History of lighting: How technological advances and federal regulations shaped the bulb

Part of the Next Generation of Energy Savings project
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Ever since Thomas Edison's incandescent lamp became commercially available more than a century ago, technological advances and federal regulations have shaped lighting's path. Our infographic shows you the journey of lighting technology, including major milestones—such as the development of LEDs, lighting's first appearance in demand-side management portfolios, and federal efficiency standards. We also explain the current state of the lighting market and where it's headed in the future.

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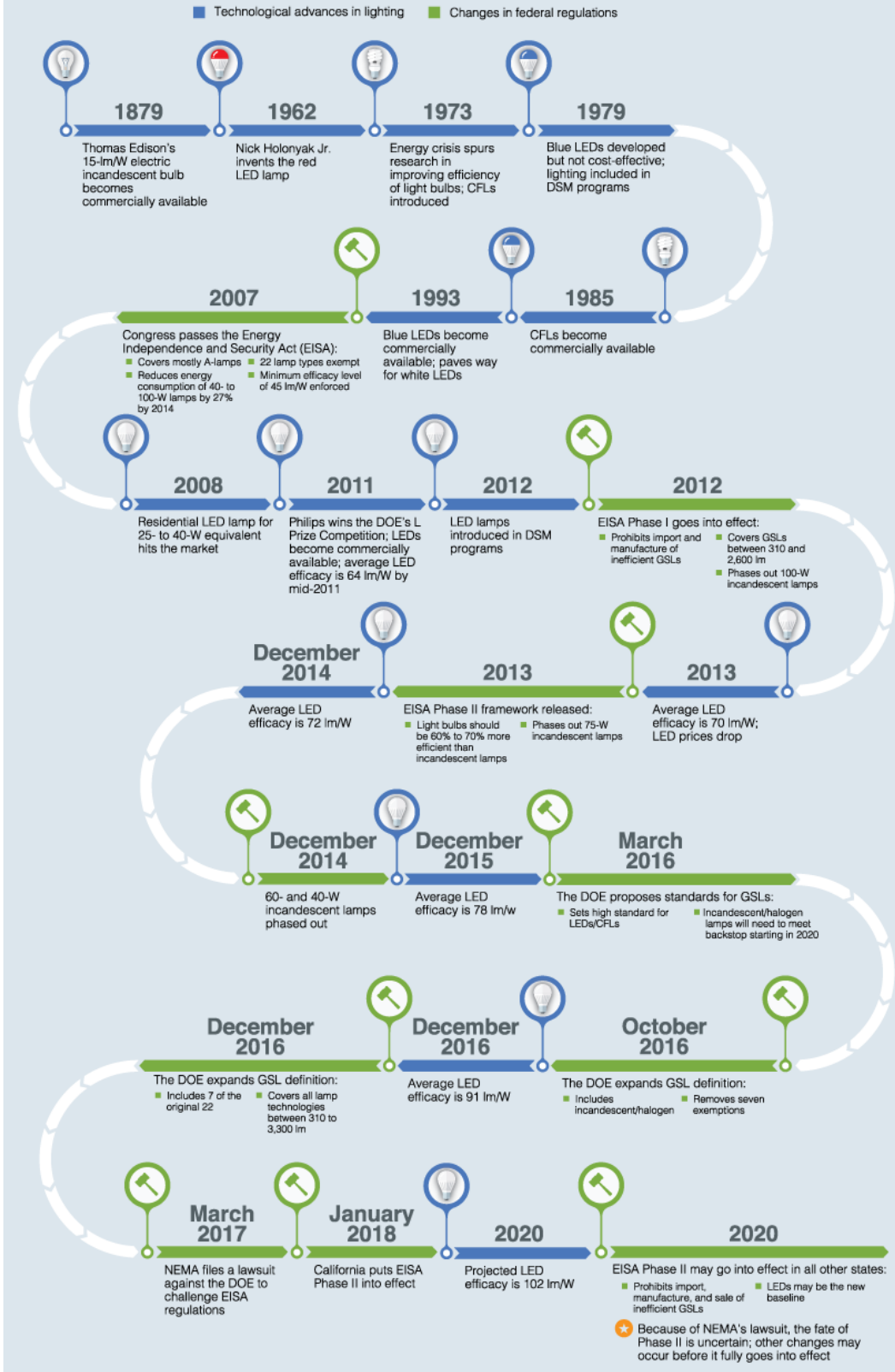
History of Lighting



Notes: DOE= US Department of Energy; DSM = demand-side management; GSL = general service lamp; lm = lumen; lm/W = lumens per watt; W = watt.

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