Efficacy Summary from the 2022 DLC Summit

What was Discussed

Historically, the DLC has increased product efficacy thresholds with each major revision of its SSL Technical Requirements and is considering increasing product-level efficacy thresholds again for DLC6. At the DLC summit, stakeholders discussed the benefits and drawbacks of increasing efficacy thresholds, as well the potential impacts of a staggered efficacy increase throughout the effective period of DLC6, as opposed to a constant threshold. Stakeholders also discussed ideas for how DLC could incorporate application efficacy topics into future policy and the potential for inclusion in DLC6.

High-level key Takeaways

During the efficacy discussion, many benefits and challenges associated with raising efficacy were identified. Manufacturers worry about the burden on the supply chain, and there was concern over technical requirements that compete for resources in product design, such as efficacy, control, and glare. Energy Efficiency programs are concerned that cost increases may hurt the effectiveness of their programs if it pushes customers toward cheaper, low-efficacy products. There were suggestions that efficacy will naturally increase over time due to market pressures and that a better approach to the end-goal of energy savings would be through other avenues such as controls and increased quality of components for longer-life.

There was consensus that one year is too short a cycle for efficacy requirement increases due to the development costs associated for manufacturers and administrative costs for programs. Manufacturers would like better communication from the DLC about future efficacy increases and timelines. Programs reported the feeling that shorter cycles would reduce ROI due to the associated costs of updating the programs and potential confusion in the marketplace.

There was a prevailing view that application efficacy would be complicated for the DLC to take on, and it would likely require the DLC to broaden its scope beyond luminaires, as well as re-think PUDs. While there are benefits to promoting application efficacy, more research, outreach, and education need to be done.

Next Steps

1. Further outreach will be conducted to determine how increasing efficacy thresholds will impact stakeholders, and which other luminaire/lamp qualities may be impacted.
2. The DLC will consider the feedback and decide whether to increase efficacy with a new set of thresholds for DLC6.
3. DLC will continue to conduct research on luminaire application efficacy.