

# Thinking of a commercial lighting upgrade under the Energy Savings Scheme?

## Top 5 things to consider



### What is the Energy Savings Scheme (ESS)?

The ESS is a NSW government scheme designed to reduce energy use by encouraging households and businesses to invest in energy saving upgrades. See our [website](#) for information about eligible upgrades.

Commercial lighting upgrades can only be delivered by accredited businesses known as Accredited Certificate Providers (ACPs). They can help NSW businesses, councils and distributors save energy through upgrades of building lighting, lighting for roads and public spaces, and traffic signals.



### How you get the benefits

The ESS can make it less costly to install a lighting upgrade and help you benefit from ongoing lower energy bills.

This is possible because ACPs create certificates from energy savings that occur after your upgrade.

The ACP can sell these certificates and use a portion of their value to offer you a lower installation price. You may deal with a lighting provider associated with the ACP.

The NSW Government doesn't set the price of the lighting equipment or installation or endorse lighting products accepted for use in the scheme.



### What you need to do

#### 1. Use an accredited business.

See the list of ACPs by region on the [Energy website](#). You aren't obliged to use a particular ACP or install an upgrade, and they aren't obliged to provide a service or upgrade to you. We recommend you shop around to get the best deal possible.

#### 2. Pay at least the minimum payment.

You need to pay a minimum payment - see our [website](#) for details. Depending on the type and complexity of the installation, you may need to pay more than the minimum payment.

#### 3. Complete the necessary paperwork.

At a minimum, you will be asked to sign a **Nomination Form** before installation and a **Post Implementation Declaration** confirming you are satisfied with the upgrade.

### Before deciding on an upgrade be sure to:

1. Discuss your lighting requirements with your ACP and the lighting upgrade installer (which may or may not be the ACP) to confirm the equipment they propose installing will meet your needs. For example, think about what is appropriate for the space type and area being lit (e.g. lighting levels, proposed colour, glare and surface reflection). The upgraded lighting system will be in place for many years, so it's important you're satisfied with the outcome.
2. Normal consumer rights and warranties apply. Consider the length of any product warranty, what it covers, and whether the equipment supplier has appropriate after-sales service, spare parts, geographical coverage, and warranty provisions to back up any stated product warranty it offers on its products.
3. Understand any commitments you are asked to make, such as agreeing not to reuse, sell or refurbish the lighting equipment that was removed.
4. Carefully consider any agreement you are asked to sign in the same way you would for any other business contract.
5. Understand you may be asked to assist an auditor if your upgrade is included in an audit (note this is an audit of the ACP not of you). It's good practice to keep documents associated with the upgrade, which may also assist with our audits.

Note: IPART accredits businesses to create certificates. We don't license tradespersons or regulate safety or consumer rights, which are NSW Fair Trading functions.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Where can I get more information?

In the first instance, you should contact the accredited business. They will be able to provide more information on the products and services they offer.

The [ESS website](#) contains general information about the ESS, including [information for businesses](#) interested in upgrades.

## What are the ACP's obligations?

The ACP must make sure the lighting upgrade meets the scheme requirements. This includes ensuring the new lighting system is fit for purpose, maintains service levels, complies with lighting industry standards and that removed lighting equipment is disposed of appropriately.

## What is a maintenance schedule?

Like most systems in a commercial building, lighting systems require regular maintenance. The ACP must ensure you receive a *Recommended Maintenance Schedule*, which must include an indication as to when to clean the lights and when lamps should be replaced.

You should follow the recommended maintenance schedule and discuss alternatives with your ACP if you consider the maintenance schedule unreasonable.

## How much will the upgrade cost?

Speak to your ACP or lighting provider to find out how much the upgrade will cost.

At a minimum you must pay an amount equivalent to \$5 (excluding GST) for each MWh (megawatt hour) of energy saved by the lighting upgrade (**minimum payment**). The minimum payment cannot be made by in-kind payment (such as providing goods and services) or be reimbursed to you at any time or in any form, including as gift cards or vouchers, credit notes or goods and services.

The ACP or its representatives may charge additional costs depending on the type and size of the upgrade. They will advise you of any additional charges.

## Does the ESS give rebates?

No, the ESS is a certificate trading scheme that does not give direct rebates. Instead, ACPs may create certificates for the energy savings from the upgrades they deliver. They can then sell those ESCs and may use some of the revenue to offer upgrades at a lower price.

You should ask the ACP or their representative what, if any, financial benefit you may receive. The net amount you pay must not fall below the required \$5 per MWh minimum payment.

## Why do I need to sign a nomination form?

By signing the nomination form you give the ACP the right to create certificates from your upgrade. They can't create certificates without this form.

A nomination cannot be made more than once for the same upgrade and it should be made before the job is commenced.

## Who will install my lighting equipment?

The ACP must ensure all equipment is installed by a person authorised to carry out electrical wiring work (for example, a licensed electrician or a tradesperson authorised to do the work under supervision). This is to ensure the equipment is installed correctly and safely.

## Why can't I keep my old equipment?

Removed or replaced equipment cannot be reused, resold or refurbished. This is a legislated requirement to ensure the old inefficient equipment is not used elsewhere and that genuine energy savings are achieved.

Removed lighting equipment must be disposed of appropriately. Your ACP will arrange disposal.

## Does the ESS offer warranties?

Normal consumer rights and warranties apply – the ESS doesn't provide additional rights and warranties.

Consider the length of any product warranty, what it covers, and whether the equipment supplier has appropriate after-sales service, spare parts, geographical coverage, and warranty provisions to back up any stated product warranty it offers on its products.

## Why might I be contacted by an auditor?

All ACPs are audited to ensure they comply with ESS requirements. Audits check the compliance of the ACP, not you, but your cooperation is valued and required. Audit activities may include:

- Inspecting lighting upgrades to verify:
  - the equipment installed has been accepted for use in the ESS
  - the equipment installed is the same as what was claimed by the ACP.
- Speaking to purchasers (like you) to find out what was paid for the lighting upgrade and whether you received any rebates, payments or other financial benefits from the ACP or third parties. This is to check the ACP ensured the purchaser contributed the required minimum payment.

The ACP will advise you if your lighting upgrade is selected for a site inspection or if the auditor will contact you regarding the minimum payment. Please note, it is not appropriate for anyone, including an ACP or lighting installer, to tell you what to tell the auditor.

## Who can I contact if I have concerns?

If you are not happy with the quality of work, or require more information, speak to your ACP or lighting provider first. If you are unable to resolve the problem, NSW Fair Trading or Building Commission NSW may be able to assist. NSW Fair Trading investigates unfair practices and ensures the products sold in NSW are safe and meet its regulations and safety standards. Its website has information about your rights as a consumer, tips for resolving consumer disputes, and how you can make a complaint: [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au).

The [Building Commission](#) licenses tradespeople such as electricians and plumbers and is responsible for the regulation of laws that apply to them. The Building Commission may be able to assist if you have concerns about the work of licensed tradespeople or unlicensed work.

If you are concerned the accredited business or its representative has not complied with ESS requirements or they're not responding, you can contact us at: [ESS.Compliance@ipart.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ESS.Compliance@ipart.nsw.gov.au).

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fact sheet by searching  
'Commercial Lighting Fact Sheet' or at:  
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