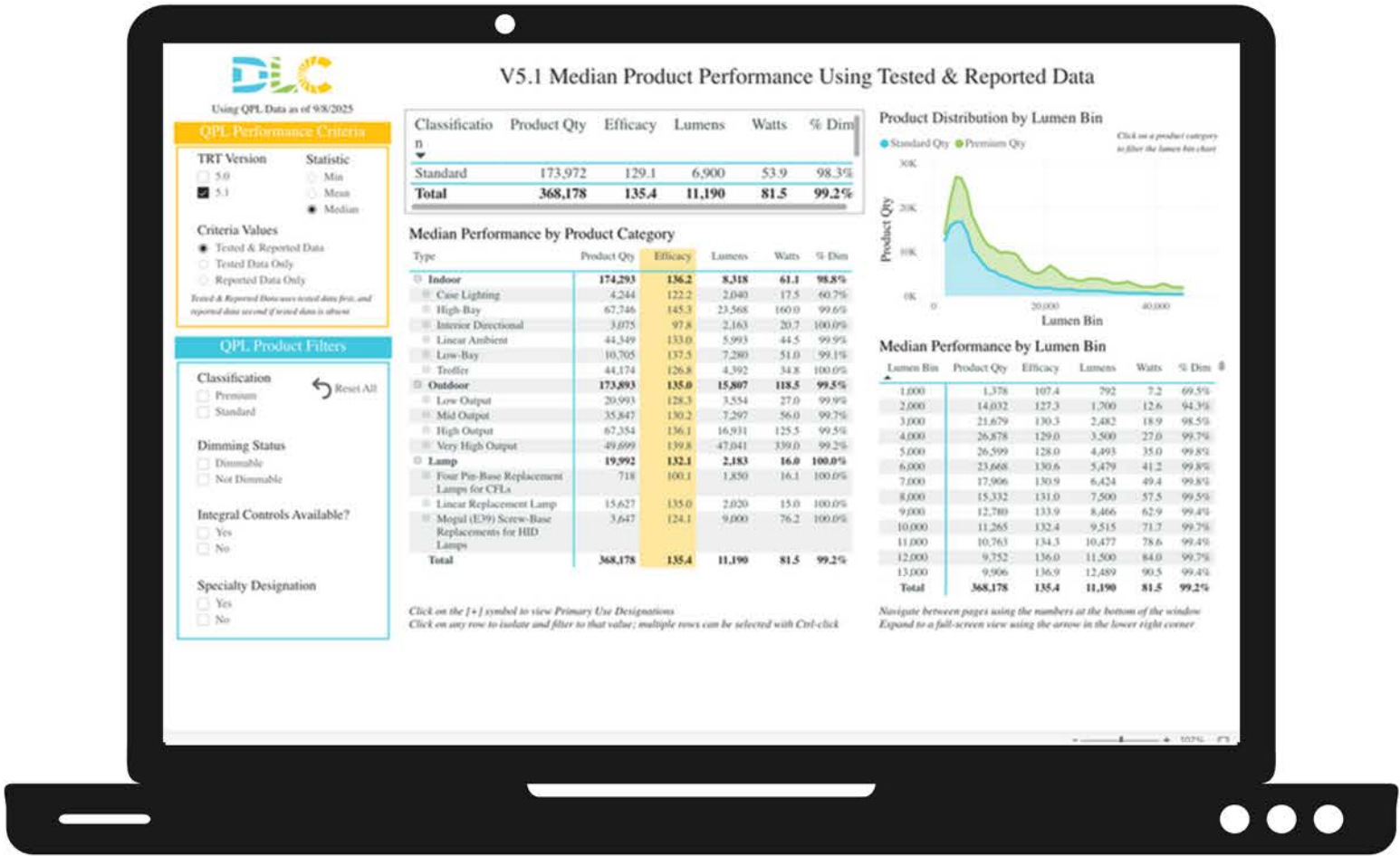
PLANNED ACTIVITIES

DEVELOP AND DELIVER EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR UTILITY MUNICIPAL CUSTOMERS:

- Update the ordinance map to support municipal program awareness and allow municipalities to benchmark and learn from what others are

- Create additional resources tailored to municipal staff, planners, and sustainability officers with LUNA tools to support their ordinance requirements, that utility account representatives can provide to their customers.

CENTRALIZED DATA & QUALIFIED PRODUCTS LISTS

- Unlimited Member access to and downloads of the world's largest verified list of high-performing commercial lighting products.
- **NEW** Enhanced download format with expanded functionality, including control categories and control options fields.
- Free **API connection** for real time data exchange and updates.
- Exclusive first access to Technical Requirements revisions and timely alerts on delisted items.
- Assurance that the products you incentivize are rigorously tested and verified.
- Surveillance and logo compliance programs to protect the integrity of listed products.
- A dedicated team of DLC experts that collaborate with manufacturers, process hundreds of product applications and thousands of listings per month, conduct comprehensive product evaluations, and keep a finger on the pulse of the lighting industry — saving you valuable time and resources.

DATA ANALYSIS TOOLS

- **QPL Analysis Tool:** Provides product data and baseline assumptions for savings calculations.
- **NEW** **QPL Analysis tool** will be updated to help transition to SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0 to support your baseline assumptions and savings calculations
- **QPL Dashboard:** Data on growth trends, efficacy trends, new products, manufacturers, etc.
- **NEW** **LED Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Tool Update**: Supports evaluation of customer economics and utility rebate impacts when replacing early-generation LEDs. Updated efficacy assumptions to align with SSL V6.0.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

RESOURCES

- Access an exclusive **member dashboard** that with important lighting topics to discuss with customers and trade allies, featuring objective technical research, whitepapers, case studies, on-demand webinars and meetings, articles , monthly newsletters, and more.
- **Member-only SSL V6.0 & LUNA 2.0 Transition Hub** with comprehensive information and educational tools to guide the transition.
- Updated **Pathways to Connected Lighting "How-to" guide**: to help member programs create effective strategies for pathways to connected lighting and coaching opportunities.
- **NLC-HVAC integration Toolkit:** to help identify, pursue and implement integration projects
- **TRM best practices research report & workpaper:** to assess TRM prevalence, incorporation of interior NLC/LLLC measures, jurisdictional assumption differences, and provide a template for calculating energy and demand savings for easy integration into existing TRMs.

COMMITTEES & EVENTS

- Participate in DLC committees and working groups, contribute to solution development, shape DLC strategy, and guide new policy direction.
- Bi-monthly Member meetings so you can stay up to date with DLC activities.
- One-on-one meeting opportunities with any DLC staff.
- Waived registration fees for all in-person events, including annual Summits.
- `NEW` **Program Planning Working Group**: Enhanced sessions to support collaborative planning for SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0 implementation and to develop strategies for integrating new controls categories across midstream and downstream programs.

EXPERTISE

- Direct access to technical experts dedicated to engaging with members and stakeholders, gathering valuable insights, and conducting market analysis to shape and enhance current standards and technical requirements.
- The DLC team participates on a wide variety of external industry committees on behalf of our Members.
- `NEW` Provide technical expertise to support the transition to SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0. Deliver assistance through meetings, one-on-one calls, and lunch-and-learn sessions. Support adoption of controls categories for efficiency programs, their customers and trade allies.

NEW TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS SUPPORTING ENERGY SAVINGS, CONTROLS AND OUTDOOR QUALITY

Supporting members with clearer incentive pathways, easier verification, greater savings opportunities and compliant outdoor lighting among other enhancements:

HIGHER EFFICACY

Aprox 14% Higher Minimum Efficacy Thresholds across all categories.

- Enables early replacement programs for existing LED products
- Support deeper savings when introduce tiered incentives

CONTROL CAPABILITIES UPGRADE

Expanded dimming, control options & reporting framework

- Enables easier incentive verification
- Supports advance controls for incentive tiers
- Streamlines evaluation and verification processes

BROADER PRODUCT ELIGIBILITY

Expanded product categories in SSL V6.0

- Low-CCT + Amber LED
- Solar-powered luminaires
- Medium screw-base HID replacements
- Turtle-friendly lighting

NEW CONTROL CATEGORIES

Clear control categories listed on the QPL

- Supports tiered incentive design
- Structured alignment with TRM Control savings
- Simplifies program evaluation

STREAMLINED QPL VERIFICATION

Enhanced documentation & review features.

- Reduces review time + QA burden
- Includes model images
- Includes Spec sheets
- Includes control options tables

OUTDOOR COMPLIANCE + LUNA ENHANCEMENTS

More tools for responsible outdoor lighting

- Non-white Light (NWL) + Amber LED options
- Screw-base lamps and retrofit options
- Helps meet dark-sky + ordinance requirements

NETWORKED LIGHTING CONTROLS

RELEASED PATHWAYS TO CONNECTED LIGHTING:

- Release "How to Guide" to help Energy Efficiency Programs meet target savings goals with NLC & HVAC Integration with lighting controls
- 19 Utility Members completed assessment

RELEASED NLC-HVAC INTEGRATION TOOLKIT

- Tool that supports connected lighting implementation between NLC and HVAC projects
- 800+ downloads of this resource in 2025

ANSI/NEMA C137.9

- Standardizes reporting requierments for lighting controls and energy monitoring data from NLC systems
- Supports measured savings
- Enables scalable incentive designs

LUNA AND LIGHT POLLUTION MITIGATION

- Updated the LUNA Technical Requirements
- Expanded LUNA QPL to better serve municipal customers
- Included new eligibility pathways for non-whilte light sources

HORTICULTURAL LIGHTING PROGRAM

- Released Hort V4.0 Final Requirement
- Increased the Photosynthetic Photon Efficacy (PPE) Threshold
- Supported programs with standardized performance data

368k+
SSL V5.1 PRODUCTS QUALIFIED

37%
NLC SYSTEMS GROWTH

1,000+
HORT V4.0 PRODUCTS QUALIFIED

8%
INCREASE IN LUNA PRODUCTS LISTED
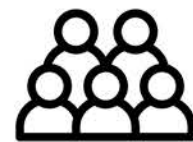
PROGRAM PLANNING WORKING GROUP

- Engaged 23 utility representatives across 19 members in 25 states
- Provided a dedicated collaboration platform for planning & implementation alignment
- Facilitated 7 focused sessions that produced actionable strategies and best practices on participant-identified priorities

EXTERNAL COMMITTEES PARTICIPATION

- Active representation across 15 major standards & advisory committees
- Including IES, ASABE, NEMA, RII, Smart EPD, NCQLP & USFW

EVENTS & OUTREACH

Presentations at:
- AHR Expo: HVAC + Lighting integration for improved occupancy & savings
- NFMT: HVAC energy savings via integrated lighting controls
- LightFair / DLC / IES: Controllable amber & low-CCT outdoor lighting

WEBINAR SERIES PERFORMANCE

- 18 webinars delivered across key focus areas
- 3,500+ registrations from members & stakeholders
- 850 on-demand views following live sessions

DLC Membership not only grants you access to valuable resources and programs, but also offers substantial savings. Membership fees are essential in supporting the DLC's operations, including advancing the SSL, Hort, NLC, and LUNA programs; maintaining and updating all three Qualified Products Lists; and developing technical resources to enhance commercial lighting rebate programs. These contributions help streamline the administration of rebate programs, saving you valuable time, money, and resources. The estimated values represent work that is required to sustain the QPL and its associated resources, and if developed and maintained independently, would require significant investment.

With DLC membership, you gain access to these comprehensive resources, collectively funded and maintained for the benefit of all members, empowering you to focus on efficient program administration without the financial and operational burden of developing these tools independently.

DLC Tools, Resources, and Member Services Provided	Estimated Annual Value
Development of and updates to Technical Requirements	$1,000,000
Independent product performance evaluation of SSL, NLC, Hort, and LUNA product applications	$3,600,000
Ongoing maintenance of the DLC's SSL, NLC, and Hort QPLs	$300,000
Unlimited QPL download access and API access to full SSL product data	$10,000
Exclusive tools and resources developed to support member programs	$100,000
TOTAL ESTIMATED VALUE OF SERVICES	**$5,000,000+**

MEMBERSHIP FEE STRUCTURE

DLC membership fees are calculated with affordability and fairness in mind, ensuring that all members, regardless of budget size, can access our comprehensive range of resources. The full membership fee is calculated at a rate of **$0.50 per $1,000** of the Commercial & Industrial (C&I) budget, with a maximum cap of **$50,000 per program or organization**.

- **Individual Utility Energy Efficiency Programs:** The $50,000 maximum fee cap applies to individual programs or organization, ensuring cost-effective access to DLC resources.
- **Regional Organizations with Multiple Programs:** Fees for regional organizations representing multiple energy efficiency programs are calculated per program or reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The structure ensures that all members benefit from cost effective access to critical tools and resources without exceeding budget limitations enabling you to leverage DLC's robust support for commercial lighting rebate programs affordably.

JOIN US

1 Point of Contact
Choose one main point of contact for your program.

2 Complete the Form
Submit the DLC Member Commitment Form + your commercial & industrial budget.

3 Invite Your Team
Have your lighting program staff create MyDLC accounts to access updates, tools, and member opportunities.

Have questions on any of the 2025 program plans or membership information? Contact Karla Winter at kwinter@designlights.org.