

Reduce Light Pollution to Preserve the Night Sky

If you are considering updating or replacing your outdoor lights, you may want to think about being “dark sky friendly” and help reduce light pollution in Louisville. This can be as simple as using shielded light fixtures and directing them downward, using warm, white bulbs and using a timer, dimmer or motion detector on lights, so you only use as much light as needed.

What is light pollution? Most of us are familiar with air or water pollution, but light can be a pollutant, as well. Light pollution is the excessive use of artificial light. Light pollution has been shown to be harmful to human health, disrupt natural sleep patterns, negatively impact wildlife and excessive lighting wastes energy and money. Reducing light pollution also helps us experience the beautiful nighttime sky of Colorado.

Protecting the night sky starts with YOU!

1 Light only what you need 	2 Use energy efficient bulbs and only as bright as you need 	3 Shield lights and direct them down 
4 Only use light when you need it 	5 Choose warm white light bulbs 	6 Join IDA! We need your help to continue the fight against light pollution. 

While good outdoor lighting is necessary for safety and security, there are many ways to design dark sky friendly lighting that enhances visibility. Bright, unshielded lighting can actually inhibit safety through glare and by creating light and dark areas where it is difficult to see. More lighting is not always better lighting.

For more information on dark sky lighting benefits and resources, you can visit the International Dark Sky Association website at www.DarkSky.org. To learn more about Louisville retailers offering a discount to residents for dark sky fixtures, visit www.LouisvilleCO.gov/DarkSky. Have questions? Please contact the Planning & Building Safety Department at 303.335.4592.

Poor Lighting Reduces Safety and Security

Glare from bright, unshielded lights actually decreases safety. See how glare in the photo on the right makes it hard to see the man at the gate? Glare creates deep shadows, making it more difficult to see. It also shines into your eyes, constricting your pupils. This diminishes your eyes' ability to adapt to low-light conditions. So, is that bright light really making this area safer?

