

ASE Energy Efficiency Nomination: National Lighting Product Information Program (NLPIP)

Established by the Lighting Research Center in 1990, the **National Lighting Product Information Program** (NLPIP) has helped lighting professionals, demand-side management providers, contractors, designers, building managers, homeowners, and other consumers find and effectively use efficient, quality products that meet their lighting needs. Recognizing the need for timely, unbiased information on energy-efficient lighting products, NLPIP was launched with the support of government agencies, electric utilities, and public benefit organizations, disseminating manufacturer-specific testing results among consumers and lighting decision-makers worldwide.

NLPIP's mission is to rapidly and objectively provide the best information available on efficient lighting products. To date, over one million copies of more than 50 NLPIP publications have been distributed or downloaded via the World Wide Web in an easy to use format. Once referred to as "the *Consumer Reports* of lighting," NLPIP was the first outside agency to supply data to the Consumers Union for its report on compact fluorescent lamps.

NLPIP has been a major force in transforming the market and upgrading the quality, reliability, and energy-efficiency of lighting products, and is the only program of its type dedicated to providing manufacturer specific lighting product evaluation results in an easy-to-use format.

NLPIP's research data has dramatically improved the quality and efficiency of lighting such as screw-base CFLs, exit signs, occupancy sensors, photosensors, T5 and T8 lamps, and electronic ballasts. NLPIP was the first to life-test CFLs in various operating positions both within and outside light fixtures, reporting results that led to better quality CFLs. NLPIP's testing of energy-efficient exit signs led to revised ENERGY STAR[®] standards for these devices and high levels of market penetration. Separating truth from fiction regarding lighting technologies has also been achieved through product testing and information dissemination. NLPIP has provided verifiable, research-based data on full spectrum lighting, specular reflectors, lighting power reducers, and polarized lighting to allow lighting efficiency decision makers to make informed decisions.

The LRC and others have conducted evaluation studies that document the positive impact of NLPIP on the lighting market; without it, specifiers and customers would have to rely on hearsay and manufacturers' literature for information. NLPIP accepts no funding from manufacturers.

Currently, NLPIP is embarking on a new focus and testing regimen called SSL FACTS. This new initiative is designed to respond rapidly to the evolving nature of the solid-state lighting market. NLPIP is working with program sponsors to identify new LED lighting products as they enter the market. As products are identified, they will be selected, purchased, and tested using appropriate statistical sampling methods.

Although NLPIP is not an "energy-saving program," it is an objective, third-party resource providing factual information necessary for those interested in saving energy through efficient lighting. The information provided by the program helps to verify product performance compared to manufacturer claims. Based on the reported results, consumers can make informed decisions and better predict energy savings.