

## Dark Skies Strategy Feb 2025

Honoring its history as a rural, farming community and its legacy of leadership in land conservation, Lincoln seeks to further protect the natural environment by limiting excessive artificial light at night.

Bylaws adopted in 2016 require fully shielded fixtures and a maximum color of 3000K. All lights added after 2016 must comply.

Guidance limits intensity to 900 lumens/fixture and does not allow landscaping lights or driveway lights. Guidance from the Planning Board has been in effect for new construction.

### Aims

1. Education
2. Working with Town administration to identify solutions for town-owned properties and streetlights.
3. Propose update to guidance, regulations and bylaws

### **1. Education**

Improve voluntary compliance to current bylaws and guidance.

Limit the use of outdoors light to what is needed for specific activities.

### Approaches

- Inform the public about the negative effects of artificial light on ecosystems and convey what we gain by turning off the lights
- Demonstrate appropriate lighting to improve safety and security.
- Instructing the public about solutions and new technologies, such as dimming, warmer color, and motion activation.
- Establish a positive process to contact offenders and help find solutions in a friendly manner.
- Assist residents, condo associations, institutions, and businesses in finding appropriate solutions to excessive artificial light.

### Planned outreach activities

Activity	Date
Newcomer's meeting information Table	2025 January
Notices on BOS	2025 February
Dark Skies educational pamphlet	Ongoing
School projects	Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Winter 2026
Astronomy night	2025 Fall, 2026 Winter
Websites (Official Town site and Common Ground)	Ongoing
Presentation from expert: Jane Slade, Bemis Hall	2025 March 7
Defining a process to contact offenders positively	In Progress
Presentation about moths in collaboration with LLCT	2025 June
Flyers in water bill	

Flyer to new residents in package provide by ConCom	
Notices on AgCom newsletters	2025 Spring, Summer
Reaching out to all Town organizations	In Progress

## **2. Working with town Administrators to identify solutions for town buildings and streetlights.**

- Stakeholders Meeting: Discussion between Dark Skies and town administrators, town departments and Dark Skies to be scheduled for early may. (Tim Higgins to schedule).
  - Discuss ways to decrease light on properties controlled by the Town.
  - Identify a model site to demonstrate adequate lighting and evaluate the cost of implementing.
  - Assist the Town in identifying feasible technologies to solve problems.
  - Evaluate streetlights with the goal of eliminating or dimming unnecessary lights.
  - Generate cost/benefit assessment to actions with the help of consultants.
  - Understand the difference between guidance and regulations.

## **3. Evaluate and propose update to guidance, regulations and bylaws**

- Given that current guidance only applies to new construction, determine the feasibility of generating regulations to facilitate enforcement and education.
- Consider general bylaws to ensure continuity for the future.
- Update current bylaws or guidance: consider motion activation, lower intensity, limiting the number of fixtures per property, warmer light color, and time limit.