



INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

IDA Values-Centered Lighting Resolution

What we are doing

On January 28, 2021, the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) Board of Directors adopted a policy implementing the [Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting](#). The policy is intended to inform and guide IDA's ongoing work to protect the night from light pollution. Read the Board's full resolution [here](#).

What the resolution covers

The resolution affects three things.

First, it establishes the IDA interpretation of the Lighting Principles, which is that the interplay of all five principles must be considered in the design, installation and use of outdoor lighting, and that treating the principles in isolation from one another is insufficient to address the growing global problem of light pollution: "Unless all five factors are considered in lighting decisions, the trends of the past decades will continue, and quite possibly accelerate."

Second, it adds to previous IDA guidance on outdoor lighting a number of specifics that are implied by the Lighting Principles. These are:

- Critically sensitive environments should be kept dark, and regions surrounding these sites should only make use of lighting that emits no blue light (wavelengths shorter than 520 nanometers).
- The use of direct uplight should be avoided.
- Over-lighting should be prevented by maintaining illuminances as close as possible to the minimum levels recommended by widely recognized professional standards bodies.
- The correlated color temperature of lighting used in most outdoor applications should not exceed 2200K, unless carefully controlled through stringent application of the other Lighting Principles, such as lower intensity, careful targeting, and reduced operation time.
- All outdoor lighting should be actively controlled through means such as dimmers and motion-sensing switches so as to reduce illuminances or extinguish lighting altogether when the light is not needed.

Finally, the resolution codifies two conservation goals for the International Dark-Sky Association:

1. To lower the global rate of outdoor artificial light at night consumption to no more than the rate of population growth in a given region, while not conveying any economic disadvantage to people in developing regions and countries; and
2. To prioritize restoring intrinsic nighttime darkness in circumstances where it is possible to do so.

Why we are doing this

The Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting are the culmination of decades of IDA guidance, packaged into a concise statement. For too long we have failed to recognize that none of the lighting principles exists in isolation, and that changing any one without considering the others risks unintended, adverse effects. It also helps ensure that our work is adaptable to future changes in lighting technology and the scientific understanding of the problem of light pollution.

What it means

IDA will:

- Continue our call for a stronger evidence basis in how lighting standards are established so as to ensure those standards are consistent with the best available, peer-reviewed scientific data.
- Encourage and recognize progressive and innovative outdoor lighting design that clearly conveys how it limits light pollution to the greatest practical extent while ensuring public safety and the most efficient use of outdoor spaces at night.

What it doesn't mean

The resolution does not imply any general loosening of recommendations around any *particular* aspect of lighting. We continue to believe that outdoor lighting should be fully shielded and directed toward the ground in order to prevent direct emission of light into the night sky. We further believe that lighting should be aimed only at target surfaces and should not be allowed to trespass beyond. Although the resolution recommends 2200K for most general lighting applications, we will not at this time lower the Fixture Seal of Approval Program correlated color temperature eligibility threshold from the current value of 3000K.