

Outdoor lighting in an ideal world...

Outdoor lighting is out of control in today's world. Modern exterior fittings directing emissions only where and when needed, and of environmentally friendly spectral temperatures and intensity, are sadly the exception.



Our Vision is:

- For every child to be able to see the Milky Way at least once and for many adults and children to see it often. This means light pollution must be controlled by mid- to late evening and that suitable dark skies sites be within one-hour travel time from all residences.
- To protect the natural benefits of darkness to biodiversity, human health, air quality and the night sky.

We propose that legislators should enact:

- proper regulation, not just guidelines, on brightness, direction, times of use and colour temperature of road lighting, floodlighting of buildings, sports facilities and domestic and commercial premises. Appropriate shielding and mounting should be mandatory. With simple instructions on lighting units themselves and in their packaging, and penalties for inappropriately mounted lights, light pollution will be minimised. All private exterior lights to be marked with a line for horizontal fitting.
- new technical standards for what is to be known as 'star quality'* private lighting, with mandatory information on installation and use. Encourage manufacturers, distributors and installers of lighting to adopt 'star quality' practice.
- overnight public lighting curfews (for example from midnight to 05:00) with certain fixed exceptions. Exceptions to be justifiable by an appeal process.
- an earlier 'amber light' curfew time for all exterior lighting after 21:00. At this time 'star quality' lights will switch to amber light mode and blue-rich lighting will be switched off. All sporting and cultural events to comply with 'amber curfew' time.
- after a warning period, a ban on sales of non-compliant lighting products.
- new street lighting technical standards using adaptive technology and remote control. Streetlights not to exceed 3000K CCT and comply with 'amber curfew'.
- a lighting inspection regime to ensure compliance and stringent light nuisance action.
- new regulations for lit shop windows and outdoor lit advertising compliant with 'star quality' and 'amber curfew' standards. No shop window lighting after 11 p.m.
- new powers for National Parks, AONBs and International Dark Sky Reserves, Parks and Communities to pursue light spill from neighbouring districts.

A non-governmental Night-time Environment Agency should be set up with powers to propose legislation. Such an organisation to be managed by a board comprising representatives from environmental, public health, and astronomical organisations, lighting professionals, and local and national government. This Agency would also encourage and sponsor lighting research and would hear appeals, grant licences and exceptions.

**'Star quality' lighting products to be low-CCT ('warm white'), or capable of switching to low CCT on a time switch or centralised management system. Include this new standard as part of the building regulations.*

Commission for Dark Skies www.britastro.org/dark-skies