



## Grid Cove: [Amerlux - Commercial Interior Lighting Products](#)

Amerlux's Grid Cove system is the first ever fully integrated grid-to-grid cove lighting system, designed for seamless integration with standard grid ceilings. This innovative solution combines the vertical ceiling transition, a crisp knife-edge cove detail, and high-performance illumination in a single, easy-to-specify product. Amerlux's proprietary Wide Asymmetric optics ensure uniform lighting across the upper ceiling and vertical wall, while providing ample light on surfaces below the cove. Grid Cove empowers designers to effortlessly elevate standard grid ceilings with an upscale aesthetic and comfortable, indirect light.

## Grid Cove Perimeter Wall Wash:

The Grid Cove Perimeter Wash perfectly complements the Grid Cove Indirect system by mounting along the room's perimeter to deliver a soft, smooth gradient wallwash effect. This fixture is designed to seamlessly navigate 90-degree corners, enabling continuous, uninterrupted lines of light that elegantly wrap around your space.

## Grid Cove Wall Mount Uplight:

Extending the design language of the Indirect Grid Cove system and Perimeter Wash, the Grid Cove family presents a Wall Mounted Uplight. This wall mounted fixture produces a soft and smooth gradient of uplight. The sleek knife-edge profile maintains a clean aesthetic and conceals the LED source.

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## Market Observer

1. **Elon Musk Combined SpaceX and xAI** - In the rare mega-merger of companies run by the same guy, Musk has brought together his rocket company, which has been planning an IPO, and his AI company, which is best known for Grok, the off-color chatbot that's good at generating NSFW images. Sources told Bloomberg that the deal, which merges two of the world's largest private companies, values the combined company at \$1.25 trillion. Musk said the tie-up would help him put data centers in space, funding bases on the moon and a colony on Mars. He also said the combination would provide scale "to make a sentient sun to understand the Universe and extend the light of consciousness to the stars!" [Morning Brew](#)

2. **The Cost of Replacing Purple LED Streetlights by Lori Lovely** - Since many cities and towns began [switching to LED streetlights](#) about [15 years ago](#), a peculiar phenomenon has begun to occur. As specific batches of LED streetlights age, their cool white light fades to blue and then eventually emits a [purple wash](#), due to delamination of the phosphor-silicon layer in some LED chips. This has been linked to a [manufacturing defect](#) that eluded quality inspections. Now that the defect has been identified, many municipalities are including performance guarantees and warranties in their street lighting contracts, allowing them to get lamps replaced for free or decreased cost. The average [cost of replacing an LED street light fixtures](#) runs from \$100 to \$500. If only the lamp needs replacing, the cost is around \$50 to \$200. The cost of replacing the entire fixture can be as much as \$400 to \$1,200. [The Cost of Replacing Purple LED Streetlights - Electrical Contractor Magazine](#)



3. **AD Member Sales Reach a Record \$100 Billion in 2025** - AD member sales increased 20% to a record \$100 billion across the group's divisions and countries, +6% on a same store basis. Same-store sales by country, in local currency, increased 6% in the U.S., 5% in Canada, and 1% in Mexico. The bulk of AD's nonorganic growth was the result of its successful merger with IMARK Electrical. Additionally, AD members acquired 62 companies outside of the group, and 27 members within the group. [AD Member Sales Reach a Record \\$100 Billion in 2025](#)

4. **Trump Administration Launches 'Project Vault'** - The [Responsible Battery Coalition](#) (RBC) welcomed the Trump Administration's launch of "Project Vault," a major new initiative established with the Export-Import Bank of the United States to create a strategic critical minerals stockpile designed to protect American manufacturers — including the U.S. battery industry — from global supply disruptions. Batteries are essential to nearly every aspect of American life and national security. Project Vault will provide a new mechanism to procure and store strategically important minerals used in batteries and other advanced technologies, such as lead, antimony, cobalt, graphite, silicon, copper, and nickel. Project Vault will help ensure manufacturers have reliable access to key inputs even during periods of volatility or geopolitical pressure. [Trump Administration Launches 'Project Vault' - electrifED](#)

5. **Guess How Much Big Tech Will Spend on AI This Year** - Four of the largest tech companies in the world project that they'll spend roughly \$650 billion combined on AI infrastructure in 2026, representing a historic ball-out for corporate capital expenditures, Bloomberg reported yesterday. Here's who's spending what:

- Taking the cake, **Amazon** announced Thursday that it's planning to drop \$200 billion on AI, chips, robotics, and satellites.
- A day earlier, **Alphabet** said its capital expenditures could reach \$185 billion, blowing past estimates.
- Last week, **Meta** pegged its capex as high as \$135 billion—an 87% jump from the year prior—driven by the company's goal of achieving AI superintelligence.
- Microsoft is expected to spend nearly \$105 billion during its fiscal year ending in June.

[Big Tech to spend \\$650 billion on AI in 2026, per Bloomberg](#)

6. **The Washington Post Announces Sweeping Layoffs** - More than 30% of The Washington Post staff is eliminated, many covering international news. The entire sports department has been eliminated, and journalists currently in Italy to cover the Winter Olympics have been told to return home. Jeff Bezos bought the Post in 2013 for \$250 million. [Business News Today - tEDmag](#)

7. **ABC: Nonresidential Construction Adds Solid 27,900 Jobs in January** - The construction industry added 33,000 jobs on net in January, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. On a year-over-year basis, industry employment has grown by 44,000 jobs, an increase of 0.5%. Nonresidential construction employment expanded by 27,900 positions, with gains in 2 of the 3 subcategories. Nonresidential specialty trade added 25,100 jobs, while nonresidential building added 3,600 new positions. Heavy and civil engineering lost 800 jobs in January. The construction unemployment rate was 6.9% in January. Unemployment across all industries decreased to 4.3% and is 0.3 percentage points higher than one year ago. [ABC: Nonresidential Construction Adds Solid 27,900 Jobs in January](#)

8. **Space-Based Solar Power Promises Constant Energy Delivery** - Space-based solar power is transitioning from concept to reality, with recent advancements demonstrating the feasibility of transmitting solar energy from orbit to Earth. This technology, which could provide continuous, reliable electricity that isn't interrupted by weather or geography, is being developed through initiatives such as Japan's OHISAMA project and Caltech's Space Solar Power Project. However, the implementation of space-based solar power will require international coordination on orbits, frequencies and safety protocols. [The Washington Post](#)

9. **Growing Demand Will Be Met Mainly by Solar: EIA** - The Energy Information Administration expects solar generation to jump 17% this year and an additional 23% in 2027 EIA's latest forecast anticipates the U.S. will generate a total of 341 billion kWh of solar this year and 418 billion kWh in 2027, up from 291 billion kWh in 2025.. [Growing demand will be met mainly by solar: EIA | Utility Dive](#)

10. **Roberts Court Shuts Door on Tariffs But Leaves Room for Trump to Prevail** - In a 6-3 opinion written by Chief Justice John Roberts, the court held that IEEPA does not grant the president authority to impose tariffs. The ruling struck down the tariffs at issue in the case. The U.S. Supreme Court may have struck down President Donald Trump's tariffs, but the fight is far from finished. While the Court closed one legal door, it left several others wide open – and the president has already signaled that he intends to step through them. Importantly, however, the court did not hold that the president lacks tariff authority altogether. Rather, it concluded only that IEEPA is not a valid statutory foundation for such measures. The opinion left intact the president's ability to rely on other trade statutes enacted by Congress. The message was unmistakable: the court's ruling will not mark the end of the administration's tariff strategy. [Roberts court shuts door on tariffs but leaves room for Trump to prevail | Just The News](#)

11. **LEDucation Trade Show and Conference | April 14-15, 2026 New York City** - LEDucation is the industry's leading marketplace and educational platform dedicated to advancing architectural lighting innovation. The event features 400+ exhibitors across four halls showcasing the latest lighting products and technologies from leading manufacturers. Thirty-nine presentations explore key issues shaping today's lighting industry and its path to a brighter, more efficient future. [LEDucation – Presented by the Designers Lighting Forum of New York](#)

12. **Dallas Market Center Announces Major Expansion** - [Dallas Market Center announced](#) a dramatic expansion of the number of Design showrooms located inside its Interior Home + Design Center (IHDC). More than 100 brands, represented inside multiple showrooms, will move into custom spaces on the first and second floors of the building in the first half of 2026. This is the largest project for the development of new showrooms inside Dallas Market Center in more than a decade. Upcoming trade events at Dallas Market Center include Design Days, April 14-15; Total Home & Gift Market, June 24-30; Lightovation, June 24-27; and Design + Build Day at Lightovation, June 23. [Dallas Market Center Announces Major Expansion – tEDmag](#)

13. **Roelands Plant Farms Selects Sollum Technologies for a 12-Acre Expansion in Vine Crop Propagation** - Sollum Technologies is pleased to share that Roelands Plant Farms, one of the largest and most trusted propagators in Ontario, has selected Sollum's advanced dynamic LED lighting solution for a 12-acre expansion at its Lambton Shores facility. The company specializes in the high-performance propagation of vine crops, including tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers. Together, they observed plant responses, adjusted strategies and ensured that the lighting aligned with the day-to-day challenges of propagation by responding to changing conditions, and by adjusting the spectrum, intensity, timing and daily light integral (DLI) with unmatched precision and in real time. The results confirmed that lighting plays a decisive role in establishing strong healthy plants prior to transplanting, and that Sollum's advanced dynamic control supports uniformity, vigor and predictable growth conditions across trays. [\[News\] Roelands Plant Farms Selects Sollum Technologies for a 12-Acre Expansion in Vine Crop Propagation - LEDinside](#)

14. **Top 25 Changes to the 2026 National Electrical Code by Mike Holt** - Breaking down the key revisions and updates every electrical professional needs to know for this Code cycle. **Key Highlights**

- The 2026 NEC features more than 3,900 public inputs, leading to substantial reorganizations, new Articles, and enhanced clarity for electrical professionals.
- Key updates include expanded GFCI protection requirements, new rules for electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), and revised service disconnect location and marking standards.
- New provisions address the integration of sustainable technologies, such as electric vehicles and energy management systems, reflecting industry trends and future demands.
- Preparations for the 2029 NEC include structural revisions and increased emphasis on engineered designs for complex systems, ensuring ongoing safety and compliance.

The 2026 NEC also previews structural revisions anticipated for the 2029 edition. [Top 25 Changes to the 2026 National Electrical Code | EC&M](#)

15. **The World's Largest Energy Lender Has a New Head: Here's How It Could Shape U.S. Policy by Pippa Stevens** - Former Apollo executive Gregory Beard was recently tapped to run the Office of Energy Dominance Financing, the largest energy lender in the world, with some \$289 billion in loan authority. Beard has only been at the helm for a few weeks, but he has big plans for the agency, including dispensing capital at a record rate. Under President Joe Biden and his climate-focused administration, the agency was supercharged, acting as a green bank of sorts. Staff quadrupled, and the Inflation Reduction Act grew available funds by tenfold. But with the new administration, the office has changed course, shedding the green angle that President Donald Trump has called a scam. In addition to an official name change, the agency is now focused on six areas: nuclear; coal, oil, gas and hydrocarbons; critical materials and minerals; geothermal; grid and transmission; and manufacturing and transportation. [The world's largest energy lender has a new head: Here's how it could shape U.S. policy](#)

16. **Meta and NVIDIA Announce Long-Term Infrastructure Partnership** - The large-scale deployment of NVIDIA technology builds on our existing relationship and will support Meta's build-out of data centers optimized for AI training and inference, as well as our core business. These advances will also deliver substantial improvements in performance per watt, supporting more efficient AI operations at scale. Meta has also adopted:

- NVIDIA Confidential Computing for WhatsApp private messaging, enabling AI-powered capabilities across the messaging platform, while ensuring user data confidentiality and integrity.
- NVIDIA Spectrum-X Ethernet networking platform across its infrastructure footprint to provide AI-scale networking, delivering predictable, low-latency performance while maximizing utilization and improving both operational and power efficiency.

As part of this multi-generational collaboration, engineering teams across Meta and NVIDIA will optimize and accelerate state-of-the-art AI models across our core workloads to drive performance and efficiency for new AI capabilities used by billions around the world. [\[News\] Meta and NVIDIA Announce Long-Term Infrastructure Partnership - LEDinside](#)

17. **Meta to Build \$10B AI Data Center in Northeast Louisiana** - A transformational investment that cements the state's status as a major innovation hub and puts this picturesque rural community on the leading edge of a global digital revolution. Meta projects the data center will support 500 or more direct new jobs in Richland Parish. [Louisiana Economic Development \(LED\)](#) estimates the project will result in the creation of more than 1,000 indirect jobs, for a total of more than 1,500 potential new jobs in the Northeast Region. The company estimates 5,000 construction workers at peak of construction on the 2,250-acre former Franklin Farm megasite that sits between the municipalities of Rayville and Delhi, about 30 miles east of Monroe. [Meta to Build \\$10B AI Data Center in Northeast Louisiana – electrifiED](#)

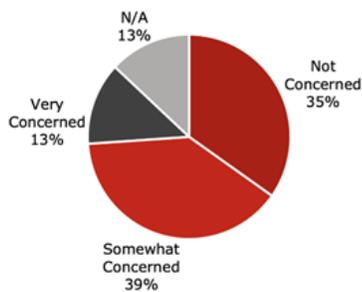


## Industry Resources

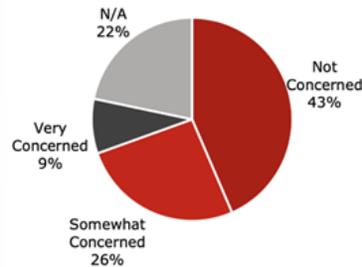
18. **The Future is Now for AI** - AI is expected to have as much impact on the business world as any of the largest technological trends, including the internet and personal computers. This e-book is a terrific primer on harnessing its powers. [Channel Marketing Group](#) recently collaborated with Charles Labow to publish an e-book on artificial intelligence, "The AI-Enabled Distributor." It's a must read for any executive in the electrical market who needs a solid overview of how distributors, manufacturers and representatives can use AI in their businesses. Along with analysis of the various AI models in use today, Labow includes contributions from several AI experts out in the field. Labow says, "The goal is not to convince you that AI is inevitable. You already know that. The goal is to help you think clearly about where it actually applies, where it does not, and what responsible leadership looks like in this moment." **The book is available for \$39 through this [PayPal link](#).**

19. **Exclusive: Baird Research Examines Concern in Key Markets** - In tED magazine's latest exclusive, quarterly Baird Research, we asked distributors a clear question: "How concerned are you about your company's outlook in the following markets: Residential and Commercial?" While the results varied, the level of "very concerned" remained low. The research was conducted during the first two weeks of January 2026. [Exclusive: Baird Research Examines Concern In Key Markets – tEDmag](#)

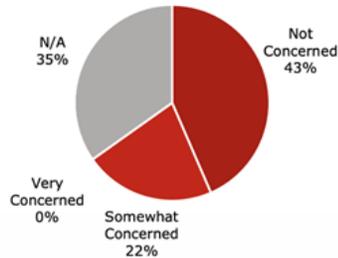
**Residential:**



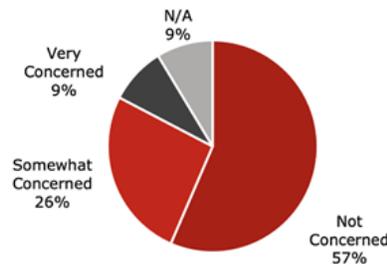
**Commercial:**



**Lighting:**



**Wire & Cable:**



20. **BriteSwitch: Commercial Lighting Rebate Trends for 2026** - Electricity costs continue to climb, and commercial customers are once again taking a closer look at energy efficiency. In 2025 alone, average commercial electricity rates increased by roughly 7%, with some regions seeing increases as high as 29%. As operating costs rise, lighting rebates remain one of the most effective tools for improving project economics. **So what does the commercial lighting rebate landscape actually look like in 2026, and what's different this year?** Most programs are still available this year, incentive amounts are up, and rebate structures are continuing to evolve. **The following trends are shaping the commercial lighting rebate landscape in 2026:**

- [75% of the Country Is Covered by a Commercial Lighting Rebate](#)
- [Rebate Amounts Increased by 17% on Average](#)
- [Incentive Structures Shift Toward Energy Savings](#)
- [LED-to-LED Incentives Are Growing, But Still Limited](#)
- [Some Programs Sunset Incentives for Fluorescent Lighting Replacements](#)
- [Continued Focus on Lighting Controls](#)

[Commercial Lighting Rebate Trends for 2026](#)

21. **The Building Industry Stands at a Pivotal Moment** - Rapidly changing technology, growing environmental awareness, and a host of other factors are impacting the building industry—in a time of unprecedented transformation, the built environment is at a pivotal moment. Facility managers and building operators face difficult maintenance and service challenges and decisions that point to a clear reality—buildings must evolve. As a key contributor to driving success and achieving goals, your building is central to these challenges and solutions, so understanding technological advancements and trends is crucial. Is your building ready for what's ahead? DOWNLOAD THE REPORT AT: [The Future-Ready Building: 8 Business Drivers Advancing Building Technology | Trane Commercial HVAC](#)

22. **Lighting Controls Academy Publishes Video Courses on Lighting Control System Design** - In Part 1 of this course, we learned about key documentation including the Content Intent Narrative (CIN), Sequence of Operations (SOO), and Owner Project Requirements (OPR). In Part 2, we learned about turning these requirements and conceptual design into a realized design. You've designed your lighting control system and the construction documents have been issued. Now what? Many designers may believe that their job ends at this point, but this is when the hard work may just be beginning. With an air-tight specification, many pitfalls can be avoided, but a poorly specified system can create a lot of confusion and challenges during installation and post-occupancy. In Lighting Control System Design, Part 3: Installation and Post-Occupancy—authored and presented by LCA Education Manager C. Webster Marsh and running about 60 minutes—you will learn about bidding, responding to questions from installers, reviewing submittals and defending your design, following-through with the installation of the equipment, functional testing, training essential staff, and ultimately ensuring the owner is satisfied.

[Lighting Controls Academy Publishes Video Course on Lighting Control System Design \(Part 1\)](#)

[Lighting Controls Academy Publishes Video Course on Lighting Control System Design \(Part 2\)](#)

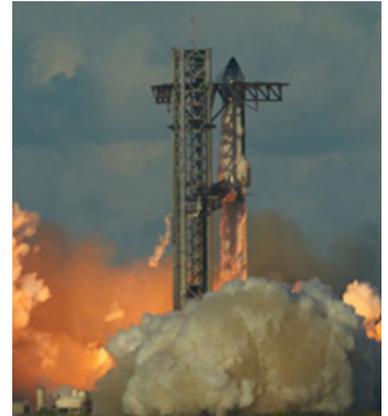
[Lighting Controls Academy Publishes Video Course on Lighting Control System Design \(Part 3\)](#)

And [click here](#) to see many other video course offerings, a list that's growing every month!

## Articles of Interest

### 23. **What to Know About Elon Musk's Merger of SpaceX with His AI Company** by Laurence Darmiento - Elon Musk

recently announced what seemed like an odd pairing of his companies: SpaceX was acquiring xAI, the artificial intelligence firm that also owns the social media platform X. The merger combines a highly profitable rocket company with an AI startup that is burning through billions of dollars as it competes with OpenAI and other rivals for dominance in artificial intelligence. The merged companies are valued at \$1.25 trillion. That is higher than recent separate valuations of SpaceX at \$800 billion and xAI's holding company at \$230 billion. IPO shares are expected to price at roughly \$525. Aside from the financial benefits, there are technical reasons. Musk has sketched out a futuristic plan that involves sending up to a million satellites — called data centers — into an orbit, where the sun could power them all day and night while they do artificial intelligence computations. [What to know about Elon Musk's merger of SpaceX with his AI company](#)



### 24. **AI Analytics Step in as Energy Standards Tighten and Resources Shrink** by Laurie Gilmer - Meeting energy and emissions reduction targets, particularly as they become more stringent, can be tough for many facilities. Between the need to operate efficiently, emerging BEPS requirements and balancing limited resources, facilities teams need help identifying where improvements can be made. Enter AI analytic tools, which can analyze building automation data, energy use patterns and even weather data to identify operational inefficiencies, make recommendations for optimizing setpoints and start-up times and identify inconsistencies in performance data. This leads to efficient overall system operations. Advances in AI for facilities..... have become part of the toolkit that helps managers meet their goals of having efficient, safety and compliant facilities that meet the needs of the people who occupy them. [AI Analytics Step In as Energy Standards Tighten and Resources Shrink - Facilities Management Insights](#)

### 25. **Can Better Lighting Unlock a Healthier, Higher-Performing Office?** Fabio Zaniboni - Outdated lighting can hurt employee performance—but replacing it with human-centric smart lighting systems can restore productivity while operating efficiently. Here's how.

- Traditional office lighting often causes eye strain and fatigue, negatively impacting employee performance and well-being.
- Human-centric smart lighting systems mimic natural daylight, supporting circadian rhythms and improving sleep quality and alertness.
- Data-enabled lighting provides real-time insights into space utilization, enabling more efficient energy use and workspace optimization.
- Personalized lighting controls empower employees, enhancing their comfort and perceived productivity in hybrid work environments.
- Adopting wellness-focused lighting aligns with standards like WELL and LEED, giving organizations a competitive edge in attracting top talent.

[Can Better Lighting Unlock a Healthier, Higher-Performing Office? | Buildings](#)

## Monthly Feature

### Impact Buildings: The Intelligent Truth About Future Commercial Real Estate by Sadiq Syed

In today's rapidly evolving world, commercial buildings play a pivotal role in our daily lives and the broader economy. From hotels, shops, supermarkets and even financial hubs and office blocks, these buildings are not just places where business transactions occur; they are environments that shape the experiences, productivity, and wellbeing of millions of people. With environmental factors and climate-related disasters happening around the globe, the need for smarter, more adaptive buildings has never been more urgent. These structures must evolve to meet the demands of modern society, balancing operational efficiency with environmental stewardship and occupant health. This has created a deliberate shift. Buildings must no longer be static infrastructure but become intelligent, efficient ecosystems. For this to happen, a fundamental rethinking of how we design, construct, operate, and evolve the built environment is required.

Designed to anticipate and adapt to tomorrow's challenges, Impact Buildings are highly intelligent, built on a foundation of digital innovation, electrification, and a commitment to the wellbeing of those who occupy space inside them. These spaces reduce emissions, minimize waste, and optimize every stage of their operation. What's more, these Impact Buildings are Schneider Electric transforming its own commercial real estate into living showcases to demonstrate to customers what's possible when it comes to digitalization, innovation, and human-centric design. Every Impact Building starts with a clear digital blueprint, putting data at the fore. Technical guidelines help ensure that core systems (like Building Management Systems, lighting, and energy monitoring) can connect and respond fluidly rather than operating in silos.

Impact Buildings provide businesses worldwide with a blueprint for the future. These aren't just offices; they are dynamic ecosystems that embody sustainability, resilience, efficiency, and a better experience for every person who walks through their doors. Buildings should do more than just stand—they should think. They should adapt. And they should connect to what matters most: your people, your business, your purpose. [Impact Buildings: The Intelligent Truth About Future Commercial Real Estate - Facility Executive Magazine](#)

