







Is LED the right light source for my project?

Sports Lighting

Answers to 9 Common Questions





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Decisions...

There are many decisions to make when planning a sports-field lighting project. As the decision maker, the standards you set will affect recreation or athletic programs in your community for 20 to 30 years.

Obviously, you want to select a trouble-free lighting system that will be a safe, energy-efficient source of community pride rather than a disappointing source of high-maintenance headaches and neighbor complaints.

Lighting a sports facility is a big investment. You and your design consultant should ask questions about initial and long-term benefits to ensure you get the most value from the dollars you spend. The more you know about sports lighting, the better chance you have of getting the results you want.

Read on for answers to the most common questions people have about sports lighting

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1. Is LED right for my project?

For sports-lighting applications, the two typical light source options are metal halide and light-emitting diode (LED). If supported by a well-designed system of light control, structures, electrical, and application, both light sources can result in good quality of lighting. Choosing which light source is best for your project is one of dozens of decisions that impact the performance and cost results.







Light-emitting diode

Benefits and Costs

Hours of use have a major impact on the economics of balancing capital and operating cost. Most indoor sports facilities are used almost daily, so the energy savings using a diode light source generally pay back its higher capital equipment cost in just a few years. Additionally, many indoor facilities have multiple uses, making the dimming ability of LED useful. The instant on/off characteristic of diode can also be of value, particularly for player introductions and halftime performances.

Outdoor recreational facilities are often used less than 500 hours per year. At 10 cents per kilowatt hour, the energy cost to light a youth soccer field with metal halide is less than \$2 per hour. In this case, payback through energy savings for increased LED capital costs would take several years.

Compare the capital and operating costs to see what fits your project needs. Be sure to incorporate any demand charges from your utility company, as this could significantly impact your payback timeframe.

Light Control

Neighborhood impact is a factor in outdoor sports lighting. The LED light source has the potential for extreme cut-off. However, if not properly controlled, the intensity of the multiple tiny light sources also has a greater risk of creating uncomfortable glare.

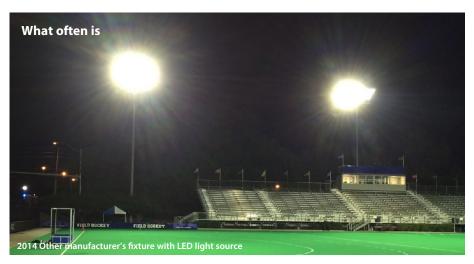
The unique needs of lighting sports fields make controlling the light a more critical issue than required for most other lighting situations. Relatively high quantities of light need to be projected over long distances in a manner that meets the differing viewing needs of players, spectators, and in many cases, television broadcast production.

"Two aspects of energy efficiency are important to consider: the efficiency of the LED device itself (source efficacy) and how well the device and fixture work together in providing the necessary lighting (fixture efficacy)."

Source: U.S. Department of Energy, http://energy.gov/eere/ssl/led-basics

Light control matters





Musco systems offer your choice of LED or metal halide light sources – we can help you evaluate which one fits your project needs.

2. What affects the cost of lighting my ball field?

Each field is unique and there are many things that impact the cost. The cost of fixtures is only a small part of the overall project cost. As you compare options, it's important to look at both the initial and operating, or life-cycle, costs. (See page 8 for more information on operating costs)

Initial costs for a complete project will include three components:

- Lighting
- Structural
- Flectrical

For each of these three components you will need to select someone to:

- Design
- Supply
- Install

Decisions you make in one area will affect the others. For example, variances in fixture efficiency will affect the number of fixtures needed and, as a result, could require larger poles to support the additional wind load and additional electrical components to operate the system. Your choices will also impact operating and maintenance costs.

Lighting Structural Electrical Pesign ? ? ? Supply ? ? ? Install ? ? ? OPERATE

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This matrix is an easy way to quickly understand if you have covered all areas of your project when developing a cost estimate.

As you work through the 9 important sports-lighting decisions, you will need to review variables that will affect the design and final costs of your project. Here is a starting check list of items to discuss with your local sports-lighting representative:

Quantity and	Geographical	Environmental	Lighting
Quality of Light	Issues	Light Control Issues	Usage
☐ Facility type and size ☐ Players' skill level ☐ Seating capacity ☐ Television/video broadcast requirements ☐ Lighting standards (for organizations such as Little League Baseball®)	□ Location – structural and local/state building codes □ Soil conditions □ Existing structures □ Pole setback requirements	 □ Proximity of neighbors □ Community light ordinances □ Nearby airports or observatories □ Multi-field complexes 	 □ Anticipated hours of operation □ Local initiatives for reducing energy usage □ Desire for dimming or special effects



Musco provides free project planning assistance to help you navigate through the choices that impact project cost. Our foundation-to-poletop systems incorporate lighting, structural, and electrical components.

3. How many lights do I need?

What you are really buying is the quantity and quality of light on the field. It is a common practice to specify a number of fixtures, rather than the amount of light produced on the field. However, this is like buying a car based on the size of its gas tank instead of its fuel efficiency. The efficiency of reflector systems, light sources, and application experience currently available varies significantly.

Quantity of light

Light on the playing surface is measured in footcandles or lux. Several factors determine the number of footcandles or lux required to light your field:

- Sports type More light is required to light smaller, faster moving objects. For example, baseball uses a small ball traveling at high speeds, resulting in the need for higher light levels than soccer.
- Players' skill level Higher light levels are needed for increased skill, speed, and accuracy.
- **3. Field size** The size of the playing area defines the number of square feet/meters to be lighted.
- **4. Seating capacity** More light is needed to see action that is farther away.
- **5. Television/video requirements (if any)** A camera interprets images slower than the human eye and requires more light to be able to follow the action.

	Generally Accepted Lightin	g Standards	
SPORT	SPORT LEVEL	TARGET / CONSTANT LIGHT LEVELS	
		FOOTCANDLES	LUX
	Recreational	30/20	300/200
	Schools/Competitive Leagues	50/30	500/300
Baseball/Softball	Little League。	50/30	500/300
	Amateur Softball Association (ASA)	50/30	500/300
	College ¹	100/70	1000/700
	Elementary	30	300
Basketball (indoor)	High School	50	500
(macor)	College ¹	80	800
Football	Schools/Competitive Leagues	30	300
rootball	College ¹	50	500
	Recreational/Practice	20	200
Soccer	Schools/Competitive Leagues	30	300
	College/Municipal ¹	50	500
	Recreational	30	300
Tennis – 2 court (side by side)	Schools/Competitive Leagues	50	500
(side by side)	College ¹	75	750

¹ May vary due to seating capacity and television requirements.

Target vs initial light levels

Light levels naturally depreciate over time as the light sources age and dirt builds up on the fixtures. How fast it depreciates depends on the fixture design, light source type, and how it is operated. It's important to make sure your system is designed to provide maintained, or target, light levels over the life of your system to ensure you continue to have the quantity and quality of light you purchased.

Quality of light

When talking about light quality, you will hear the term uniformity, or evenness of light on the playing surface. It's stated as a ratio, like 3:1, the minimum standard for most sports. What that means is the brightest point on the field should be no more than three times as bright as the darkest point. This ratio is important because a ball can appear to change speed as it passes from dark to light areas, making it difficult for players to follow the flight and gauge the speed of the ball

Each manufacturer should provide specific information on initial and maintained light levels as well as a uniformity ratio, so when you compare proposals you can be sure they all design to the same criteria. It's also a good idea to get written guarantees for the quantity and quality of light your system will provide.



Achieving and maintaining the right quantity and quality of light impacts tournament site selection

Musco provides free lighting design services to you or your consultant to help you achieve guaranteed light quantity and quality.

4. How much will it cost to operate my lights?

Electrical cost to operate lights is less than many people might think. A typical soccer field can range from \$3 – \$8 per hour. In addition to electrical cost, you should consider staff time for operating on/off schedules, tracking facility usage, routine maintenance, and unexpected repair costs.

Electrical consumption

Light source options, metal halide or LED, vary in how efficiently they convert electrical energy into light energy. Even using the same light source, differences in reflector system efficiencies and aiming design vary, which impacts the energy required to achieve the amount of light needed on the field.

Standard Soccer Field – 360 x 225 ft (110 x 69 m) 30 footcandles (300 lux)

	Musco		Other Manufacturer	
	1150 W LED	1500 W Metal Halide	1500 W Metal Halide	
Fixtures required	28	32	52	
Hourly energy cost	\$3.22	\$5.00	\$8.42	
Annual energy cost	\$1,610	\$2,502	\$4,212	
25-year energy cost	\$40,250	\$62,560	\$105,300	

Assumes 10¢ per kW·h electrical rate, 500 hours per year operation

A properly designed LED system may cost more than a metal halide system. Facilities with higher usage will see a faster payback with energy savings. Energy savings is just one aspect to evaluate in deciding which light source and system is right for you.

Efficient management, scheduling, and monitoring

As public concern for energy conservation grows and budget constraints impact staffing, cities and organizations are considering automated lighting control systems. The systems are more reliable than timers, better accommodate last minute changes, save energy, and eliminate staff time traveling to fields to turn lights on and off.

Some systems provide reports that track hours by user helping you set user fees to offset your operating expenses. Monitoring services ensure on/off schedules are completed and alert you or your warranty provider to any fixture outages that may affect playability.

Musco's systems are efficient, and include automated controls with 24/7 staffed support, proactive monitoring, and a no-touch warranty that covers routine maintenance and repairs.

Routine maintenance

Relamping — For metal halide light sources, its more efficient to group relamp rather than replace lamps as they burn out. You should schedule group lamp replacements prior to the end of lamp life to ensure you maintain the target light levels on your field.

- Costs include: Lamps (\$60 to \$75/lamp average)
 - Equipment rental to get to the top of the pole (\$75 to \$150/hour)
 - Labor (Approximately \$60 \$100/hour average)

LEDs used for sports lighting should not burn out before the end of system life, provided there is adequate design for the supporting structural and electrical components. Regardless of source technology, the basics of lighting maintenance remain the same: relamping (metal halide), cleaning, monitoring, aiming alignment, and troubleshooting.

Fuses — Replace as needed (average cost of \$10 to \$15/fuse). You may need to rent equipment to access the fuses if electrical components are not accessible at ground level.

Unexpected repair costs — how to avoid them

Unexpected repairs can take significant time and money to correct. A well-designed system will be durable enough to withstand the elements and have features designed to reduce unexpected cost s.

Re-aiming — Make sure your manufacturer guarantees fixture alignment. Over time, factors like weather can cause misalignment resulting in less light on the field. Labor and equipment costs to correct this can be significant.

Multiple fixture outages — Each driver or fixture should be individually fused. This minimizes multiple or "gang" failure, as well as the need for emergency repairs.

Troubleshooting — Easy-to-access systems have electrical components such as ballasts/drivers, capacitors, and fuses located close to the ground to save time and money.

Lightning and surge protection — Built-in system grounding helps avoid equipment damage. This is especially critical with the electronics involved with LED systems.



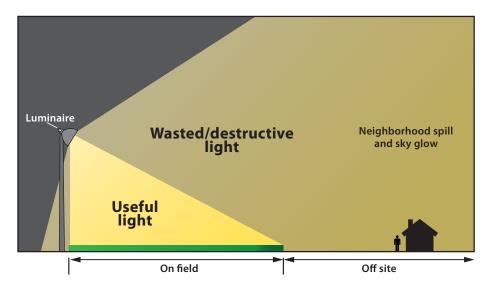
Misalignment of as little as 10 degrees shifts light off the playing field into the stands.



Having major electrical components accessible at ground level avoids hiring a \$100/hour crane to replace a \$10 fuse.

5. There are no houses near my field, so why should I be concerned about spill light and glare?

Even if no houses are there now, controlling light pollution is important for several reasons. Spill light, glare, and sky glow are considered wasted or destructive.



Spill light = wasted energy

Fixtures with poor light control waste light by allowing it to go off the field into neighborhood spill and sky glow. Proper light control redirects wasted spill light back onto the playing surface. No matter which light source is used, LED or metal halide, efficient fixture and system design, along with application expertise, impacts the quantity and quality of lighting results.

With better control, you reduce the number of fixtures needed to get useful light on the field. This also reduces operating and maintenance expenses.

Musco has developed advanced spill light and glare control systems to solve environmental concerns.

Glare problems

Glare control is important for neighbors, player safety, and spectator enjoyment. Fixture glare will make it difficult for players to follow the ball, creating the possibility for injury. Players competing on multi-field complexes can also be affected by glare from adjacent fields.

Due to the intensity of the LED light source, increased measures should be taken to provide optic controls to minimize glare. You don't have to sacrifice good light control to use a new light source.



Glare impacts players



Musco gets the glare out of the players' eyes

Community growth

Even if your facility does not have neighbors today, communities often grow up around sports facilities. Your lighting system should last more than 20 years. By minimizing spill light and glare now you will have happier neighbors and receive fewer complaints for years to come.

Growing concern

We're all aware of public concern for wasting the valuable energy resources it takes to produce light. Many communities are enacting environmental light pollution ordinances to regulate bothersome light that shines on private property, through windows, onto roadways and around astronomical research facilities. Light pollution also has negative effects on wildlife.

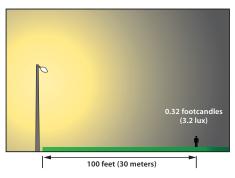


6. If they use the same wattage lamp, aren't all fixtures the same?

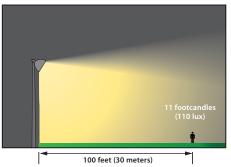
No matter what light source is used, the manufacturer's reflector design and application expertise is the critical factor in how effectively the lamp's light energy is projected onto the playing surface. Technology allows wasted spill light to be redirected back onto the playing surface, increasing the light on the field.

In the example below, the lamp produces the same amount of light at the top of the pole. Without a reflector, it projects less that 1 footcandle (10 lux) of light on an area 100 feet (30 m) away. With a well-designed reflector, it projects 30 times that amount.

Lamp with no reflector



Lamp with efficient reflector



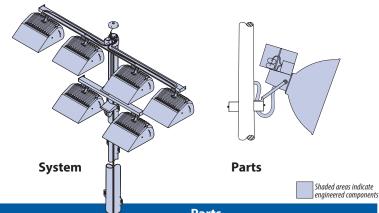
A reflector concentrates and projects the light energy onto the playing surface.

It is a common mistake to specify a number of fixtures, rather than the quantity of light produced on the field. Specifying a set number of fixtures simply spells out the amount of light that is going to be generated by the lamp at the top of the pole, rather than the light on the field.

Musco's complete system is engineered from foundationto-poletop in 5 Easy Pieces™ for optimal light control, easy installation, and trouble-free operation.

System vs parts

Lighting may be purchased as a system or as single fixtures plus other parts and pieces from a variety of sources. Here's an analysis:



System

Engineered as a complete system

- Parts selected by trained engineers for compatibility
- Critical components assembled in controlled environment
- Tested prior to shipping
- Single source accountability with light level guarantee and warranty on entire system

Factory aimed

- Reduced installation time and expense
- Known results

Electrical components mounted at pole base

- Easier maintenance
- Weight reduction better assures fixture alignment

Built-in lightning and surge protection

Assures its installed and operating

Parts

Parts and pieces of unknown strength and quality put together by the installer

- Inconsistent warranties from several sources
- Exposed wiring creates maintenance problems

Individual fixture-by-fixture aiming from the top of the pole

- Adds installation time and cost
- Unknown results

Electrical components on fixture

- Troubleshooting must be done from the top of the pole
- Increases chance of misalignment

Unknown protection

7. Why does pole type and height matter?

Poles are an integral part of a lighting system. The right poles help ensure proper aiming, long-term reliability and reduced maintenance expense.

Common pole types

Pole Type	Benefits	Drawbacks
		 Poles not tall enough to allow proper mounting height
Wood	■ Low cost of material	■ Fixture misalignment because wood twists and leans over time
		Safety hazards: rotting wood, exposed electrical conduit, toxic preservatives
Concrete	 Can be direct buried, eliminating the cost of footings Corrosion and moisture resistant Pleasing appearance 	 Poles are heavier and more expensive to set High freight costs often limit their use to areas near concrete pole manufacturing plants
Base-plate Galvanized Steel	Pleasing appearanceLighter weight than concrete, easy to handle	 Higher initial cost Require construction of concrete foundation with anchor bolts to mount poles Curing time of concrete base Corrosion at ground level Difficulty with pole orientation
Direct Burial Galvanized Steel Pole	Pleasing appearanceLightweight	 Underground corrosion accelerated due to moisture and soil chemicals (often undetectable prior to pole failure) Unpredictable life expectancy Increase installation time and cost depending on structural engineer's criteria

Combination concrete and steel pole

This pole option combines the advantages of steel and concrete, while reducing or eliminating many of the problems. Steel pole shafts are slip-fit onto precast concrete bases that are set directly into the ground and backfilled with concrete.

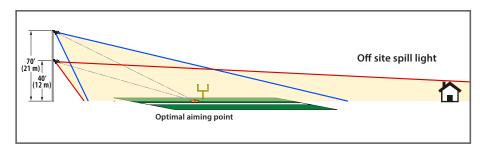
- Ease of installation poles can be set onto pre-stressed, directburied bases within 24 hours
- Cost savings poles and bases are shipped in sections and are lighter for lower freight expenses
- Corrosion resistance concrete bases are corrosion and moisture resistant at ground level and below grade



Musco's Light-Structure
Green™ system combines
the benefits of both
concrete and steel poles.

Pole height impacts aiming angles and the amount of spill light

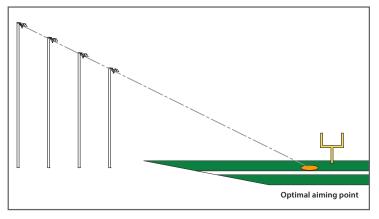
Proper fixture aiming angles ensure even light distribution across the playing area and reduce light pollution, otherwise known as spill light.



As a general rule, taller poles allow fixtures to be aimed more directly on the playing surface which reduces the amount of light spilling into unwanted surrounding areas. If city ordinances or other factors dictate the use of shorter poles, your lighting manufacturer will evaluate to see if custom measures, such as additional poles or creative aiming logic, can still allow you to meet your lighting goals on and off the field.

Distance from the aiming point determines optimal pole height

The optimal height of the poles needed for your lighting system and resulting project cost is also affected by their distance from the playing surface. Structures such as bleachers and buildings will impact pole locations. Future expansion or other facility plans should be discussed with the designer.



Musco's expert project managers and engineers will work with you to design the ideal lighting system for your specific needs.

8. How can I make sure I get the results I want?

We've reviewed some of the issues involved in choosing a lighting system. Once you've made your decisions, there are ways to ensure you get the results you want.

Define standards

It is important to have written specifications that establish the performance you expect from your system. Remember to incorporate the three components of the lighting system: lighting, structural, and electrical. Take into account the costs involved for design, supply, installation, and operation of the entire system. Specify the values you want for playability, environmental light control, life-cycle cost savings, and warranty.

Clearly defined standards will help you avoid two problems on bid date:

- Insufficient, cheap equipment substitutions to lower bid price
- High bids to cover the uncertain costs of an under-defined project

Seek accountability

Having a manufacturer that stands behind its product and provides good service will make a huge difference in long-term satisfaction with your lighting system.

Get a written guarantee — Manufacturers can provide written performance guarantees for light levels and your entire system (from the foundation to the fixtures), which will ensure the specifications you establish are met. Getting this guarantee from a single-source system provider will save you the headache of sorting out responsibility among multiple manufacturers should a problem arise.

Compare warranties and services — The warranty reflects a manufacturer's confidence in its product. Some manufacturers include services such as on/off control, monitoring, and onsite maintenance and repairs.

Evaluate their reputation — Ask for references and review the manufacturer's track record for service. A good question to ask is if there will be an on-site field performance evaluation after the installation.

Visit a lighted project — Ask to go see nearby projects similar to yours. You'll experience the results firsthand and be able to talk with the owner about how well the manufacturer helped achieve their lighting goals.

"The bitterness of poor quality remains long after the sweetness of low price is forgotten."

Benjamin Franklin

Musco's team includes more than 170 service and warranty professionals providing an industry-leading product assurance warranty with on/off control, monitoring, and on-site maintenance and repair.

9. Is there funding help available?

Finding funds can often prove to be one of the most challenging parts of the process. There are options available that can make your lighting project doable.

Utility grants/rebates

Many utility companies offer incentives to promote the use of energy-efficient products including sports lighting. Incentives vary and come in the form of rebates, grants, low-interest loans, and/or reduced kilowatt rates. Once the utility company completes an energy-savings audit, they can help fund new lights or upgrade your existing equipment with an energy-efficient system.

Financing programs

Financing programs for municipalities and public school systems provide a "budget stretcher" to help with facility improvements. The added revenue from expanded use of your facility can help make the annual payments, as well as will allow you to enjoy the benefits of your lighted facility sooner. Plus, a set payment can be built into your annual budget. This can free you from the budget uncertainties and cash flow implications of a large purchase.

Unique fundraising

Musco's unique Pennant Program™ fundraising program provides corporate advertising opportunities using pennants displayed on Musco's Light-Structure Green™ systems. Organizations have used this program to completely finance their project or to complement other fundraising efforts. And, others have continued the program after the purchase to help with annual operating costs.

Volunteer installation

Musco's foundation to poletop system simplifies installation and makes it feasible to consider volunteer installation, which can reduce the total project cost by up to one third.

Musco has financing options and a resource database to identify grants and incentives available to help make your project happen.

Lighting terms you'll hear

Creating Light Energy

LED – Light-emitting diode

Small semiconductor device that creates light when electricity passes through it.

High intensity discharge (HID) lamp — Metal halide, high-pressure sodium, and mercury vapor

A group of light sources that create light when electricity ignites gasses inside an arc tube.

Incandescent

A light source that creates light when electricity passes through a filament.



Light-emitting diode



Metal halide lamp

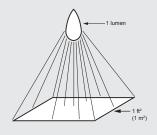
Measuring Light Energy

Lumen (1 lm)

Measure of light, much like a mile is a measure of distance

Footcandle (fc)

One lumen of light spread over 1 square-foot of surface. A light level of 30 footcandles means that 30 lumens of light are being projected onto each square foot of playing surface.



Lux (lx)

Lux is the metric equivalent to a footcandle. A lux is 1 lumen spread over 1 square meter.

Candela (cd)

Measure of the intensity of a light source. Relates to predicting on-field and off-field glare. You can relate this to car headlights: high beam = approximately 30,000 cd. Low beam = approximately 12,000 cd.

Coloring rendering index (CRI)

A scale from 0-100 used to measure a light source's ability to show colors realistically as compared to natural light (daylight). Higher CRI values mean a light source is more true to color.

Color temperature

A unit of measure in degrees Kelvin that indicates the color of a light source. Temperatures below 3500K appear yellow or warmer. Above 4500K appear bluish white or cooler. Absolute white is 5000K.

Controlling Light – Lighting Performance

Photometrics

Control of light energy through redirection

Constant light level

The amount of light you can expect on the field at any given time over the extended life of the fixture or system.

Initial footcandles or lux

The amount of light on the field when the lighting system is first put into use.

Target (maintained) footcandles or lux

The lowest average amount of light you should always have on your field to meet minimum performance requirements.

Light loss

Amount of brightness from a fixture lost over time due to aging of the light source, dirt accumulation, temperature and voltage variations, and maintenance.

Lp lumen maintenance

The number of operating hours an LED light source will maintain the percentage (p) of its initial light output, noted as Lp.

Uniformity

The smoothness of light on the field.

Point by point

Computer-generated model of your proposed lighting system showing footcandle/lux readings at given points on your field.

Spill light

Wasted light that falls off the field into undesired areas, such as a neighbor's back yard.



Point by point

Glare

Destructive light from a light source that shines in players', spectators', or neighbors' eyes, making it difficult to see.

Sky glow

Destructive light in the night sky which results from light that is reflected upwards.

Notes

We will help get you started.

From our expert project managers to our team of certified engineers, we will work with you to design a custom foundation-to-poletop lighting solution that:

- Reduces your facility's energy and life-cycle costs
- Delivers superior controlled light guaranteed to meet specified light levels
- Controls spill light, glare, and sky glow
- Eliminates maintenance costs
- Simplifies operation and reduces cost with our Control-Link® system monitoring, management tools, and on/off control

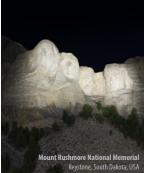
For free planning assistance for your sports-lighting project contact:



800/825-6030 WWW.musco.com lighting@musco.com









Lighting solutions for your large area applications

Need to light a non-sports project?

Musco's team of expert engineers create innovative lighting solutions for a variety of applications from small parking lots to large ports and national monuments. Since 1976, Musco has established itself as the global leader in sports and large area lighting solutions. For innovative lighting systems that enhance light quality, improve effectiveness, reduce spill light and glare, cut costs, and minimize the impact on our environment, contact Musco. We make it happen.

- Parking lots
- Buildings and architecture
- Monuments
- Ports, airports, and rail yards
- Construction sites
- Bridges
- Security
- And much more



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