

# Reclaiming the Night: Policy and Technology as Tools of Change

International Dark-Sky Association  
2017 Annual General Meeting & Conference  
November 10, 11 & 12  
Hilton Back Bay, Boston, MA  
[www.darksky.org/reclaimingthenight](http://www.darksky.org/reclaimingthenight)

Friday, November 10

Welcome & Introductory Remarks

1:30 PM - Belvidere Ballroom

Inspiring Change in Your Community - Success Case Studies (Part I)

1:45 - 3:15 PM - Belvidere Ballroom

IDA chapter and grassroots leaders from around the world share how they are successfully inspiring policy changes aimed at preserving natural darkness and reducing light pollution and its environmental impacts at local and regional levels.

Inspiring Change in Your Community - Success Case Studies (Part II)

3:30 - 5:00 PM - Belvidere Ballroom

Additional success stories will be presented from our on-the-ground leaders sharing how they are meeting the challenges and inspiring change in their communities.

In Conversation with Authors, Photographers, and Filmmakers Gavin Heffernan and Harun Mehmedinovic

6:30 - 8:30 PM Belvidere Ballroom

An evening of breathtaking imagery, behind-the-scenes tales, and fun and humor awaits you when Harun Mehmedinovic and Gavin Heffernan join us in conversation to discuss SKYGLOW, a three-year project funded by a highly successful Kickstarter campaign and supported by IDA that led to a 192-page hard copy photobook and Blu-Ray timelapse

video series exploring North America's remaining magnificent night skies and the increasing impact of light pollution on our highly fragile environment.

*Note: Following the program, Gavin and Harun will be available to inscribe and personalize copies of SKYGLOW, which will be available for sale.*

## Saturday, November 11

### Emerging Technologies Revolutionizing the Nightscape

9:00 - 10:15 AM - Belvidere Ballroom

The accelerating pace of new lighting technologies such as the Internet of Things, adaptive management, and smart lighting has created untapped opportunities for managing artificial light at night. Our expert panelists will share their experience and insights on how emerging technologies can advance our efforts to reduce light pollution.

### Policy and Enforcement that Matters

10:30 - 11:45 AM - Belvidere Ballroom

There are many strategies and tools that help influence policy and make enforcement possible. Our panelists will discuss what contributes to effective lighting ordinances and how to influence policy in larger geographic context. Experts will review standards and specifications that influence lighting implementation across the industry, as well as the role of sustainability ratings and street lighting master plans.

### IDA Awards Ceremony

12:00 PM - Belvidere Ballroom

IDA honors the 2017 award recipients.

### Keynote Address

Following the Awards Ceremony

**David Owen** is a staff writer at *The New Yorker* and the author of more than a dozen books, among them *Green Metropolis*, *The Conundrum*, and, most recently, *Where the Water Goes: Life and Death Along the Colorado River*.

Darkness can be a hard sell, even to people who think of themselves as environmentally aware. **David Owen** spent twenty years on his town's Zoning Commission, the final six as the chairman. In 2010 or so, they passed some limited lighting regulations for the town's residential districts. The rules contain some provisions that he says he regrets. "But in a way the wording hasn't mattered," he says, "because, in order to be meaningful, zoning rules have to be both embraced and enforced. Lighting rules are especially challenging in that regard because all you need to do to make them irrelevant is to throw a switch."

In 2007, Owen penned "The Dark Side: Making War on Light Pollution" for *The New Yorker*, putting IDA's work in the spotlight.

Note: A book signing with the author will follow the address.

#### Human Needs in the Built Environment

2:00 - 3:15 PM - Maverik A

We now have the technological capacity to create progressive urban environments that embrace the human condition while addressing the issues of health, aesthetics, ambiance, security, and safety. A panel of representatives from the architectural design, human health, safety and security, and urban planning communities will discuss how night sky protection and meeting human needs is not an "either-or" binary decision.

#### Views From Abroad

2:00 - 3:15 PM - Maverick B

Innovation and challenges are international! This special panel will bring together leading experts and authorities on abating light pollution to share their winning political strategies, technological innovations, educational programs, and organizing campaigns outside of the US. The panel will cover unique international challenges and how countries around the world are tackling light pollution, and issues that don't follow political boundaries.

## Factors That Motivate Change

3:45 - 5:00 PM - Maverick A

One of our greatest obstacles is challenging the status quo and motivating change across manufacturers, industry, agencies, opinion leaders, legislators, and businesses. This panel will explore what motivates change—cost-benefit, energy savings, ROI, economic incentives, the arts, dark sky places, and astrotourism—and how these can foster progressive lighting policies.

## Understanding Our Society's Fear of the Night and How to Address It

3:45 - 5:00 PM - Maverick B

Humans seem hard-wired to fear the darkness of night. Our panel of experts will explore the physiological, psychological, behavioral, and evolutionary basis for this fear and how it intersects with our efforts to reduce light pollution. They will discuss the myths and facts about outdoor lighting, safety, security and crime prevention, as well as known research gaps. Lastly, they will advise on solutions to overcome both valid and perceived issues as we strive to improve the night environment.

## Sunday, November 12

### Intentionally Diversifying Our Community for Greater Success

9:00 - 10:15 AM - Belvidere Ballroom

Not unlike many other social, environmental, and political movements, our community suffers from lack of diversity as defined in its broadest terms. Scaling up our impact will require community that is inclusive of all those who have the most to lose—and to gain—from the abatement of light pollution. Representatives from key stakeholder constituencies will share their wisdom on how we can overcome this impediment to success.

### Open Forum: At 30 Years, What Does the Future Hold for IDA?

10:30 - 11:45 AM - Belvidere Ballroom

Our greatest advocates for change, action, and hope are IDA's chapter leaders, members, and grassroots activists. Although we share many successes and accomplishments, we also face a number of challenges in our work to reduce light pollution and its environmental impacts. This moderated discussion will invite both new and veteran participants to share their views and opinions as we lean forward to discuss what the future holds for IDA as it approaches its 30th birthday!