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## LightFair 2023 Tradeshow Findings

July 27, 2023

**BPA Non-Residential Lighting Market Research Team** 



## Agenda

#### ..............

Review LightFair goals and methodology



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#### Key findings from LightFair

Findings implications

# LightFair Goals and Methodology

## Goals for attending LightFair



Most **cost-effective** way to gather large amounts of qualitative data from market experts



Provide context to sales data findings



Inform findings and analysis in all other BPA lighting research



Provide context for future non-residential lighting modeling efforts



Observe **new trends** in the lighting market

## Methodology

- > Attended 3 days of LightFair
- Interviewed 20 lighting manufacturers and other industry experts
- Information gathered through booth visits and long form interviews
- Coordinated showroom visits and interviews with NEEA



# We spoke with a range of lighting industry experts



## Reminders





Findings are based on statements from lighting experts interviewed at LightFair Any numbers and percentages presented are anecdotal, unless otherwise cited.

## Key findings from LightFair

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## Key findings



### Lighting

#### Controls

#### Market trends

## Lighting Findings

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### Manufacturers are moving away from legacy products



- Most interviewees make exclusively LED products
- Two large manufacturers are discontinuing their linear fluorescent business
  - One discontinuing linear fluorescent lighting products
  - One discontinuing the production of ballasts
- State policy and federal code are driving non-LED technologies out of the market

# But, there's still demand for legacy products

Key players in the market continue selling legacy (non-LED) products while market demand persists

> According to sales data collection, legacy products still make up **33%** of sales in the Northwest

# SKU consolidation win for supply chain, energy impact unclear

#### UltraLED<sup>™</sup> Ultrasonic Stairwell: Product Overview

#### **Superior optics**

Precision polycarbonate lens delivers best performance and uniform light distribution specifically engineered for stairwell and hallway applications



#### Lumen and CCT selectable

Customization based on applications and helps minimize SKUs/inventory

#### **Simplified Installation**

Included mounting template, swing down LED tray, and 5 knockout locations enable a quick and simple installation

#### Superior construction

Heavy duty, white powder coated steel body

#### Integrated in-fixture high frequency (40 kHz) ultrasonic motion sensor

High resolution presence/motion sensor, improves safety and and enables energy savings

SMD LEDs

High performing LED chips, best quality of light

1.4.0

### **Replacement drivers extend LED lifetimes**

- Simple retrofit (no lamp or fixture replacement)
- Extends the lifetime of old(er) LEDs
  - Can strand the opportunity to add controls



Image from marvellighting.com

## **Controls Findings**

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### LLLC poised to grow

#### NLC CONFIGURATION

1 sensor : many fixtures



#### INDIVIDUALLY ADDRESSABLE

1 sensor: many fixtures

1 load controller : 1 fixture



1 sensor : 1 fixture



1 load controller : 1 fixture

# Manufacturers are partnering on controls

ESTRON



Wision Magtech

PL: Multipo

TRIDO

ILLUMRA

MEWONG

**Lighting manufacturers** featured self-branded controls systems, sometimes via OEM partnerships **Controls manufacturers** emphasized their flexibility and willingness to partner with others on a variety of controls solutions

TECLED

### Manufacturers promoted wireless, but there is still a market for wired



#### WIRELESS

- Ease of installation and commissioning
- Reduction of labor and maintenance cost
- Lower materials cost (no wiring)



- Established technology with high comfort level among installers, end users, etc.
- Alleviates security concerns\*

# Codes and rebates are driving most controls activity

 Without significant economic incentive, building code drives adoption



 Rebates can help push customers towards controls solutions above code requirements



## Market Trends

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# A post-pandemic normal is emerging

Most manufacturers were eager to say that COVID impacts were behind them

- Sales volumes have bounced back (or were never impacted)
- Supply chain stabilized
- No lingering changes to prices from supply chain issues or inflation

## Other Manufacturers were less optimistic

- Sales volumes have not bounced back
- > New normal is uncertain
- Supply chain has
  "stabilized" to a place
  where "things take longer and it's erratic"

## "Illumageddon" is here – now what?

Manufacturers foresee declining lighting revenue as LEDs are adopted broadly

Diversifying offerings, including controls, EV charging products

No indication that lighting as a service models are common strategy

### The future of LightFair is uncertain



## **Findings Implications**

### Next phase in lighting market: goodbye linear fluorescents

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- Manufacturers clearly anticipating linear fluorescent sales to diminish rapidly
  - Some making moves that may speed the transition
- Monitoring the next phase of the shift away from linear fluorescent lamps:
  - State policies (bans on mercury-containing products, energy codes)
  - Federal standards

# Controls adoption growing: how to maximize the opportunity?

Several market factors are leading to a likely increase in controls adoption

- Manufacturers' increasing emphasis on controls offerings
- Energy code and utility programs encouraging further adoption

Utilities can maximize this opportunity with a strategic approach

- How well do we understand energy impacts of controls systems as installed and used?
- Are utility incentives aligned with best practices for energy savings?
- Could demand response capability become valuable in the future?

# Unknown energy impacts of product innovations

#### Example: replacement drivers

- Drivers aren't currently accounted for in data collection, and their impact is unknown
  - Drivers could strand the opportunity to replace old LEDs with newer LEDs and/or controls
  - Or, drivers could add controllability



Field-adjustable products present challenges for utility programs and quantifying market-level energy impacts

### **Findings summary**

Manufacturer interest in legacy products is waning

Lighting controls and system adoptions will likely surge in coming years

Manufacturer innovations may present energy saving opportunities or challenges



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