



FACT SHEET

DLC Lighting: What it is, how it works

The DTE Energy Efficiency Program for Business accepts **only** DLC-listed equipment for Prescriptive and Custom lighting projects — but **may** accept non-DLC-listed equipment for incentives only if certain conditions are met (see below).

About DLC

DLC stands for the DesignLights Consortium[®], a non-profit organization founded in 1996 and dedicated to accelerating the widespread adoption of high-performing, energy-efficient commercial lighting solutions by establishing product quality specifications.

Why use DLC-listed measures?

DTE established DLC-listed lights as the new standard because they meet higher validated energy efficiency standards than other equivalent lighting. Also, the DLC provides a reliable base from which the DTE program can calculate energy savings.

Products found on the DLC website's QPL (Qualified Products List) have been tested at a DLC-approved laboratory and comply with specified minimum standards in three areas: distribution, color and longevity/stress.

How DLC works in the Program

DLC-listed LED lighting is required for all Prescriptive and Custom projects, which means that to apply for those incentives, you must:

1. Check the measure's eligibility by visiting the DLC website at: www.designlights.org.
2. Enter the DLC Product ID on your Application.
3. Attach specification sheets to your Application.

Using Non-DLC Lighting

Non-DLC-listed lighting equipment used in an Application applying for incentives **may** qualify for those incentives if:

1. The product does not fall into a **category** listed on the DLC website
2. The Program Team determines that the product meets DLC performance criteria.

To have such equipment considered for incentives, the applicant must submit a Reservation Application and complete and attach a **Non-DLC Category Product Approval Form** along with other documentation for evaluation by program engineers.

Other conditions and exclusions apply; see the [Policies and Procedures Manual](#) for more information.

The screenshot shows the DesignLights Consortium website interface. At the top, there are navigation links for 'Solid State Lighting', 'Lighting Controls', and 'News & Events'. The main heading reads 'Bringing efficiency to light.' Below this, a search bar indicates 'Search over 262,655 qualified lighting products.' and includes a search input field and an 'Advanced Search' button. A section titled 'Expertise trusted by:' features logos for BGE, ComEd, Cape Light Compact, DUKE ENERGY, DTE Energy, and DP&L. At the bottom, it directs users to visit the DesignLights Consortium website at www.designlights.org and to find a product listed by DLC at www.designlights.org/QPL.

DLC vs. ENERGY STAR[®]

In today's marketplace, some energy-efficient light bulbs are identified as ENERGY STAR[®] products while others have the DLC label. Not surprisingly, buyers can get confused by the two — and wonder why some lights have the stamp of approval from one group but seemingly not the other. Here's why:

About DLC[®]

The DesignLights Consortium (DLC) is a part of the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP), a regional group founded in 1996 that concentrates specifically on energy efficiency in the lighting industry.

The goal of the DLC is to promote energy efficient lighting in the building sector by influencing public policy and spreading strategies and education.

About ENERGY STAR[®]

ENERGY STAR[®] was launched by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1992, and uses labeling to help consumers save money and choose products that are safer for the environment.

Manufacturers can choose whether or not they want to participate and earn the ENERGY STAR[®] label. Products are tested in EPA-certified third-party laboratories.

DLC and ENERGY STAR[®]

The main difference? ENERGY STAR[®] rates **residential** products and DLC rates **commercial** products — which means you will never see both labels on the same light bulb.

Because there is occasional crossover between commercial and residential lighting, ENERGY STAR[®] has the right to claim jurisdiction over a particular product. As a result, if ENERGY STAR[®] decides to cover a certain light category, the DLC must drop it — even if it was already rating it.

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**Funds will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis; program based on availability of funding and may end at any time; certain other conditions apply; contact office for details.*