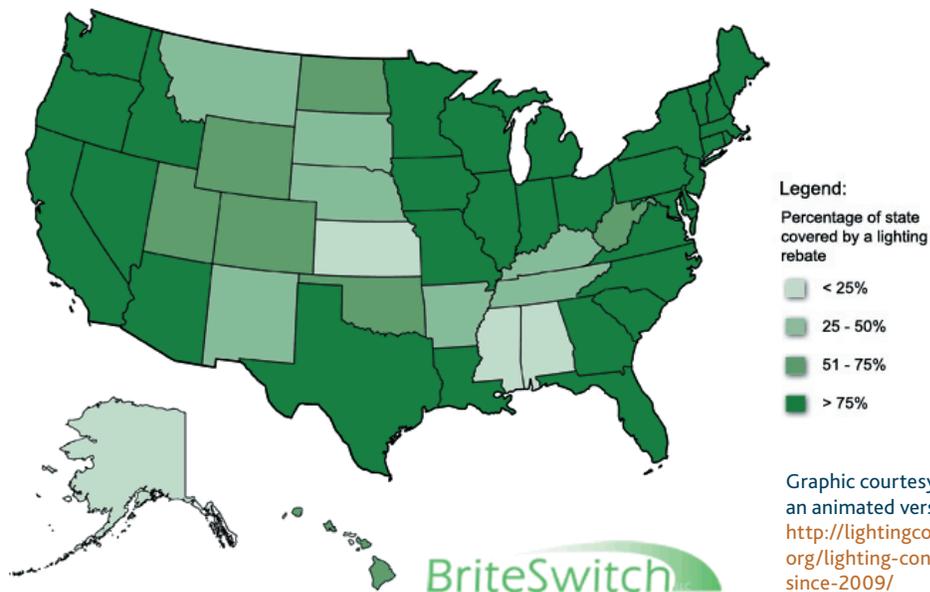


## Lighting Control Rebates Triple

Power utilities throughout the United States are facing increasing demand and limited ability to expand production. In addition, many state regulatory agencies are requiring utilities to reduce demand. Whether because of their own limited capacity, or because of regulatory oversight, an increasing number of utility companies are offering incentives and rebates to use energy more efficiently. This ALG Connections piece highlights a timely article from the Lighting Controls Association about the growth in lighting control rebates since 2009. A link to the full article is provided at the end of this article.

Utility and regional energy efficiency organization rebates and incentives have been a major driver in demand for energy-efficient lighting and controls since the early 1990s. Today, \$6.8 billion in commercial lighting rebates and other incentives are offered by utilities and energy efficiency organizations. This is a 26% increase over 2010 (\$5.4 billion), and a 55% increase over 2009 (\$4.4 billion).

The map below reveals the strong growth in rebate coverage in the United States since 2009:



Lighting has always played a strong role in utility rebates and incentives. The number of rebate programs available for lighting controls has almost tripled since 2009, covering occupancy and vacancy sensors, photosensors, daylight dimming systems and automatic time-based controls.

Rebates and other incentives covering lighting controls are available in 47 out of the 50 states. The specific types of controls that qualify for rebates vary by program. The most popular control rebate is for occupancy sensors.

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Out of all the control rebates and incentives available, 50% are for remote-mounted occupancy sensors, followed by wallbox occupancy sensors with 23% and fixture-mounted with 14%.

Average rebates for these and other control solutions is shown in the below table. Rebates are typically either a set dollar amount per type of control, as shown, or per connected watt.

Table. Lighting control rebate and incentive programs in 2012.

Source: BriteSwitch, LLC National Rebate and Incentive Database, March 2012.

Control Technology	Average Rebate	
	Retrofit	New Construction
Remote Mounted Occupancy Sensors	\$34	\$26
Wall-box Occupancy Sensors	\$23	\$16
Photocells	\$23	\$21
Fixture Mounted Occupancy Sensors	\$20	\$28
Daylight Dimming Systems	\$46	\$41

Rebates and incentives can cover a significant portion of the cost of the controls, and when part of a larger lighting retrofit, can amount to a significant reduction in cost.

Rebates for lighting controls can be more flexible than rebates for lighting products. That said, programs may have a requirement on how many watts or fixtures are controlled by a certain control. Programs may also have restrictions on where sensors can be used, and often do not provide rebates if installed in areas not recommended by local building codes and IES guidelines. Organizations applying for rebates should take care to carefully examine program requirements such as design specifics, pre-approval requirements, inspections, expiration dates, and rebate minimums.

Incentive programs are regularly changing in order to reflect technological advancements and new energy efficiency program requirements. The best source for information on the latest incentive programs is the individual utilities and energy efficiency organizations themselves. There are also independent organizations that track incentives, and provide resources for customers, such as the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE), sponsored by the US Department of Energy, the North Carolina Solar Center, and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council.

For more details on the growth of lighting control rebates, read the full article written by ALG author Craig DiLouie, published April 2012 by the Lighting Controls Association.

<http://lightingcontrolsassociation.org/lighting-control-rebates-triple-since-2009/>