

Losing the night

Where to find the last pristine skies in America



Source: Falchi et al., 2019

THE WASHINGTON POST



Photos before and during the 2003 Northeast blackout, a massive power outage that affected 55 million people (photos by Todd Carlson)



INTERNATIONAL DARK-SKY ASSOCIATION

Examples of Compliant Outdoor Lighting



Wall Sconce

Top and sides fully shielded, bulb recessed.



Wall Tube Lantern

Top and sides fully shielded, bulb recessed.



Landscape & Garden Paths

Illuminate close to ground with low fixtures shielded on top and all sides, recessed bulb.

Resources

Town of Ridgway Municipal Code, 6-5 Outdoor Lighting Regulations:
<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/ridgway/ridgway-municipal-code>

International Dark-Sky Association:
www.darksky.org/

Contact

Town of Ridgway
201 N. Railroad St.
970.626.5308

Keeping Ridgway Skies Dark and the Stars Bright



Gary Ratcliff, OurayImage.com

What Can You Do?

For decades, the Ridgway community and the Town have been committed to preserving our rare dark skies. Your actions are important.



Benefits of Dark-Sky Compliant Lights

- Shielded, compliant lights produce no glare and are better security lights.
- Low-wattage fluorescent and LED bulbs use less energy and reduce electricity cost.
- Low-wattage lights produce less heat, another environmental benefit.

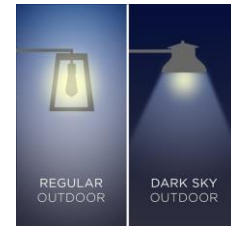
Why do Dark Skies Matter?

- ★ Fewer and fewer places can see the beauty of the night sky that is here.
- ★ Light pollution decreases darkness of the night sky.
- ★ The biological rhythms of most species have evolved to depend on natural cycles of light and dark.
- ★ Unneeded lighting wastes electricity.
- ★ Lower your carbon footprint, and enjoy the night sky!

How Can You Reduce Light Pollution?

See Ridgway Municipal Code 6-5, *Outdoor Lighting Regulation*, on the Town's website for more details.

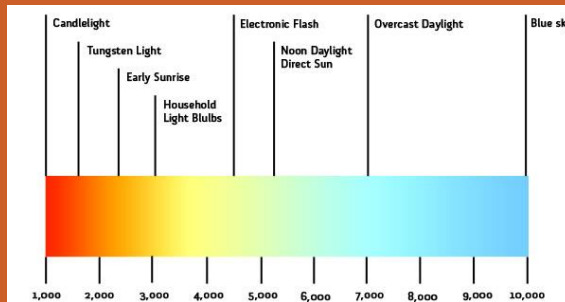
- ★ Prevent light trespass to the sky and neighboring properties by shielding the light such that it does not pass off the premises that need lighting and is directed below the horizontal plane.



- ★ Use bulbs no brighter than necessary, no more than 3,000 Kelvins.
- ★ Use outdoor lights only where and when needed; use timers and motion sensors when possible.
 - Single family homes and homes with ADUs are limited to 5,100 and 6,500 lumens respectively. Each fixture is limited to 850 lumens.
 - Multi-family residential sites, mixed-use sites, and non-residential sites are limited to 25,000 lumens per net acre plus 2,000 lumens per unit beyond the first unit. Each fixture is limited to 1,500 lumens.
- ★ Turn off lighting for non-residential uses one hour after close of business, unless needed for safety.
- ★ All legal lighting operating before Oct 18, 2019 may continue to operate until changed.

Understanding Terms

Kelvin: a way to describe the light appearance or temperature.



Lumen: light output or brightness

All lighting packaging provides information about lumens and Kelvin.

