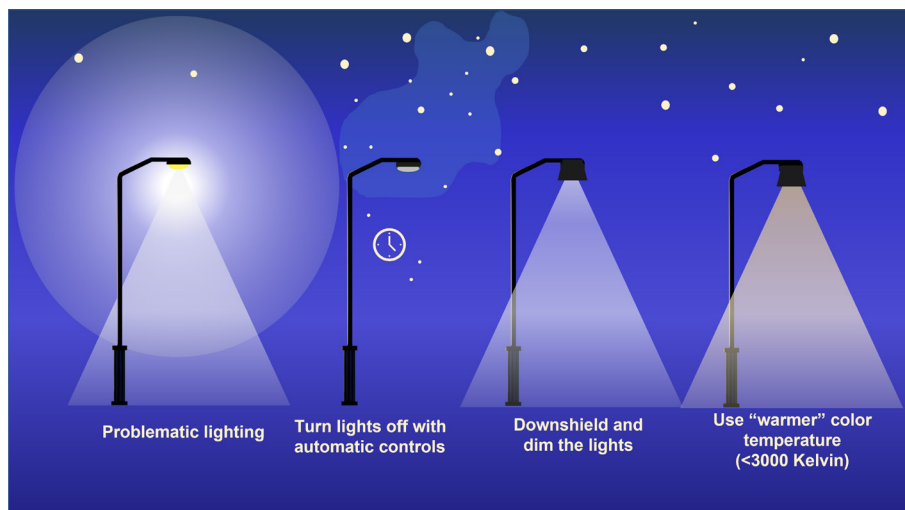


OUTDOOR LIGHTING BEST PRACTICES TO MINIMIZE LIGHT POLLUTION



Birds face higher collision risks on cloudy nights during spring and fall migration. Whenever possible, turn off non-essential lighting from April–May and August–October, especially on overcast nights.

If birds become trapped in bright light, switching lights off for 20 minutes can help them reorient. When unsure whether lighting may disorient birds, schedule regular dark intervals or use timers. Prioritizing reduced lighting during peak migration greatly improves birds' chances of safely continuing their journey.

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting



Responsible outdoor lighting is

1 Useful

Use light only if it is needed

All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats.



2 Targeted

Direct light so it falls only where it is needed

Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed.



3 Low Level

Light should be no brighter than necessary

Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended.



4 Controlled

Use light only when it is needed

Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed.



5 Warm-colored

Use warmer color lights where possible

Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed.



DarkSky International and the Illuminating Engineering Society jointly published the Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting. Light where you need it, when you need it, in the amount needed, and no more. If light is deemed useful and necessary, follow these guidelines to minimize light pollution.

When lighting is necessary, applying these principles reduces light pollution, saves energy, and minimizes impacts on wildlife while ensuring nighttime lighting remains functional, healthy, and visually appealing.



Interested in participating or learning more? Scan the QR code or e-mail birdfriendlykitchener@gmail.com



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