

Common Sense Lighting Ordinance Proposal
for
The Town of Lake City, Colorado
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- Purpose: To promote responsible outdoor lighting that preserves night sky visibility, enhances community safety, respects neighbors, and reduces energy waste.
- Goals:
 1. Reduce unnecessary light pollution.
 2. Preserve view of the night sky.
 3. Promote public health and sleep quality.
 4. Improve nighttime safety and visibility.
 5. Encourage energy efficiency.
 6. Enhance smarter lighting for area businesses and assist with promoting astro tourism as an economic benefit for Lake City.
- General Lighting Guidelines
 1. Shielding: For existing properties – Encourage fully shielded light fixtures which point light downward and block light from going upward or sideways. For newly constructed residences, businesses, or government buildings, require fully shielded light fixture which point light downward and block light from going upward or sideways.
 2. Color temperature: All lights should be 3000K or lower (“warm light”) to reduce blue light emissions.
 3. Lumen Limits: Brightness should be appropriate to the task (e.g., no more than one thousand lumens for walkway lighting).
 4. Curfew Hours: Outdoor lights should be dimmed or turned off by 11:00 PM mountain standard time from May through September and by 9 PM from October through April. Security lights should be put on motion detectors.

- Recommendations:
 1. Encourage motion sensor lighting.
 2. Prohibit outdoor lights that shine onto neighboring properties.
 3. For commercial areas – Signage lighting should be turned off by 11:00 PM from April through September and by 9:00 PM from November through March.
 4. For public and park areas – Use adaptive lighting (red lights, sensors)
- Education and Compliance
 1. Launch an outreach campaign for the community about the effects of light pollution and good lighting practices.
 2. Allow 12 to 18 months for residents and businesses to adjust and upgrade lighting.
- Benefits
 1. Protects night sky visibility for residents and visitors.
 2. Supports wildlife and natural rhythms.
 3. Reduces energy use and municipal costs.
 4. Build a safer and more respectful nighttime setting.
 5. Adding a positive economic benefit with Astro tourism since Lake City has exceptional dark skies for stargazing.

Presented to the Town of Lake City Planning Commission by Phillip Virden for their April 23 meeting.