

International Dark-Sky Association e-News

03 February, 2009

Call for Papers and Presentations

Submit an abstract to present at the [IDA 2009 Annual General Meeting](#), held 14 & 15 November, 2009 in Phoenix, AZ, USA.

The 2009 AGM theme is "Sustainable Skies: Achieving sustainability through the preservation of our nightscape."

[Download presentation instructions here >>](#)

New Lighting Legislation

Visit the IDA "[Policy](#)" link for the latest updates on statewide light pollution legislation in the U.S.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

IDA in the News

[Don't Be Afraid of the Dark](#)

by Melissa Knopper, *emagazine.com* - 04 February, 2009

Sleep researchers learned years ago that the hormone melatonin has a lot of power over how we sleep. If levels dip too low, our sleep/wake cycle gets out of wack. And the best way to build up melatonin levels, it turns out, is to get enough sleep. But here's the other key: You have to sleep in darkness, a difficult feat in the era of blinking electronics...

[Admiring the Beauty of the Night](#)

by Patrice St. Germain, *Desert Valley Times* - St. George, UT, USA, 30 January, 2009

With street lights the biggest contributor of light pollution, Gubler said the city controls the lighting by using lights that point downward...

IYA Podcast by IDA!

The IYA project [365 Days of Astronomy](#) provides daily podcasts on a variety of astronomical topics.

IDA discusses outreach, education, and our involvement in the "Dark Skies Awareness" cornerstone project in the podcast for 02 February, 2009.

[Click to listen >>](#)

Listen to a new five-minute podcast every day by visiting <http://365daysofastronomy.org/>.

Dark Skies in the Military

[Shavano Park Drafting Dark Sky Rules](#)

by Robert Goetz, *San Antonio Express* - San Antonio, TX, USA, 28 January, 2009

Shavano Park city officials continue moving closer toward adopting an ordinance that would help the U.S. Army's training missions at Camp Bullis by reducing light pollution...

Dark Sky Updates

[Turn Off the Lights](#)

by Kang Chan-soo, *JoongAng Daily* - South Korea, 23 January, 2009

In recent years, more and more lights have been turned on to create vibrant cityscapes. As we develop technology designed to shed light only where it's necessary, we can reduce light pollution as we wish...

To Your Health

[Light at Night May Boost Risk of Prostate Cancer](#)

by Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, *Jerusalem Post* - Israel, 24 January, 2009

In the first stage of research, it was clearly found that there was a connection between artificial illumination and electricity consumption at night and prostate cancer...

Energy Edge: Darker Skies in the UK

[Lights May Go Out to Cut Power Bills](#)

Leicester Mercury - Leicester, England, UK, 02 February, 2009

Every other street light in Leicester could be switched off and areas of the county plunged into darkness to tackle soaring electricity bills...

[Nailsworth Signs up to Green Scheme](#)

by Rachel Clare, *Stroud News and Journal* - UK, 29 January, 2009

Nailsworth is set to become one of the first towns in Gloucestershire to try and cut its carbon emissions by switching off some of its streetlights at night. It follows successful trials in which between 30% and 50% of existing streetlights - excluding those on main traffic routes - were converted from all night to part night operation...

[Street Lights to be Switched Off](#)

by Reg Little, *The Oxford Times* - Oxford, Oxfordshire, UK, 29 January, 2009

About 300 street lights are to be switched off as part of a controversial county council plan to cut Oxfordshire's carbon emissions...

[Street Light Switch-off Could Cut Bills in Half](#)

Bath Chronicle - Bath, England, UK, 28 January, 2009

The issue was raised at a council cabinet meeting earlier this month and Cllr Shirley Steel (Con, Midsomer Norton) said the scheme could conserve energy by saving electricity as well as having financial benefits for the council...

[Torfaen Council's Assurance on Streetlights](#)

South Wales Argus - Newport, Wales, UK, 27 January, 2009

The authority announced in October last year, that it needed to reduce its lighting power bill by 50 per cent due to financial constraints...

[AA Warn Against Street Light Turn Off](#)

by Robert Warlow, *Newbury Weekly News Group* - Newbury, England, UK, 24 January, 2009

CRIME and accidents could increase if potential plans to switch off West Berkshire's street lights during twilight hours...

[Council Considers Street Light Switch-off](#)

Bath Chronicle - Bath, England, UK, 22 January, 2009

Other measures to be considered, to reduce light pollution and energy consumption, include part-night lighting and dimming of lights...

Night Sky Protection

[Light Pollution Not High on Municipal Lists](#)

by Michelle Rupe Eubanks, *Times Daily* - Florence, AL, USA, 02 February, 2009

Blake contends that studies conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency have shown that the addition of lighting to a dark area doesn't decrease crime levels, and too much light at night can be harmful to humans and wildlife in the long run...

[Light and Fire on SLO Council Agenda](#)

by Sally Connell, *San Luis Obispo Tribune* - San Luis Obispo, CA, USA, 01 February, 2009

The proposed ordinance would demand that property owners use shielded lights that aim light down onto their property instead of sideways on neighboring land...

[Dark Sky Initiative Targets Light Pollution](#)

by Alyssa Burnham, *High River Times* - High River, Alberta, Canada, 24 January, 2009

The Dark Sky initiative aims to mitigate light pollution within MD borders and minimize the adverse effects of lighting on the night sky...

[Attempts Again Underway to Protect the Night Sky](#)

Joplin Independent - Joplin, MO, USA, 25 January, 2009

A panel discussion on the causes, prevention and ecological consequences of light pollution will take place at 7 pm on February 9, 2009...

Wildlife Watch

[Salazar to Revisit Recent Interior Department Actions](#)

by Jim Tankerskey, *Los Angeles Times*, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 27 January, 2009

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said Tuesday that he was reconsidering a series of controversial energy and environmental decisions handed down in the waning days of the Bush administration, including a move to open federal land near national parks to oil and natural gas drilling...

Dark Sky Comment

[It's Good to be in the Dark](#)

by Melissa Lambertson, *Tucson Citizen* - Tucson, AZ, USA, 26 January, 2009

Tucsonans should be proud of our legacy - this is, after all, the birthplace of the International Dark Sky Association...

IYA

[Discovery: Lights in the Skies](#)

by Massie Santos Ballon, *Inquirer.net* - Philippines, 23 January, 2009

To see the night skies though, astronomers need darkness. ... Artificial lighting stresses the surrounding ecological systems, disrupting predator/prey relationships...

Ways to Support IDA

[Donate Now and Become a Member!](#)

[eBay Giving Works Program](#) - Donate part or all proceeds to IDA from items you sell on eBay.

[A Memorial Donation or Commemorative Gift](#) - Commemorative gifts offer a unique way to honor a special event, such as a wedding, anniversary or birthday, in the life of someone you love. By giving a memorial gift in memory of a family member or friend, you not only affirm your environmental values, but also recognize that these values were shared by the individual being honored. Whether in condolence or in honor of an occasion or person, your friends and family will appreciate the thoughtfulness of your contribution.

[Planned Giving](#) - Gift planning is an exciting way to fulfill philanthropic goals because planning a gift through your estate provides not only a legacy of support for IDA, but also multiple financial and tax benefits to you and your family.

Your Support Helps Us Continue the Fight to Save the Night!