

Light Pollution

What is Light Pollution?

The inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light can have serious environmental consequences for humans, wildlife, and our climate.

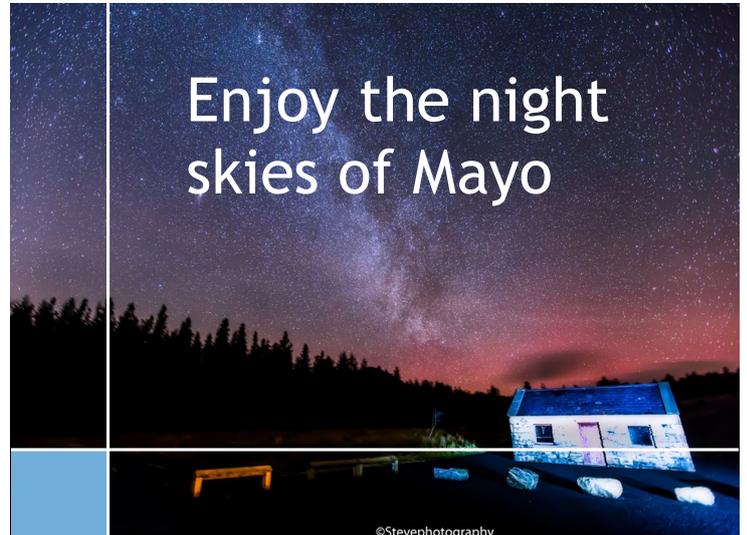
Components of light pollution include:

Glare – excessive brightness that causes visual discomfort

Skyglow – brightening of the night sky over inhabited areas

Light trespass – light falling where it is not intended or needed

Clutter – bright, confusing and excessive groupings of light sources



County Mayo is now home to Ireland's first International Dark Sky Park.

Dark Sky Parks are places that preserve their exceptional starry nights for scientific, educational, cultural and public enjoyment.

By protecting dark sky places and producing guidelines to reduce light pollution, we are helping ecosystems, health matters, wildlife, off-season tourism, and reducing our carbon footprint.

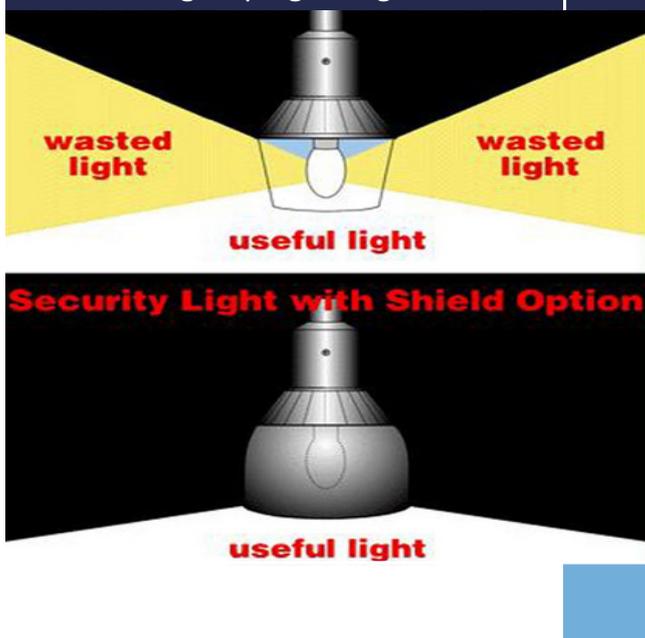
Dark sky places protect our nighttime heritage through environmentally responsible outdoor lighting programmes.

For more information:

mayodarksky@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/mayodarkskies

www.twitter.com/mayodarkskies



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What's the Bright Idea?



Bright lights make us feel safer?

As you can see from the pictures, a home security light that isn't angled correctly can blind you and create shadows for intruders.

At night, try seeing for yourself what your light illuminates and what it masks.

Check it does what you want it to do.



LIGHT POLLUTION AFFECTS FAR MORE THAN ASTRONOMY...

Simple tips to improve your lighting - for you and for your environment

Mayo Dark Skies is a community project funded by Mayo County Council Local Agenda 21;



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Follow these simple tips to make your lighting more effective

Did you know...?

- Poorly located security lights could actually help to mask break-ins.
- Badly fitted lighting and overly sensitive sensor systems could be a nuisance to your neighbours.
- Overly strong lights can dazzle witnesses.
- Warm toned lights (LEDs less than 3,000k) are kinder to the environment & our sleep patterns
- Low wattage, well-directed lights save money and do a better job.



BADLY AIMED 500W HALOGEN FLOODLIGHT



WELL AIMED 100W FLOODLIGHT



Look for “Dark Sky Friendly” lighting

- Home security lights - maximum 150W (higher power creates more glare & dark shadows)
- Ensure fixtures have shields or hoods so light does not escape above the horizontal
- LED Lighting – chose warm colour tones (no more than 3000 kelvins)
- Porch lighting – use no more than 9/11W

Site your light carefully

- When a light is installed, ensure it shines only where needed and where intruders might be seen by people nearby.
- Angle the light downwards, make sure it only illuminates your property and does not trespass to your neighbour.
- Only use light when needed – adjust your timer to save energy and cut bills.