

Hill Country Lighting Done Right

Keys to Night Sky Friendly Lighting

Full Cutoff

A full cutoff fixture restricts light from shining up into the sky. Select fixtures that direct light downward and outward, keeping light below the horizontal plane.

Fully Shielded

A fully shielded fixture is angled so people and wildlife cannot see the light source. Choose fully shielded lighting with a barrier at the top of the fixture and surrounding the light source.

Color Temperature

A light's color is measured in degrees Kelvin (K), from 1000K (orange/red) to 10,000K (blue). Choosing warm color bulbs at or under 3000K, preferably 2200K, reduces disruption of nocturnal habitats and circadian rhythms.

No Brighter Than Necessary

Over-lighting creates detrimental skyglow and glare, diminishing our ability to see at night. Use lights only as bright as necessary to serve its function.

Only On When Needed

The friendliest night sky lighting is no lighting at all. Consider using a motion sensor or timing system if the light doesn't need to be on consistently.

Private Residence - Austin, Texas



- Full Cutoff
- Fully Shielded
- Color Temp.
- Brightness



Courtesy Travis County Friends of the Night Sky

- Full Cutoff
- Fully Shielded
- Color Temp.
- Brightness

Swiss Lodge - Blanco, Texas



- Full Cutoff
- Fully Shielded
- Color Temp.
- Brightness



Courtesy Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky

- Full Cutoff
- Fully Shielded
- Color Temp.
- Brightness

Texas Regional Bank - Blanco, Texas



- Full Cutoff
- Fully Shielded
- Color Temp.
- Brightness



Courtesy Blanco County Friends of the Night Sky

- Full Cutoff
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Night Sky Champions Deserve Recognition!

LOCAL

Night Sky Friendly Business Program - Hill Country Alliance

Local Friends of the Night Sky groups and the Hill Country Alliance work in partnership with chambers of commerce to recognize businesses and organizations that have night sky friendly outdoor lighting and encourage others to follow suit.

Night Sky Friendly Neighborhood Program - Hill Country Alliance

Subdivisions and neighborhoods can receive recognition through this program by adopting the County Subdivision and Night Sky Friendly Neighborhood outdoor lighting policy into their homeowners agreements or deed restrictions.

STATEWIDE

Be A Star - Dark Sky Texas

This self-assessment program encourages landowners to evaluate their outdoor lighting, awarding recognition to those who eliminate things like glare, light trespass, and excess lighting on their properties.

BOLD Initiative: Better Outdoor Lighting Decisions (BOLD) - Dark Sky Texas

This initiative connects conservation-minded organizations, businesses, large landholders, and governmental entities with resources to minimize their contribution to regional light pollution. Initiative partners work with Dark Sky Texas to improve lighting, create and share resources, and spread the word.

Texan by Nature Certification

Project Certification provides recognition to Texas employers, organizations, and individuals that can quantify their impacts on people, prosperity, and natural resources. Interested parties are invited to submit night sky friendly outdoor lighting projects for consideration.






INTERNATIONAL

International Dark Sky Places - Dark Sky International

This program certifies communities, parks, and protected areas around the world that preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education.

DIY: Conduct Your Own Night Sky Lighting Assessment

Here are some great questions you should always ask when considering new outdoor lighting, adapted from Dark Sky International's 5 Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting:

-  Is the light necessary?
-  Is the light full cutoff, shielded, and only illuminating where needed?
-  Is the light off when not in use or activated by a motion sensor or timing system?
-  How bright is the light? Does it allow you to see beyond the lit area?
-  What color temperature is the light?