Standards for Energy Efficient Outdoor Lighting

The Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) provides the following statement regarding the limitation of technology used in Outdoor Lighting. While the IES applauds the move toward energy efficiency, the Society believes that technology independent approaches are the best way to provide energy reductions and stimulate future energy savings.

- The IES strongly urges the US Department of Energy to work with energy and lighting organizations such as the IES, ASHRAE, IALD, IDA, in a true consensus manner to return an effective design-based recommendation that has defensible research as its base.
- The outdoor lighting limits in ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2007 should become the basis for outdoor lighting energy policy since these have been demonstrated, since the 2004 version of Standard 90.1, to be the best method for reducing outdoor lighting power and curbing light pollution.
- The use of lighting controls, which has proved to be the biggest energy efficiency measure employed, should be the mainstay of energy policy.
- There should be no minimum performance limits set on light sources and luminaires but correct measures in design and control should be utilized instead.
- The use of a lumen per watt rating for luminaires is not endorsed by the IES and does not necessarily achieve the goals of energy reduction while maintaining a high quality lighted environment. The use of an energy standard to control lighting system efficiency is far more effective and will allow a designer to implement the requirements of the design without limitations on technology.

The lighting industry, in concert with associated organizations involved in energy use has, in a consensus manner since the 1970’s, consistently developed new and emerging technologies to mitigate energy consumption while meeting the needs of the public, government, and industry. Technologies such as compact fluorescent lamps, ceramic metal halide, T8 and T5 fluorescent lamps, electronic ballasts, as well as light emitting diodes (LEDs), have allowed greater flexibility in the options available to reduce energy consumption and maintenance requirements. In addition, the industry has provided a significant choice of luminaires and lighting controls that are both efficient and effective with more technologies on the horizon. The driving force has been a design-based energy policy, which the IES whole-heartedly endorses, not technology limitations.

About the Illuminating Engineering Society
The IES is a collegial community dedicated to improving the lighted environment. The IES is composed of a diverse membership, all with an interest in and a dedication to good lighting. 25% of the membership is involved in manufacturing (lamps, sources, luminaires, accessories); another 25% is composed of lighting designers and architects. The remaining 50% is composed of consultants, electrical and building contractors, distributors, and wholesalers, individuals working in affiliated lighting fields, those working for utilities and energy services, and people in government and education. Over one thousand of these members serve on committees, most serving on the Society’s document development committees; these committees develop standards, design guides, technical memoranda, lighting energy management materials, guidelines and lighting measurement, testing and calculation guides.

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