

HOW TO CONTROL LIGHT POLLUTION AND PRESERVE DARK SKIES

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A Handout For Property Owners, Builders, Realtors, County, City, Village, Town Officials

Light pollution is a growing problem in the countryside. People all across the country are taking steps to *protect the night view of the stars.*

Many people remember growing up to the nursery rhyme "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" when stargazing was a common activity. But today the Big Dipper, the Milky Way and Shooting Stars are fast disappearing because of bright outdoor lights that are not designed to keep light from shining up into the sky.

In 2004 a Town of Perry Community Survey asked residents if "the dark skies of the township are important" to them. Of the 220 residents responding, 73.4% of Perry residents either strongly agreed or agreed (56% strongly agreed and 17.4% agreed).

On July 14, 2009, the Town of Perry Board of Supervisors adopted a Dark Sky Lighting Ordinance. The stated purpose of the ordinance is: "To promote the preservation of dark skies over the Town of Perry and to protect the view of the night sky for the enjoyment of the citizens of the Town of Perry." The ordinance requires property owners to use Dark Sky lighting fixtures with switches or motion sensors when installing new outdoor lighting or replacing existing outdoor lighting. The ordinance describes the kinds of fixtures that are approved as Dark Sky fixtures in the Town of Perry. It is available on the Town of Perry web site at: <http://www.perry-wi.gov>.

Dark Sky outdoor lighting fixtures are available from most electrical contractors. The best ones carry a seal that says: "IDA Rated" but they are not required by the ordinance. Dark Sky fixtures are easy to install. They cost no more than standard fixtures. They are cheaper to operate. They illuminate everything on the ground better than standard fixtures. And they preserve the view of the night sky for your neighbors.

A guide to buying and installing Dark Sky outdoor lighting, retrofitting existing lighting and replacing old lighting is available from the International Dark Sky Association. The association has a membership of over 10,000 people. They have a website with hundreds of fixtures available for viewing.

International Dark Sky Association (IDA)

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Email: ida@darksky.org, Internet: www.darksky.org.

Things you can do to preserve the dark night sky over the Town of Perry:

- Use Dark Sky fixtures when installing new outdoor lighting or replacing old lighting (per ordinance).
- Install switches or motion sensors on new or replacement outdoor lighting fixtures (per ordinance).
- Install Dark Sky Shades or Shields on existing non-Dark Sky lighting fixtures.
- Turn outdoor lights off at night when they are not in use to save the sky and save money.
- Replace harsh white light bulbs with soft yellow-orange bulbs to reduce glare and ground reflection.
- Install switches or motion sensors on existing dusk-to-dawn lights and other outdoor lights that stay on all the time so they can be turned off or go off automatically when not needed.

Dark sky lighting: Easy to install and cheaper to operate.

Children watching shooting stars: Priceless.

A Publication of The Madison Group® in cooperation with
The International Dark Sky Association (IDA)™
For more information about this handout contact: darksky@madisongroup.us

Some Dark Sky rated lighting fixtures are illustrated on the other side (SEE OTHER SIDE) \



INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY ASSOCIATION DARK SKY FRIENDLY & GOOD NEIGHBOR LIGHTING FIXTURES

Examples of BAD AND

Discouraged

Fixtures that produce glare and light trespass



GOOD Lighting Fixtures

Acceptable

Fixtures that shield the light source to minimize glare and light trespass and to facilitate better vision at night

