

How do LED utility credits work for carwash businesses? Does the process change based on location?

In most areas, financial incentive programs are available to car wash owners who wish to upgrade to DLC-qualified energy efficient LED lighting. These incentives vary by state and utility provider, so begin by identifying the programs in your area. One of the best methods is to use the DSIRE website - an online database of energy efficiency incentives, listed by state and utility provider (www.dsireusa.org).

Follow this process to determine the lighting incentives available in your area:

1. Navigate to the DSIRE website (www.dsireusa.org)
2. Click the "Search DSIRE" button near the middle of the page
3. Under "Select an Eligible Sector:" choose "Commercial/Industrial"
4. Select your state/territory
5. Under "Select a Technology:" choose "Lighting"
6. Click to search

There are two categories we are interested in: "State Rebate Program" and "Utility Rebate Program". Hopefully programs appear underneath one or both of these titles. Every program is different - so you'll want to do some research on your options at this point. One of the most efficient ways to do this is to navigate to "Contact" section within the program page and give the administrators a call. You may also browse program the program's website and download the incentive application forms.

Do credits apply to: 1) LED installation in existing fixtures? 2) Complete fixture replacement? Or both situations?

To qualify for incentives, LED lighting equipment must be listed on the DesignLights Consortium (DLC) Qualified Product List (QPL). Most programs also require that equipment is UL Listed. Verify that the products that you are considering are both DLC and UL Listed. This will ensure you are using quality product that is safe to use and will qualify for incentives.

What are some other ways to offset an initial investment in LED lighting?

State and utility rebates are the most common way to offset the initial investment of LED lighting. In some cases, financing may be offered though the utility or the seller.

What areas of a carwash can be converted to LED? Are there certain areas that carwash owners typically want to convert first?

Typically, owners want to convert their bays and tunnels first. This is the area where the customer spends the most amount of time and is also where the majority of the electricity is used. When switching from metal halide fixtures, operators can save 70% after upgrading to LED.

What traits make LED lighting a great fit for carwashes and detail shops?

LED lighting creates a higher quality of light than traditional lighting sources. This makes colors pop and cars look great, all while saving energy and money. Many LED lighting systems will also brighten your bay, making them more inviting and pleasing to customers.

What types of building upgrades can be needed for LED installation?

LED lighting consumes a fraction of the energy of traditional lighting sources, so upgrading electrical circuits is not necessary. Additionally, many quality LED lighting drivers will accept 90-277VAC, so they may be directly connected to your existing lighting circuit, without any changes.

G&G LED has been focused on the car wash industry since it's inception, and is here to help you identify and navigate your incentive options. Please feel free to call us at (800) 285-6780 for assistance.