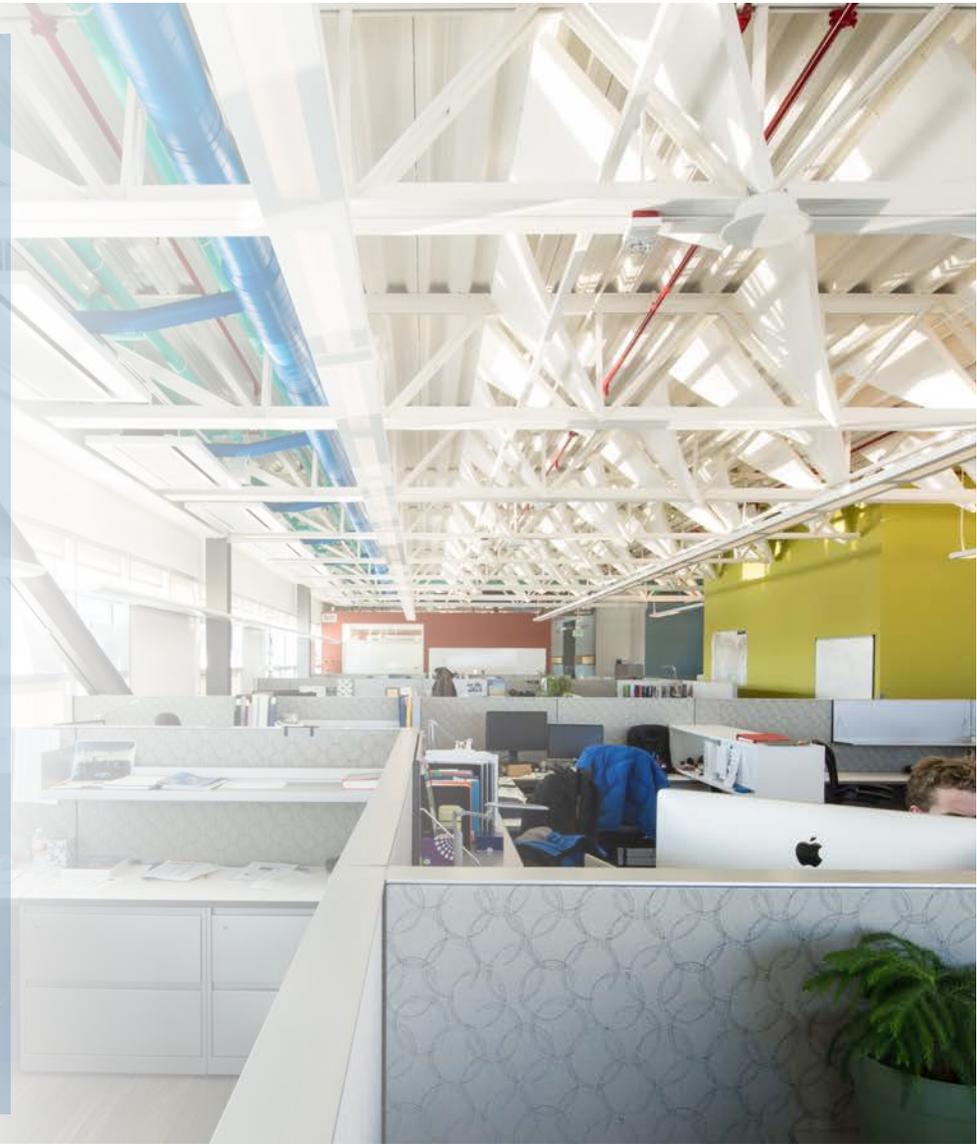


# What is Ideal Light?

## The Office Environment

Jennifer Scheib  
University of Colorado Boulder  
February 1, 2021

Office space in the Energy Systems Integration Facility at the  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, CO. Photo  
by Dennis Schroeder / NREL



What is Ideal Light?

**Better than that of today!**

# Office Lighting Design Goals

The Big Picture



## **Supports human health and wellbeing**

Meets basic needs for tasks and comfort

Promotes health

Promotes positive emotion

Promotes engagement



## **Supports climate change mitigation and adaptation**

Supports zero energy buildings

Supports zero carbon communities

Supports resilient infrastructure

# Office Lighting of Today

Common Attributes



**Supports human health and wellbeing**

Meets basic needs for tasks and comfort

Promotes health

Promotes positive emotion

Promotes engagement

Contrast  
Glare  
Flicker



**Supports climate change mitigation and adaptation**

Supports zero energy buildings

Supports zero carbon communities

Supports resilient infrastructure

Does so using *common* source spectrum and luminaire forms, intensity distribution, and layouts

# Office Lighting of Today

## A Solution

### Design constraints

- Ambient illuminance: 250 lux minimum
- Glare mitigation: No direct sun in working view
- Daylighting: sDA<sub>300,50%</sub> all workspaces
- Energy use: <25 kBtu/ft<sup>2</sup>/yr total building load

### Design response

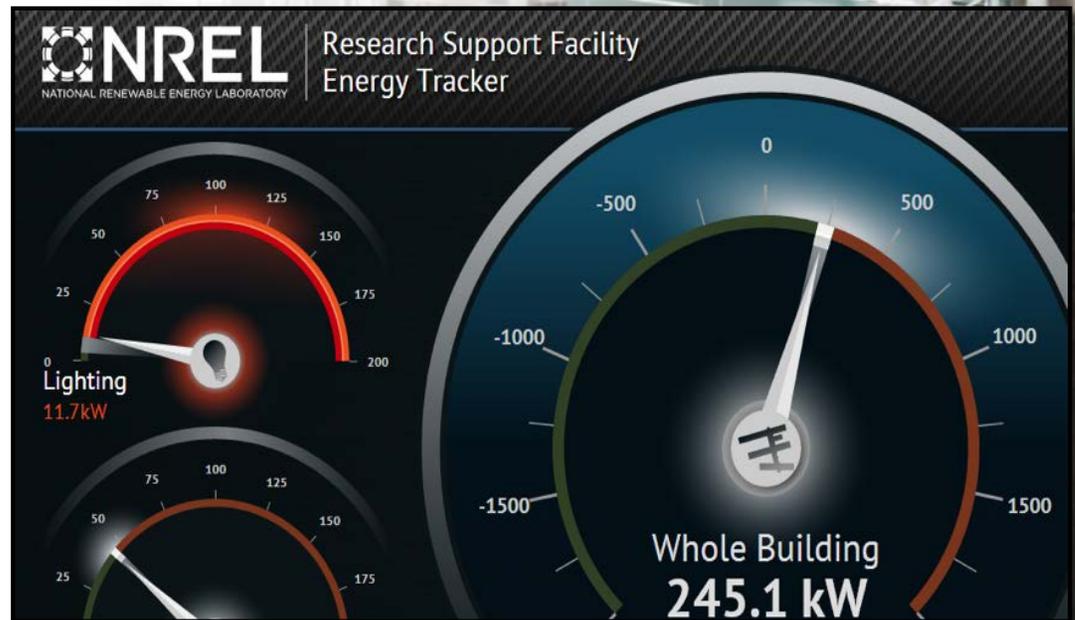
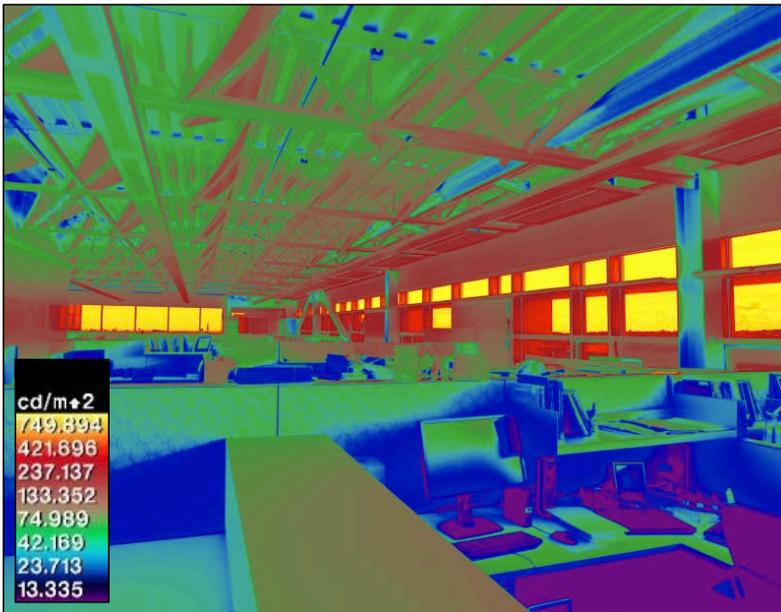
- Daylight redirection
- Layers of light from array on ceiling
  - Ambient, switched in spatial zones
  - Daylight, dimming 0%-100%
  - Wayfinding, switched zone
- Task layer at desks

**Achieves energy use goals with daylight redirection, high luminous efficacy sources, and changes in ambient layer power**



# Office Lighting of Today

A Solution



## Process Input *Sample*

### Metrics

LPD, sDA, ASE, EUI, collaboration with designers and energy engineers

### Form, Material

Optical device BSDF, WWR, VLT, avg surface reflectance, collaboration with manufacturers

### Equipment

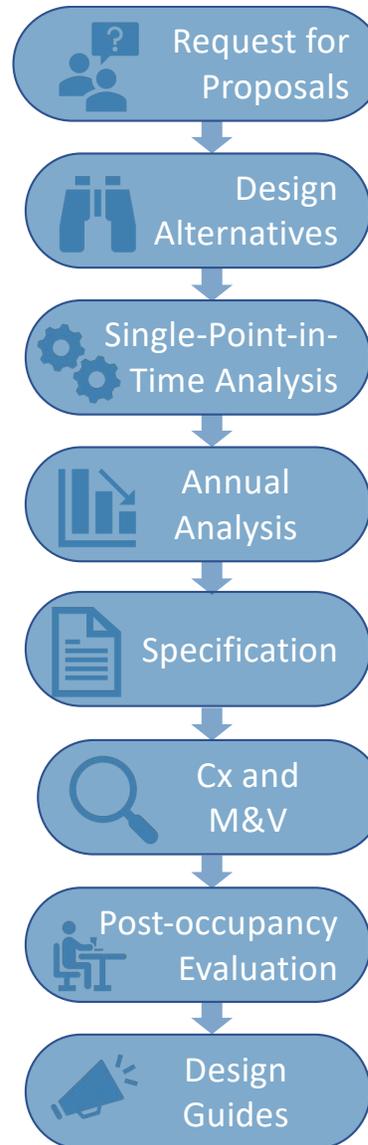
Luminous efficacy, intensity distribution, .ies file

### Model

1-3 spectral channels, hourly weather, horizontal calc grid, photosensor spatial response, daylighting control algorithm, typical occupant schedule, collaboration with building operators

### Evaluation Method

Submetering, occupant survey, HDRI, collaboration with social scientists



# Office Lighting of Today

## Advanced Energy Design Guide

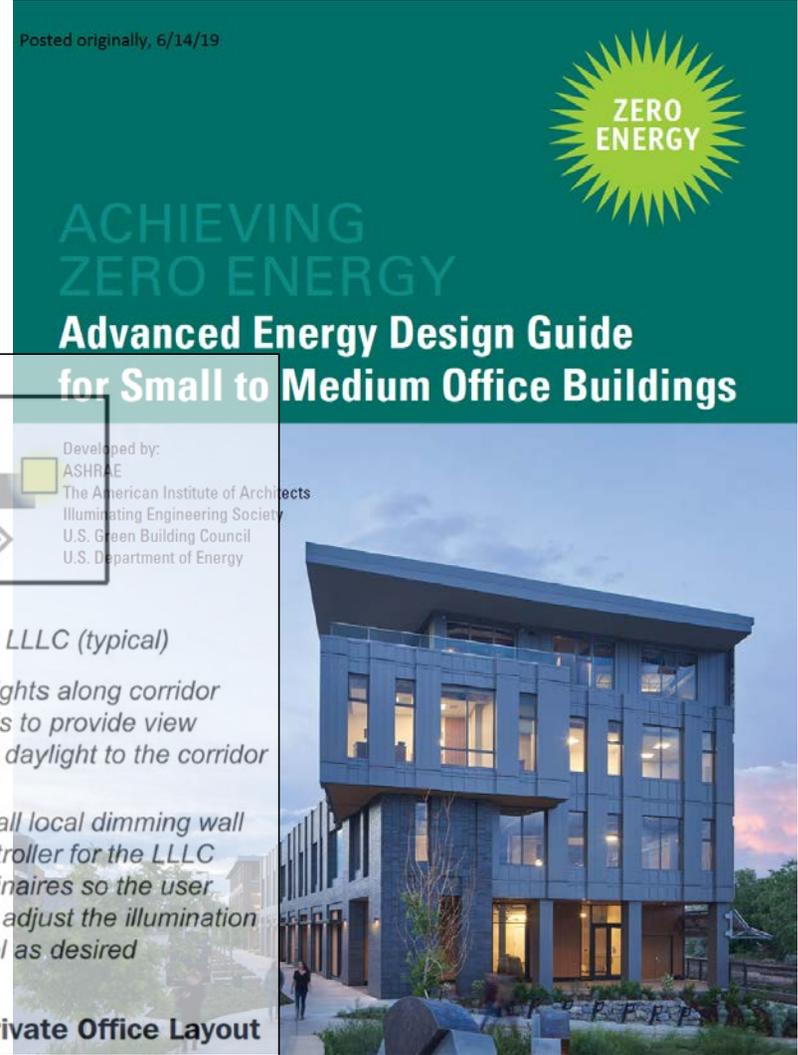


Table 5-11 (EL7) LED Specifications

Metric	Recommendation (Minimum)
Efficacy	125 LPW
End of life	L70 50,000+ hours
CRI	80+
Fidelity Index and Gamut Area Index	Rf above 85, Rg 90–110
Warranty	5+ years
Dimmable	Specify dimming driver

Table 5-12 (EL8) Interior Lighting Power Densities

Interior Space	LPD, W/ft <sup>2</sup>	90.1-2016	90.1-2019 (proposed)
Open-plan office	0.31	0.81	0.67
Private office	0.42	0.93	0.88
Conference room/meeting room	0.77	1.07	0.97
Corridor	0.34	0.66	0.41
Storage area	0.34	0.46	0.38
Restroom	0.51	0.85	0.63
Break room	0.47	0.62	0.59
Electrical/mechanical room	0.42	0.43	0.42
Stairway	0.49	0.58	0.49
Lobby	0.77	1.0	0.84
Other spaces	0.49		
Average building LPD	0.40		

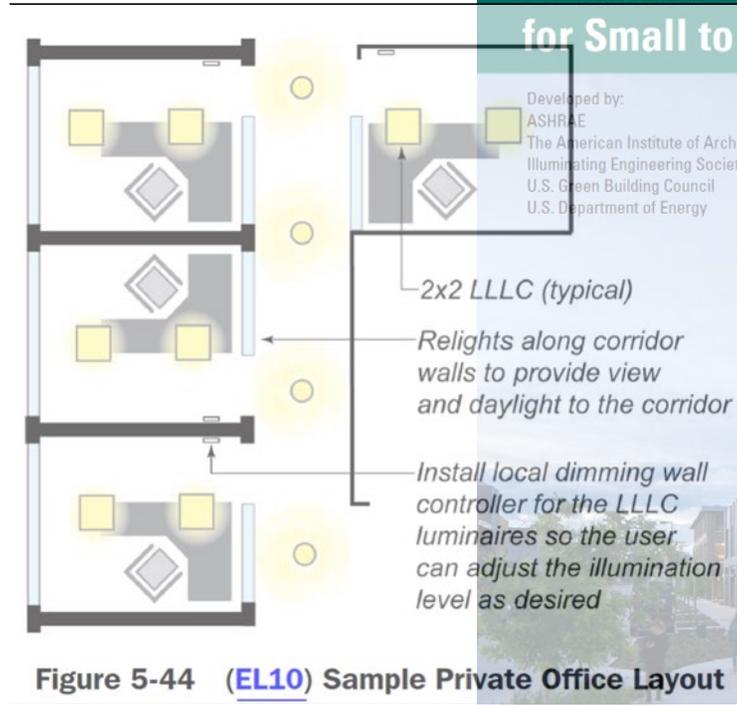


Figure 5-44 (EL10) Sample Private Office Layout

What is Ideal Light?

**Zero Energy as Baseline**

# Office Lighting of Tomorrow

Common Attributes



**Supports human health and wellbeing**

Meets basic needs for tasks and comfort

Promotes health

Promotes positive emotion

Promotes engagement

Circadian rhythm entrainment and phase shifting

Mood  
Alertness



**Supports climate change mitigation and adaptation**

Supports zero energy buildings

Supports zero carbon communities

Supports resilient infrastructure

# Office Lighting of Tomorrow

A Private Office Example, Circadian Lighting

## Design constraints

- Ambient illuminance (250 lux), glare mitigation, daylighting, and energy requirements
- AEDG LPD of 0.40 W/ft<sup>2</sup>
- Equivalent Melanopic Lux (EML) of 150 for 100% of working positions for 4 morning hours, per WELL, e.g.
- Circadian Stimulus (CS) of 0.3 for 2 morning hours, per UL, e.g.

## Design response



Can we tweak current design templates to meet circadian lighting goals?



# Office Lighting of Tomorrow

Common Attributes



Circadian rhythm  
entrainment and  
phase shifting

**Supports human health  
and wellbeing**

Meets basic needs for tasks  
and comfort

Promotes health

Promotes positive emotion

Promotes engagement



**Supports climate change  
mitigation and adaptation**

Supports zero energy buildings

Supports zero carbon  
communities

Supports resilient infrastructure

Needs to do so using  
*novel* source spectrum  
and luminaire forms,  
intensity distribution,  
and layouts

## Process Input *Sample*

### Metrics

LPD, sDA, ASE, EUI, EML, CS, other circadian, collaboration with designers, energy engineers, and physiologists

### Form, Material

Optical device BSDF, WWR, VLT, avg surface reflectance, spectral BSDF, collaboration with manufacturers

### Equipment

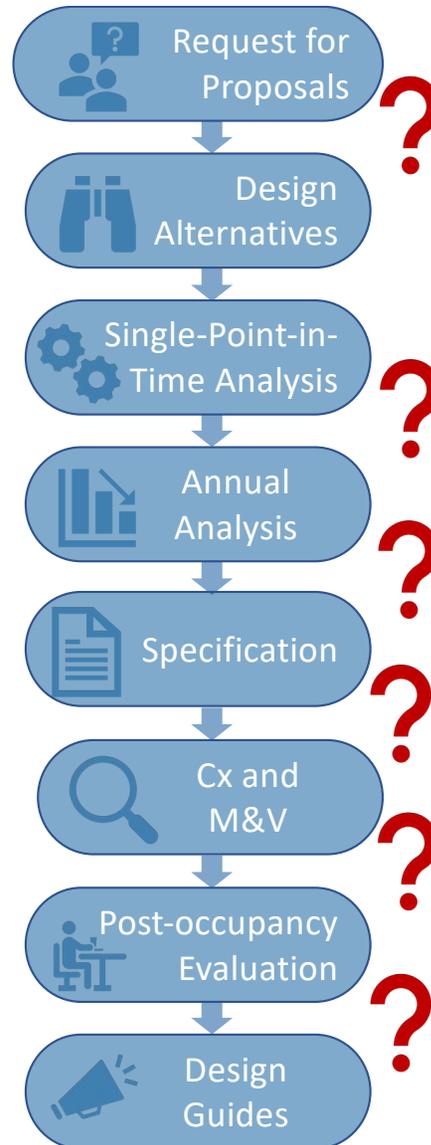
Luminous efficacy, intensity distribution, .ies file, SPD file

### Model

1-3 9-81 spectral channels, hourly weather, horizontal calc grid, vertical calc grid, photosensor spatial and spectral response, daylighting control algorithm, typical occupant schedule, collaboration with building operators

### Evaluation Method

Submetering, occupant survey, HDRI, collaboration with social scientists





## What is Ideal Light?

Builds on zero energy as a baseline

Explores potential for circadian entrainment and phase shifting using novel spatial and spectral distributions, mounting, and timing of energy use

Is guided in design by appropriate metrics, with ideas sourced from creative individuals who have access to multi-channel source, sensor, and material data, and analysis tools to test ideas

Has its performance predicted in design and measured in operation

Supports sustainable, resilient building goals