



## Annual Report fra Dark Sky Community and Park Møn & Nyord

### **Introduction**

Darkness is a resource we tend to overlook. In addition to municipal and state-owned light fittings, reaching out into the community and spreading the word about preserving a dark sky is an important parameter for the success of Dark Sky Møn and Nyord. One of the goals of our vision is therefore to inform local enterprises of the inherent potential of our dark sky and the need to preserve it and take care when we use light at night. We have organized workshops for local enterprises, including one specifically for electricians. They learned about the Dark Sky initiative as the demand for lamps and light bulbs that help to preserve a dark sky at night is increasing exponentially.

Dark Sky Møn and Nyord won the Best Tourism Initiative Award 2017 (presented in January 2018). This annual award is made by VISM, a tourism destination company that covers all of South Zealand, comprising four municipalities:

<https://www.sydkystdanmark.dk/danmark/sydkystdanmarks-bedste-turismeinitativ-2017>.

Efforts to embed Dark Sky in the hearts and minds of the local community are progressing. Since certification, new district plans have regulated the use of light to accommodate Dark Sky. There are now several Dark Sky products. Recently, electricians in the Dark Sky area have begun to advise their customers and private citizens about Dark Sky lighting.

More than 300,000 people visited the Dark Sky Park this year.

<http://darksky-moen.dk/da/>

<https://vordingborg.dk/biosfaere-moen/dark-sky/>

### **Community and media relations**

Once we had the Dark Sky Park and Dark Sky Community certificates, we organized a concert featuring a leading Danish band at the Sugar Factory in Stege's town center. The event attracted 3.000 spectators. There were stands serving food and drink's, etc. The event was an awesome way to communicate Dark Sky to the public. The Mayor made a speech of welcome. He explained how the municipality is committed to the Dark Sky initiative. The business community raised DKK 84,000 in sponsorships. A local foundation, Fanefjordsfonden, donated DKK 50,000 in support of the concert. The municipality donated DKK 155,000. The concert also received DKK 112,000 funding from the state-financed tourism company, Dansk Kyst og Naturturisme (Danish Coastal and Nature Tourism) [www.danskkystognaturturisme.dk](http://www.danskkystognaturturisme.dk).

The concert succeeded in burning Dark Sky Møn and Nyord into the hearts and minds of the local population. The idea of preserving darkness and starry skies has taken hold among the local population of Møn and Nyord. The Dark Sky Park is a talking point. The idea has also spread beyond these two islands and it is due to Dark Sky Park Møn and Nyord that, for the first time, light pollution is an issue debated in the Danish media's.

Media coverage of Dark Sky and light pollution:

#### Local and regional media

Since the original announcement, Dark Sky Møn and Nyord was mentioned more than 700 times in local and regional newspapers in Denmark.

#### National media

The public announcement of the first Dark Sky site in the Nordic region was broadcasted on prime-time national TV (on DR, a public service channel) – on a Friday evening between two parts of the X-Factor program.

The municipality's Facebook article about Dark Sky nomination reached more than 50,000 Facebook users and was one of the most seen articles in Vordingborg Municipality's history.

Dark Sky Møn and Nyord has also been featuring nine times in national newspapers/magazines since the first public announcement.

#### International media

Dark Sky Møn and Nyord has also attracted international attention, In the Netherlands alone, there have been 21 separate articles in newspapers, etc.

Visit Denmark calculates that the advertising value of exposure in the Netherlands is worth about DKK 2 millions.

In April 2017, the Air Berlin in-flight magazine carried a six-page article on Dark Sky.<https://www.yumpu.com/de/document/view/58056212/einfach-galaktisch-april-2017>.

#### **Outreach**

The local population on Møn and Nyord has welcomed the idea of conserving and preserving the islands' outstanding dark sky.

In the following, a brief but not exhaustive list of the most relevant local initiatives:

#### Damsholte Observatory <http://damobs.dk/>

Inspired by efforts to preserve the night skies, a group of private citizens in two rural communities, Damsholte and Hjelm, has built an observatory at Damsholte, which is suitable for public use. The observatory has a sliding roof and an 11" Celestron Schmidt-Cassegrain as its principal telescope. In the planning and construction phases, allowances were made to ensure wheelchair users easy access to the telescope. The observatory opened in November 2016. The observatory building is about 15 m<sup>2</sup>. The building is constructed with a fixed ramp for easy wheelchair access, a design detail that makes Damsholte Observatory one of a kind in Denmark. The observatory is located on the rear perimeter of an area close to Ny Gammelsø, i.e. within the Dark Sky Community area. There is a 262-foot long access route to the parking lot from the main road. The nearest bus stop is just a few yards along the road. There are bus routes to all the major towns in the area, e.g. Stege, Nykøbing F and Vordingborg. The observatory's principal instrument is an 11" Celestron S-C telescope. It is mounted on a Linak lifting column so that children and wheelchair users can easily look through it.

The observatory has been open for the audience 30 times since it was launched. More than 100 people have come here to look at planets and stars. Last winter was wet and often very cloudy.

Several daytime guided tours were organized for visitors from Ny Gammelsø. Two local astrological societies, AFFS from Avnø and LAFS from Lolland, paid the observatory a

visit. The national Astronomy Society held its general meeting at Ny Gammelsø in June. There was a guided tour of the observatory for all attendees.

Damsholte Observatory organizes talks and other events in the winter months.

## Møns Klint Resort

At Møns Klint Resort, you will find Scandinavia's first **Dark Sky Area** for guests who wish to stay and experience the night sky under ideal conditions. Camping Møns Klint has created a landscaped space at the site where the stars in the sky show the way and where the **Star Lounge** creates a physical space for contemplation of the starry sky above us. Using the campground's Sky View app, family members can marvel at heavenly bodies around a campfire. The myths and legends surrounding constellations, such as Orion, the Dolphin and Medusa, come alive in the darkness!

<http://www.moensklintresort.dk/dark-sky-moen-4397/>

Møns Klint Resort won a prize at the ADAC Camping Awards 2016. ADAC is Germany's leading camping organization. Møns Klint Resort received the award in the "active leisure" category for its Dark Sky concept.

<https://politiken.dk/rejser/nyheder/ferieidanmark/art5607921/M%C3%B8ns-Klint-bel%C3%B8nnes-for-m%C3%B8rke>

Ole Eskling, Manager at Møns Klint Resort, believes that about 10,000 overnight stays at the resort are due to Dark Sky tourism.

## Camønoen

It claims to be Denmark's friendliest hiking route. The Camønoen is deep and leads hikers all around the island of Møn. It is a Milky Way stage. There are plans to build a larger shelter at Gurkebakken within the Dark Sky Park area. The shelter will not be illuminated (there is no electricity supply to this area). After Gurkebakken and "the Observatory", the Milky Way stage proceeds to Klintholm harbour. The link between hiking, contemplation, silence and an impressive starry sky over Møn is outstanding. It offers a combination of four elements, all of which are forced into the shadows of our busy modern lives but remain important for us as human beings if we are to feel complete.

<https://camoenoen.dk/>

## Arts and culture

In 2017/2018, we planned and held a large number of activities of cultural and artistic value. We entered into partnership with Møn Biosfære and House of Møn. In future, these organizations will coordinate and maintain focus on sustainability and minimizing different types of pollution.

Within the arts and culture, the following Dark Sky activities were organized:

- In the fall, there was a concert with The Savage Rose, a very popular Danish rock band. This concert was held to celebrate the inauguration of Dark Sky Park Møn and Nyord.
- In connection with this concert, Dark Sky attracted a great deal of attention in local and national media.
- There is now an informative Dark Sky website: <https://vordingborg.dk/biosfaere-moen/dark-sky/>
- At an exhibition at Kunsthal 44Møen (gallery), 33 Danish and international artists exhibited works inspired by Dark Sky. <https://kunsten.nu/artguide/venue/kunsthal-44moeen>
- In fall 2018, there will be a Dark Sky festival at the Sugar Factory in Stege, with focus on darkness.
- A Danish composer is set to compose a unique piece of music as part of her Ph.D. project. We have entered an Artist in Residency contract with the artist in question. She will live and work in the park for some time and draw the natural surroundings in the Park and the Dark Sky initiative group into her work. This piece of music will relate directly to Dark Sky. It will be performed for the first time on 22. November 2018 at the Musikhuset Aarhus (concert hall). <https://musikhusetaarhus.dk/arrangementer/debutkoncert-signe-lykke-komposition/>
- Vordingborg Municipality has issued a brochure (available in Danish, English and German) informing members of the public about minimizing light pollution. [https://vordingborg.dk/media/14139746/dark-sky\\_m65\\_folder\\_datyeng-web.pdf](https://vordingborg.dk/media/14139746/dark-sky_m65_folder_datyeng-web.pdf)
- We have introduced the public to Dark Sky at local markets and have held local Dark Sky information meetings.
- There was an information session for local electricians who are now equipped to advise private citizens and enterprises about outdoor lighting.
- In recognition of the sheer volume of voluntary work that goes into the project, VISM awarded Dark Sky their Best Tourism Initiative Award 2017.
- In the fall, we will hold a joint seminar for Dark Sky and Biosfære ambassadors.
- Also in the fall, we will organize a Dark Sky product development workshop for volunteers and the business community.
- Where necessary, Vordingborg Municipality makes ongoing improvements to the lighting in public spaces.
- We have developed and produced a range of Dark Sky products, including candy, coffee and beer.

- The Dark Sky Park and Community have their own logos.

## **Lighting**

### **Parks/Reserves:**

Vordingborg Municipality now automatically considers Dark Sky when updating district plans for this geographical area. Dark Sky is also a point of focus when replacing outdoor lighting around public buildings. In connection with renovation work and the construction of new properties, the local authorities ensure that light sources meet Dark Sky lighting criteria.

Measurements of the night sky brightness in the International Dark Sky Park Møn and Nyord was made. The measurements are similar to the measurements for the application as Dark Sky Park.

### **Communities:**

On Møn, light fittings along municipal roads are being replaced throughout the Dark Sky Community area. This year 130 light fittings have been replaced. Each of these is fitted with an LED lamp that meets Dark Sky requirements. Replacing light fittings is a long-term project.

Under the terms of an agreement with the municipal traffic, parks and harbors department, all light fittings in the Dark Sky Park and Community area – i.e. new and replacement fittings – must meet Dark Sky lighting requirements.

The new parking lot at SuperBrugsen (supermarket) at Lendemarke meets Dark Sky lighting requirements. Of their own accord, a private enterprise drew Dark Sky lighting requirements into a refurbishment and expansion project.

In an agreement between House of Møn and local electricians, the electricians are permitted to certify and advise homeowners and enterprises with regard to Dark Sky lighting. Electricians have received a brochure with appropriate guidelines.

Measurements of the night sky brightness in the International Dark Sky Community Møn and Nyord was made. The measurements are very similar to the measurements for the application as Dark Sky Community.

## **Funding**

The inaugural event in September 2017 received the following grants:

Vordingborg Municipality	DKK 155,000
Dansk Kyst- og Naturturisme	DKK 112,000
Fanefjord Sparekasses Fond (Møn)	DKK <u>50,000</u>
<b>Total grants for this event</b>	<b>DKK 317,000</b>

In addition, private enterprises and local associations contributed a total of DKK 84,000 to the campaign to market the event.

There is also a development project funded by the national Landdistriktspulje (rural development fund). This project has a total budget of DKK 648,000. The project will run until summer 2019, and will train local Dark Sky guides, host workshops on developing the Dark Sky area, produce scale drawings at the mini-observatory and design a prototype Dark Sky chair.

This year's Darkness Festival in October has received the following grants:

Vordingborg Municipality	DKK 60,000
Dansk Kyst- og Naturturisme	DKK 75,000
Tuborgfondet	DKK 30.000
VisitSydsjælland/Møn	DKK <u>10,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>DKK 175,000</b>

In addition, private enterprises and local associations have contributed a total of DKK 45,000 to this event.

### **Further funding**

We are constantly in search of funding for further development work. However, we are also aware of the risk of launching more than we have the capacity/resources to implement successfully. We do not intend to apply for further funding until current projects near their end.