

Dark Sky Friendly



Pot lights in soffits and porch ceilings are good Dark Sky choices

Dark Sky Unfriendly



Drawings thanks to Strathcona County
<http://www.strathcona.ca/files/files/at-cpia-dark-sky-energy-efficient-lighting.pdf>

What are the Benefits of Dark Sky Lighting to Homeowners?

Economic Benefits

- Save money by asking your home builder to install IDA (International Dark-Sky Assoc.) approved lighting with LED or lower wattage bulbs, and motion sensitive security lights.
- Less ambient outdoor night lighting with reduced glare will keep you safer, provide the same visibility at up to half the wattage (saving money), and allow for better sleeping and a healthier life.
- Dark sky lighting protects animals and plants that contribute to the incredible diversity of the Bruce Peninsula which supports tourism and helps the local economy.

Practical steps you can take...

- Install dark sky friendly lighting, lower wattage LED bulbs and motion detectors or timers for security. Use lighting with yellow/red tint bulbs (less glare, easier on the environment).

Pot lights in soffits and porch ceilings are very effective dark sky friendly options.

- Close your blinds or curtains at dusk.
 - If your neighbour has unshielded lights that flood into your house or bedroom, find a 'neighbourly' way to defuse the situation at: <http://www.darksky.org/assets/documents/PG3-residential-lighting.pdf>
 - Go to the Biosphere website for pictures and specifications of dark sky friendly lighting. <http://www.bpba.ca/images/lightingcatalogue.pdf>
- (This is a large file and may take some time to load.)

Good Lighting = Good Neighbours

Dark Sky Friendly Lighting

Are You a Good Light Neighbour?

Light efficient communities are appearing all over North America as home owners realize the benefits of using residential lighting wisely



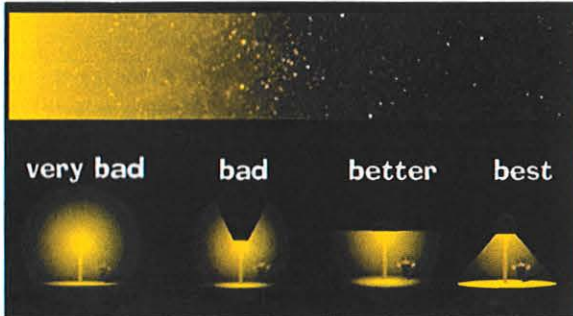
Light trespass images above thanks to Amity School
<https://environmentallysound.wordpress.com/light-excreta-2/light-excreta/>



A Dark Sky Community

Light efficiency involves:

- Directing the light down, instead of up or sideways into neighbours' yards or windows
- Lighting the night-time environment only when and where it is essential
- Matching the amount of light to the task



Did you know?

- Outdoor lighting that shines directly upward wastes an estimated \$1.74 Billion per year across North America, equivalent to 600 million gallons of gasoline (over 2 billion liters).

(Mills, E. 2012. "The \$230-billion Global Lighting Energy Bill" International Assoc. for Energy-Efficient Lighting and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory June 2012)

- A recent study indicated that two thirds of the world's population can no longer see the Milky Way, but **here on the Bruce, we can!**



Our sister galaxy Andromeda from Lion's Head, Doug Cunningham Astrophoto

Why are dark skies important?

- The Northern Bruce Peninsula is renowned for its biodiversity. We have one of the highest concentrations of rare plant and animal species in all of Canada. The high quality of our bio-diverse environment attracts new residents, retirees, researchers and tourists, stimulating the local economy.
- Humans and other animals are dependent on **natural light-dark cycles**, as many biological processes are light triggered. Light pollution disrupts these natural processes.
- **Excessive artificial light** negatively affects plants, and how animals, birds, insects & amphibians forage, conceal their location, navigate, or reproduce.
- In North America over 100 million migrating birds die (mostly in collisions with buildings) due to excessive urban lighting.
- Our dark sky is a tourist attraction for the Northern Bruce Peninsula as we have the darkest skies in easy reach of the cities in Southern Ontario.

You are invited to our local star party, Bayside Astronomy, at the Lion's Head Marina – Friday and Saturday evenings from Canada Day to Labour Day. See how dark our skies really are! No Charge.

We are a Dark Sky Community!



Brochure prepared by Bruce Peninsula Biosphere Association's Dark Sky Committee

www.bpba.ca

Dark Sky lighting myths



Myth 1

Using efficient lighting means less security.

Fact - Excessive night time lighting promotes a false sense of security. Glare caused by unshielded fixtures provide opportunities for intruders to go unobserved as shown above.

Reducing glare enables the same level of visibility with as little as half the wattage.

Myth 2

Dark sky friendly lighting is expensive.

Fact - Scott's Home Hardware in Lion's Head and Timbermart in Miller Lake stock inexpensive dark sky friendly lights. Check at Liverance too. Motion sensors cost as little as \$25. LED bulbs have an annual operating cost 1/10th that of incandescent bulbs and due to the lower wattage are more dark sky friendly. Use yellow or low wattage LEDs for the least impact on wildlife at the best price.

Myth 3

Dark sky friendly lighting is hard to find and ugly.

Fact - Local retailers stock and can order dark sky friendly lights. Major lighting designers like Hinkley and Kichler have entire lines of IDA approved dark sky lighting.