

Outdoor Lighting Ordinance and Curfews

Some Colorado communities have adopted lighting ordinances and/or curfews to help combat light pollution. Even when these are not present, neighbors greatly appreciate efforts to control light trespass and sky glow. We can all work together to make this a reality.



International Dark Sky Places

A growing number of places in Colorado are certified by DarkSky International as International Dark Sky Places (IDSPs). This means they have achieved compliance with rigorous dark-sky guidelines, enacted lighting ordinances, and gone through a lengthy application process to prove they are showing exceptional dedication to protecting the night. You may very well be in an International Dark Sky Place, near one, or in a place that is in the process of being designated. So please, help them out, and be considerate of your light usage.



PHOTO BY VAL SZWARC

Be a Shining Star for the Community

The best way to help keep our Colorado skies dark for all the reasons mentioned here is to be a good example. Every light turned off helps keep our skies a little darker so the stars can shine!



DarkSky
COLORADO

Colorado
Stargazing

PROTECT THE NIGHT

WELCOME
Dark Sky
NEIGHBOR!



DarkSky
COLORADO

Dark Skies and What They Mean for You

Colorado is a very special place, where dark skies enable us to see the stars unlike most anywhere in the country. If you haven't yet done so, go outside at night and look up! However, star-filled skies do not come easily and are only possible if we work together to Protect the Night.

In today's modern world, it's easy to overlook how light pollution—the excessive and inappropriate use of artificial light at night—can affect human health, animals, plants, and our ability to experience the wonders of a starry night sky.

Circadian Rhythms

Artificial light distorts our circadian rhythms and our sleep patterns. A good night's sleep helps reduce weight gain, stress, depression, and the onset of diabetes.

Wildlife

Many species are nocturnal which means their lives depend on the natural night. Exposure to artificial light at night—which is more intense during the winter because of the snow's reflection—negatively impacts wildlife habitat and ecosystems, including wildlife's ability to hunt, mate, and avoid predators.

Natural and Cultural Heritage

When we can't see our stars, we lose a connection with the natural world and one of the most incredible wonders of the universe. Seeing the stars is part of who we are.

Energy savings = Cost Savings

Using less light also means using less energy. This translates into cost savings! And the less energy we use, the less we contribute to harming our climate.



Do Your Part

Modern society requires outdoor lighting for safety and commerce, but night-time lighting can be used wisely. To minimize the harmful effects of light pollution, please follow the 5 Principles of Responsible Lighting:

- * **USEFUL**
All light should have a clear purpose.
- * **TARGETED**
Light should be directed only to where needed, inside and outside.
- * **LOW LIGHT LEVELS**
Light should be no brighter than necessary.
- * **CONTROLLED**
Light should be used only when it is useful.
- * **COLOR**
Use warmer colored lights where possible.

Light Trespassing

Light trespass is a form of light pollution that impinges on other people's personal space. Familiar examples include floodlights and string lights that illuminate a neighbor's yard and beyond. Many people find this pollution extremely frustrating, and it can be a source of conflict in a community. Please think carefully before installing outdoor lighting, keep outdoor lighting off when it's not absolutely needed, and close your blinds at night to keep light inside. More information can be found at www.darksky.org

How to Talk With Your Neighbor(s)

- * Get to know them.
- * Be a good example.
- * Share your passion for protecting the night.
- * Plan a star party or night sky event in your neighborhood.
- * Be patient.

Holiday Lighting

We know holiday lights are a tradition and add magic to the season. Rather than putting them away altogether, consider these tips to help Protect the Night:

- * Use fewer lights overall.
- * Avoid excessive use of lights that have a more blue appearance. Blue light is most harmful to wildlife and contributes more than other colors to sky glow. If you use white lighting, select warmer lights that are close in color to a candle flame.
- * Control outdoor holiday lighting with timers and turn it off completely at bedtime.
- * Instead of illuminating roof lines and trees, consider using string lights around windows and doors where the roof helps keep light from traveling upwards.
- * Keep holiday lighting in season.

