GOOD LIGHTING MAKES GOOD NEIGHBORS

Dear Neighbor:

As our community grows and changes, we have become increasingly aware of the number of outdoor lights (driveway, garage, porch, street) that are left on all night. Many of these lights create glare and contribute to the skyglow that is taking away our ability to see the nighttime sky.

As the days grow longer, we are asking everyone to please look at their outdoor lights and to turn them off when possible. Please aim floodlights so they face down and not out, use a non-glare bulb in the lowest possible wattage. Also use shields when appropriate. Consider lights that use motion detectors or time controls. Opaque or colored bulbs also reduce glare and light trespass. If you have any questions or need more information, please call me at *{your phone number}*. You can also get information at the *{list your community planning contacts here if there is an ordinance and/or list the IDA section contact info. for your area}* or online at ***www.darksky.org***

Thank you for helping ensure that we do not lose sight of our beautiful nighttime sky!

Sincerely,

Your Neighbor
(Listing your name is optional)

Saving our view of the night sky, one light at a time. What can be done?

The solutions are easy and do not compromise in any way nighttime safety, security, or utility.

1. **Use night lighting only when necessary**. Turn lights off when they are not needed. Timers and /or motion sensors can be very effective ways to control lighting and save energy. Use only the amount of light needed .
2. **Direct the light downward**, where it is needed. The use and effective placement of well-designed fixtures will achieve excellent lighting control. The goal is to use fixtures which control the light, minimizing glare, light trespass, light pollution, and energy usage.
3. **Ask yourself** "What do I need to light? How much light do I need?"

If each person does one thing, (lower the wattage in a light bulb, turn off a light or talk to a neighbor about lights) once a year, in a very short time "good neighbor lighting" will be the standard and our view of the stars in the night sky will not disappear. Refer to IDA information sheets on "How to talk to your neighbor …", "Outdoor Lighting Design Checklist", and others such as #'s 24 and 26. Please help ensure that we continue to have a beautiful view of the stars in the night sky for all to enjoy!!! Promote the idea of "good neighbor lighting".

Using this letter along with the suggested information sheets can make a difference!

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