

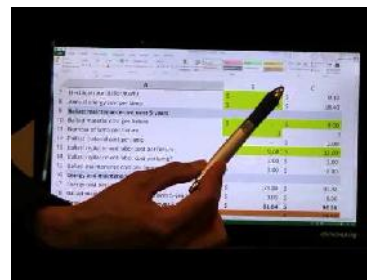
Can You Afford to Take the Utility Rebate?

If you are considering a retrofit of your fluorescent fixtures with ballast compatible LED T8 tubes, getting the utility rebate should be a no-brainer, right? The answer will surprise you. Recently a few utility rebate programs began offering rebates for ballast-compatible LED tubes only, and some go as far as dictating that you must install a new ballast to get these rebates. This not only increases your initial installation cost (compatible ballast and labor), but also increases future energy usage (ballast draws additional power) and long term maintenance costs (compatible ballasts require maintenance/replacement). Many times these additional costs are not considered in “Total Cost” calculations. Other factors to consider:

- Burn hazard due to ballast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LSX0L6s4oWE>
- Additional energy draw on ballast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YvJVgrijef4>
- Ballast incompatibility: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93ppZrz4jpY>

The table below shows the energy and maintenance costs over 5 and 10 years when using Aleddra SureFit DBA Plus tube on either line voltage or ballast. This LED tube works in both modes.

Lighting energy consumption	DBA Tube on AC-in	DBA Tube With Ballast
days/year	365	365
hrs/day	24	24
hrs/year	8760	8760
Energy consumption per LED tube (watt)	18	21
Energy consumption per year per lamp (watt)	157680	183960
Electrical rate (dallor/KWh)	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10
Annual energy cost per lamp	\$ 15.77	\$ 18.40
Ballast maintenance cost over 5 years		
Ballast material cost per fixture	\$ -	\$ 9.00
Number of lamp per fixture	3	3
Ballast material cost per lamp	\$ -	\$ 3.00
Ballast replacement labor cost per fixture	\$ 9.00	\$ 15.00
Ballast replacement labor cost per lamp*	\$ 3.00	\$ 5.00
Ballast maintenance cost per lamp over 5-years	\$ 3.00	\$ 8.00
Energy and maintenance costs over 5 years		
Energy cost per lamp over 5 years	\$ 78.84	\$ 91.98
Ballast maintenance cost per lamp over 5-years	\$ 3.00	\$ 8.00
Total energy and maintenance cost over 5 years	\$ 81.84	\$ 99.98
Addition cost per lamp due to ballast over 5 years		\$ 18.14
Energy and maintenance costs over 10 years		
Energy cost per lamp over 10 years	\$ 157.68	\$ 183.96
Ballast maintenance cost per lamp over 10-years	\$ 3.00	\$ 16.00
Total energy and maintenance cost over 10 years	\$ 160.68	\$ 199.96
Addition cost per lamp due to ballast over 10 years		\$ 39.28
* When operating on AC, there is one-time labor cost of removing the ballast, which is cheaper than installing a new ballast.		
** The material cost for LED tube are the same for both cases, so they are not shown in the table.		



[Tutorial video](#) on comparison spreadsheet.

EXAMPLE: If the ballast is retained, there is an additional cost of \$18.14 over (5) years and \$39.28 over (10) years. Can you afford to take a rebate at \$5.00/tube with these additional costs? Ask your CFO.

Click [here](#) to download a copy of the spreadsheet.

Don't forget to contact Aleddra for the best ROI on your energy efficient lighting projects.

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