

The Saskatchewan Light Pollution Abatement Committee

Visit our website at: <http://www.ras.sk.ca/lpc/lpc.htm>

This is a basic template for a light pollution-friendly nighttime lighting bylaw or ordinance. The bylaw can be tailored to suite the exact circumstances within the affected area.

A RESPONSIBLE NIGHT-LIGHTING BUILDING BYLAW

Light Pollution: Simply stated, light pollution is light that shines where it is not needed or wanted. It also includes lighting that is too bright. It is easily recognized as:

- light that shines off the property where the light fixture is located
- light that shines onto your property from source not located on your property
- glaring light from poorly aimed fixtures or from a light that is too bright for its surroundings
- light that shines up into the sky.

Light pollution has several forms including glare, light trespass, over-lighting and uplighting. Light pollution leads to energy waste and sky glow.

The Responsible Nighttime Lighting Building Bylaw is intended to:

- Minimize light pollution
- Save energy through reduction of use
- Help to preserve Kyoto energy units
- Minimize dangerous glare
- Reduce light trespass
- Reduce light clutter
- Provide adequate security
- Provide adequate nighttime safety from hazards encountered while walking or driving
- Reduce secondary pollution effects such as minimizing acid rain, river pollution that are byproducts of power generation
- Promote environmental and ecological awareness.
- Preserve wildlife nocturnal habits and habitat.
- Preserve the beauty of the nighttime sky for scientific study and personal pleasure.

Light Pollution causes or encourages:

- wasted energy
- destroyed night time environment
- dangerous glare, light clutter & light trespass
- changes animal nocturnal life patterns
- decreased safety or security (properly pointed light increases security and safety)
- graffiti & increased vandalism
- secondary pollution by requiring more energy production than is needed
- reduced ability to study the universe we are all part of
- destruction of the beauty of the night.

Scope:

All civic, industrial and commercial outdoor lighting plans shall conform to this bylaw.

Responsible Lighting Bylaw

- ◆ All nighttime lighting shall be erected using shielded fixtures that allow most of the light to point downward to the ground. Ideally, such fixtures do not allow any light to escape upward, and minimize light escaping sideways. Only fixtures known as full-cut-off shall be used.
- ◆ Unshielded bulbs or glass globe fixtures, as is often found in decorative lighting, that allow light to escape upward or sideways shall not be used.
- ◆ All lighting shall be mounted in a manner that minimizes glare, light clutter and light trespass onto adjacent properties.
- ◆ Lighting intensity and pole location density shall be chosen to provide even and sufficient lighting on the ground to illuminate roadways, properties or parking lots, define pathways or hazards. Illumination levels shall not exceed the maximum illumination levels as suggested by the Society of Illuminating Engineers guidelines and the Canadian Electrical Code.
- ◆ Billboards or billboard style information signage lighting shall be illuminated using fixtures that shine from the top of the signage downward. These fixtures shall be shielded and shall place a minimum of 90% of their light onto the board area being illuminated, and less than 10% lighting past the edges. Lighting billboard type signs from ground level pointing upward is prohibited.
- ◆ Commercial lighting and commercial advertising signage shall be illuminated using fixtures that shine from the top down, or may be of the type using internal fluorescent lighting that is completely enclosed within the plastic sign covers.
- ◆ Decorative lighting used to illuminate buildings, such as spot lamps or pot lighting should be mounted such that light does not shine sideways or upward..
- ◆ Lights mounted on the sides of buildings intended for night-time security shall be mounted so that no light shines upward from the horizontal, and in such a manner that does not produce glare.
- ◆ Use of motion sensing lighting fixtures and the use of daylight sensing on/off switches is encouraged.
- ◆ Seasonal lighting in unused areas of parks or properties shall be turned off if no persons use the area during those seasons.
- ◆ Traffic signs and information signs shall be either lit from the top downward, or be constructed of reflective materials.
- ◆ Use of spotlights that shine upward to the sky are prohibited.
- ◆ Residential lighting should be encouraged to meet the requirements of this code. Residential lighting can not be erected in such a manner that the lighting creates excessive glare or hazard.
- ◆ Existing lighting that is to be replaced through renovation shall be designed to meet these codes.
- ◆ Seasonal festive lighting (such as low wattage Christmas lighting) is exempt from this code.