

A low-angle, nighttime photograph of a modern skyscraper with a glass facade. The building's interior lights are on, and the glass reflects the surrounding environment. A yellow semi-transparent banner is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Annual
Report

20
25

DESIGNLIGHTS CONSORTIUM





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ch Halfpenny". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Christina Halfpenny
Executive Director, CEO
DesignLights Consortium

Collaboration remained at the heart of the DesignLights Consortium's (DLC) work throughout 2025. As a consortium, the DLC engaged a broad cross-section of lighting industry stakeholders whose expertise, perspectives, and feedback strengthened our programs and advanced our shared vision of a net-zero future. Together, we continue to demonstrate how high-performance lighting, controls, and integrated building systems can accelerate energy savings, decarbonization, and environmental sustainability.

This commitment to collaboration was most evident in the first major update to the DLC's Solid-State Lighting (SSL) Technical Requirements in five years. Released in November, SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0 incorporated nearly 1,400 comments from more than 50 organizations across two public comment periods. The DLC also unified the SSL and Light Usage for Night Applications (LUNA) requirements into a single specification, creating a more integrated framework that supports electrification, optimized building performance, reduced light pollution, and long-term sustainability outcomes.

The DLC continued to position lighting controls as a key strategy for achieving energy savings beyond the significant gains already delivered by LED technology. While LEDs reduce lighting energy use by 50–75% compared to legacy systems, integrating networked lighting controls with HVAC systems can further improve efficiency, reduce operating costs, and lower carbon emissions. To help accelerate adoption, the DLC released its NLC-HVAC Integration Toolkit, which was downloaded more than 800 times in its first year.

In 2025, Efficiency Forward also launched the Electric Vehicle Charging Accessibility Network (EVCAN), extending its collaborative consortium model to transportation electrification. EVCAN brings together utilities, industry, and program administrators to accelerate deployment of reliable, interoperable EV charging infrastructure. We thank our members, board, and industry partners for advancing practical solutions that reduce energy use, lower emissions, and create a more sustainable future.

OUR VALUES

OUR 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.

OUR 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.

INTEGRITY

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

COLLABORATION

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

IMPACT

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

DIVERSITY

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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And Leadership Board
Service & Advisory Expertise



ALECIA WARD

Leader of Program and
Business Development
LBNL



KAREN ZELMAR

Clean Energy Executive

In 2025, the DLC Board of Directors provided strategic oversight and guidance as the organization advanced major technical initiatives, expanded industry collaboration, and strengthened its role as a trusted resource for energy efficiency programs across North America. The Board supported investments in innovation, stakeholder engagement, and long-term organizational growth while advancing the DLC's mission to reduce energy use, carbon emissions, and light pollution.

THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS



723

Utilities, efficiency programs, and cities supported across North America through DLC qualified product programs.

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DLC WELCOMED 2 NEW MEMBERS:
PSEG New Jersey
Guam Power Authority

DLC COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- DLC Member representatives advise on the development of Technical Requirements, supporting policies, and resources for LED lighting and networked lighting controls—the primary advisory body for SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0.

PROGRAM PLANNING WORKING GROUP

- In 2025, this group engaged 23 utility representatives across 19 members in 25 states. It facilitated 7 focused sessions producing actionable strategies and best practices on SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0 implementation.

SYSTEMS INTEGRATION WORKING GROUP

- Brings together controls manufacturers, energy efficiency professionals, researchers, and systems integrators. This group was central to completing the NLC-HVAC Integration Toolkit, released in early 2025.

HORT WORKING GROUP

- Supports the DLC's mission and strategic direction for controlled environment agriculture (CEA) through education, collaboration, and technical expertise—contributing to a new version of our Horticultural Lighting Technical Requirements.

HORT LIGHTING CONTROLS WORKING GROUP

- Horticultural industry representatives advise on integrating controls best practices into the Hort program, accelerating the CEA industry's transition to optimized energy and production practices.

LUNA ADVISORY GROUP

- Provides perspectives and recommendations for outdoor lighting criteria on the DLC QPL, directly informing the development and finalization of LUNA V2.0 Technical Requirements in 2025.

REDI COMMITTEE

- The Internal Representation, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Committee delivered quarterly newsletters, virtual events, and cultural programming throughout 2025, fostering inclusive staff engagement and professional development.



WORKING WITH INDUSTRY EXPERTS

INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Small Manufacturers

- Daniel Katz, LC, Eiko Global
- Daniel Kroenke, Illumus
- Corinne Wilder, Fluence

Medium Manufacturers

- Dan Wang-Munson, RAB Lighting

Top 5 Manufacturers by QPL

- Michael S. O'Boyle, Signify
- Mark Hand, Acuity Brands
- Jon Vollers, Cree Lighting
- Bob Smith, Cooper Lighting
- Jeremy Yon, Current by GE

Lighting Controls Manufacturers

- Michael Davidson, Synapse Wireless
- Stephen Irving, Lutron Electronics
- Eric Miller, Avi-on Labs

Distributors

- Marc Hodges, Sonepar USA
- Bernie Erickson, FSG

The DLC team continues to contribute to the development of industry standards and best practices through participation in external committees and working groups:

- IES Testing Procedures Committee
- IES Lighting Control Systems Committee
- IES Horticultural Lighting Committee
- IES Color Committee
- IES Computer Committee
- IES Illumination Awards Committee
- ASABE Energy Systems 310 Ag Lighting Group
- ANSI/NEMA C137 Lighting Systems Committee
- ANSI/NEMA C136 Roadway and Area Lighting Equipment Committee
- ANSI/NEMA C78 Standards Committee on Electric Lamps
- RII Technical Advisory Council
- RII CEA Accelerator Technical Advisory Council
- Smart EPD Luminaires PCR Committee

METRICS FOR THE MISSION

125

PROGRAMS REQUIRE DLC
NLC QUALIFICATION

13,893

TOTAL MYDLC USERS

4

NEW MEMBER TOOLS

18

WEBINARS DELIVERED

1,000+

HORT V4.0
PRODUCTS QUALIFIED

3,500+

WEBINAR REGISTRATIONS

2025 was defined by delivery and collaboration. The DLC released its most significant technical policy update in five years, launched free integration resources downloaded by hundreds of industry professionals, revised horticultural requirements, and supported 723 utilities, efficiency programs, and cities across North America by qualifying products for rebate and incentive programs.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



SSL V6.0 & LUNA V2.0

After extensive stakeholder engagement beginning in 2024, the DLC released SSL V6.0 & LUNA V2.0 Technical Requirements in 2025, with an effective date of January 2026.

Key release highlights:

- ~14% higher minimum efficacy thresholds across all categories, enabling deeper savings and tiered incentive structures
- Expanded product eligibility: Low-CCT + Amber LED, solar-powered luminaires, medium screw-base HID replacements, and turtle-friendly lighting
- New control categories listed on the QPL with structured alignment to TRM control savings methodologies
- Streamlined QPL verification: model images, spec sheets, and control options tables reduce review time and QA burden
- LUNA V2.0: non-white light (NWL) + Amber LED options, screw-base lamps and retrofit options, tools to support dark-sky and ordinance compliance
- Program Planning Working Group facilitated 7 sessions with 23 utility reps across 19 members in 25 states to build implementation readiness

HORTICULTURAL LIGHTING

- Hort V4.0 Final Requirements released, with increased Photosynthetic Photon Efficacy (PPE) threshold
- QPL grew to 1,000+ qualified Hort products from 90 manufacturers
- Quarterly articles in Greenhouse Grower spotlighted controlled environment agriculture technology applications
- Supported efficiency programs with standardized performance data

NETWORKED LIGHTING CONTROLS

- 125 energy efficiency programs across North America require DLC NLC Qualification for incentives
- Released the NLC-HVAC Integration Toolkit, a hands-on guide supporting connected lighting implementation between NLC and HVAC projects, with 800+ downloads
- Released Pathways to Connected Lighting, a guide helping energy efficiency programs meet savings goals through NLC and HVAC integration with lighting controls
- 19 utility members completed the connected lighting assessment
- ANSI/NEMA C137.9 standardizes reporting requirements for NLC systems, supporting measured savings and scalable incentive designs

LIGHT USAGE FOR NIGHT APPLICATIONS (LUNA)

- Updated LUNA Technical Requirements and expanded QPL to better serve municipal customers
- Partner on a grant to study the effects of Artificial Light at Night on seabirds in Hawaii
- Updated the interactive lighting ordinance map to support municipal program awareness and benchmarking, with nearly 950 known North American municipalities now pursuing lighting ordinances
- Presentations at US Fish and Wildlife, Canada Light Expo, International Sea Turtle Society Symposium, IES Street & Area Lighting Conference, and LEDucation

MEMBER TOOLS RELEASED IN 2025

- Pathways to Connected Lighting: Member exclusive playbook with real world strategies for scaling NLC adoption through utility programs
- NLC-HVAC Integration Toolkit: Practical guide for connecting lighting controls with HVAC systems for whole-building savings
- TRM Best Practices Research Report: Assesses TRM prevalence and NLC measure incorporation across jurisdictions
- TRM Workpaper: Provides a template for calculating energy and demand savings for easy integration into existing TRMs



EVCAN launched publicly in 2025, bringing independent performance verification to EV charging infrastructure across North America—giving utilities, program administrators, and fleet managers a trusted, comparable source of data on Charge Station Management Systems.



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FOUNDING
UTILITIES

181

SUBSCRIBERS

2025 MILESTONES

EVCAN.ORG LAUNCHED

Public debut of the EVCAN website, establishing a home for the QPL, Technical Specification, and stakeholder resources.

1ST CSMS TECHNICAL SPECIFICATION PUBLISHED

Established clear performance standards for interoperability, reliability, energy management, and data reporting for Charge Station Management Systems.

QUALIFIED PRODUCTS LIST (QPL) LAUNCHED

A trusted, comparable dataset of charging networks conforming to the EVCAN Technical Specification—giving utilities a reliable resource for program design.

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS & FIRST UTILITY ROUNDTABLE

Convened stakeholders to surface key market barriers around interoperability and data transparency—laying the groundwork for a consensus-based framework.

FOUNDED UTILITY CONSORTIUM — 6 MEMBERS

Six North American utilities joined as founding consortium members to collaborate on managed charging program design, uptime standards, and vendor accountability.

OPEN CHARGE ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP

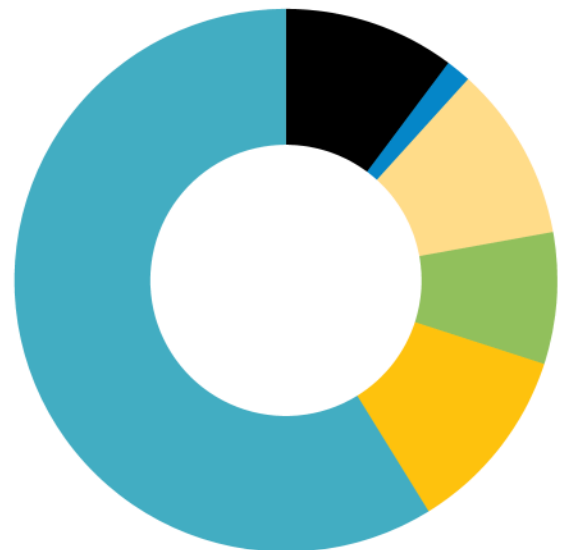
Formal partnership aligns EVCAN's QPL with OCPP certification, the global standard for EV charging communication, increasing international legitimacy and reach.

181 SUBSCRIBERS REACHED

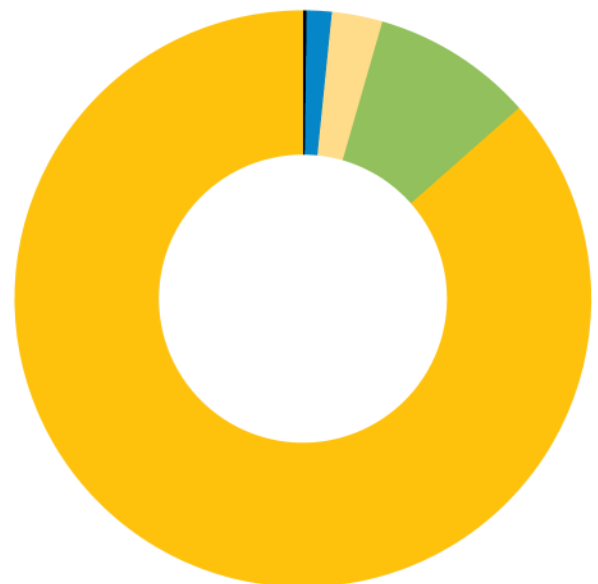
Grew an engaged audience of utilities, OEMs, government agencies, researchers, and charging network providers through targeted communications and meaningful content.

FINANCIALS

Revenue	Amount
Surveillance Testing	\$13,300.00
Training & Data Subscriptions	\$86,570.37
Other	\$175,854.93
Membership Fees	\$560,071.12
DLC QPLs	\$5,355,910.03
Total	\$6,191,706.45



Expenses	Amount
Other Programs	\$681,555.87
Surveillance Testing	\$99,818.94
Outreach & Engagement	\$696,145.42
Information Technology	\$522,803.46
General & Administrative	\$747,547.67
Application Review & QPLs	\$3,922,697.59
Total	\$6,670,568.95



LOOKING AHEAD



2025 was an impactful year, as the DLC staff developed and implemented revised QPL specifications, produced new technical tools, and undertook other initiatives in collaboration with our stakeholders. Throughout the year, we also had our eyes on the horizon, looking ahead to 2026 for opportunities to amplify our 2025 achievements. In 2026, the DLC is taking what was begun last year to the next level, not only through updated technical requirements but also by implementing new program designs and pursuing additional avenues to save energy through efficient lighting, controls, and systems integration.

Completing significant revisions to our SSL and LUNA technical requirements and merging the two under one policy framework comprised the signature achievement of 2025 and the DLC will prioritize the smooth implementation of SSL V6.0 and LUNA V2.0 throughout 2026. Continuing our emphasis on collaboration and engagement, the DLC in 2026 will double down on meetings and other opportunities to engage DLC members, manufacturers, and other stakeholders as we explore ways to enhance and support adoption of these forward-looking specifications.

Meanwhile, as we integrate our new SSL control requirements more closely with the NLC QPL, we'll also roll out updated NLC technical requirements in 2026. Among other provisions, NLC V5.2 is expected to facilitate the process of selecting interoperable DLC-listed lighting and control products and promote standardized system configuration to support savings verification. Look also for the DLC to continue to hone the Horticultural Lighting technical requirements, ensuring that our Hort QPL remains a meaningful benchmark for the CEA industry.

On these and many other fronts, the DLC is committed to being a trusted resource and thoughtful partner for our members and all segments of the commercial lighting industry. We're looking forward to working together toward a bright future in the months ahead.



THANK YOU



 **CONTACT**
781-538-6425

 **E-MAIL**
info@designlights.org

 **ADDRESS**
10 High Street, Suite 10,
Medford, MA 02155