

Nightscape



DarkSky

#119 | March 2025



SPECIAL ISSUE

Local solutions

How Advocates and Chapters are tackling light pollution in their communities.

Michelle Wooten builds connections

Page 10

New lighting policy templates

Page 16



DarkSky

We restore the nighttime environment and protect communities from the harmful effects of light pollution through outreach, advocacy, and conservation.

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X

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On the cover

“Ashin Village”

Central Desert of Iran

by Hassan Ilkhani

“Years ago, this 1,800-year-old village was abandoned — left to the passage of time. Today, where the magic of the star-studded night sky meets the stillness of the desert, we come together to dream.”

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Canon 6D | Sigma 20mm single image 15s | f/2/8 | ISO 3200

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Instagram: [@h.ilkhani_1989](https://www.instagram.com/h.ilkhani_1989)

Nightscape

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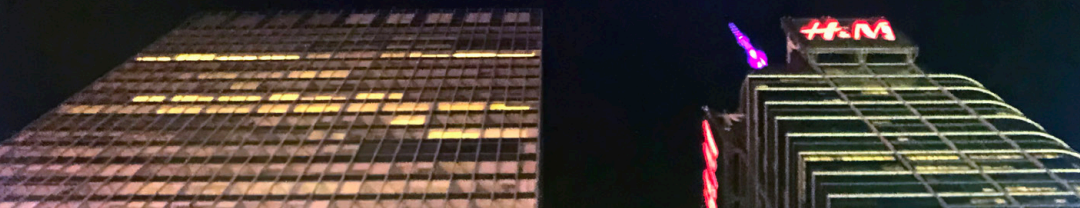
Green-e



CleanWatts



From the Executive Director



Ruskin Hartley

Six years ago, I stood in Times Square, New York, during International Dark Sky Week, surrounded by the glow of billboards and streetlights. When I looked up, I saw exactly zero stars. It was a stark reminder of what we are working to protect — not just the stars themselves, but also the deeper connection to nature, health, and culture that darkness provides.

As Dark Sky Week approaches this year, I wonder where I will be — and where all of you will be — as we come together to celebrate the night.

Momentum for the dark sky movement is growing, and there are real reasons for hope. Awareness is rising, policies are improving, and lighting is changing. Our efforts are showing that well-designed lighting can protect the night while meeting human needs. One powerful example is our forthcoming oil and gas industry lighting program. Pilot projects have already reduced skyglow by 99%



and cut energy use by 60%, demonstrating that even industries historically linked to excessive lighting can embrace change.

Yet, challenges remain. As global economic shifts drive new energy exploration, mining, and development, the pressures on our night sky will only increase. That's why

now is the time to act. Dark Sky Week is an opportunity to activate Advocates worldwide, inspire new voices, and push for meaningful change. Whether you're hosting an event, reaching out to policymakers, or simply stepping outside to count the stars, your participation matters.

Where will you be this Dark Sky Week? More importantly, what will you do to make a difference?



For the night,
Ruskin Hartley
ruskin@darksky.org
Tucson, Arizona, U.S.

From the Engagement Team



With International Dark Sky Week just around the corner (April 21–28, 2025), this issue of *Nightscape* looks a little different. It is dedicated to how we can each protect the night in our local communities around the world.

As part of the engagement team at DarkSky, I am privileged to work closely with Advocates and be inspired by their efforts for lasting change. While our journeys differ greatly, we come together in a shared mission to protect the night.

My journey began on a drive outside San Antonio, Texas, after I moved from Las Vegas, a city famous for its artificial brilliance. That evening, I witnessed a sky filled with more stars than I had ever imagined possible, revealing a splendor far surpassing any human-made display. That moment changed everything.

While looking up initially sparked my passion, today I am inspired by our diverse community. The night connects

us all — wildlife enthusiasts and biologists who safeguard nocturnal ecosystems, stargazers and astronomers unlocking the universe’s mysteries, artists and musicians drawing celestial inspiration, Indigenous communities working to preserve critical cultural knowledge and many others.

In this issue, we share a few ways to get involved in your community along with Advocate stories that demonstrate the power of local action, urging you to begin your own journey to protect the night. You will also find tips on how to get involved and participate in International Dark Sky Week.

We hope you are inspired to take even small actions, like adjusting one porch light or starting a conversation with a neighbor, which can have a surprising impact.

Thank you for joining us as we discover the night and look to the stars together.



Callie Blake

DarkSky Engagement
Associate

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Utah, U.S.

Advocate highlights

News snippets from our network of DarkSky Advocates around the world



A Argentina

Delegate **Alejandro Sommer** and members of the **DarkSky Argentina chapter** have launched the Travesía Capricornio project, a new astrotourism corridor, ahead of the 2034 total solar eclipse that will pass over South America. The corridor will comprise 11 astrotourism sites around Argentina, each with a different drawcard related to the night sky.

G U.S.

Dark Sky Maine has collaborated with Waterfall Arts and the Union of Maine Visual Artists



on Dark Skies, an **exhibition** running January 17–February 28, 2025, in Belfast, Maine, U.S. The paintings, photographs, and mixed media were selected by jurors including **Nancy Hathaway, President of Dark Sky Maine**. The exhibit highlights Maine’s night skies and the ecological importance of darkness with workshops, film screenings, talks, and a night sky presentation.



B Pakistan

Advocate **Mohtasham Saqib** was selected as the youngest and only speaker from **Pakistan** to host a session during the **virtual Space Education Symposium** held in November. Mohtsham’s session was on the topic “How to Navigate Space for Young People’s Perspective”. He is the youngest astronomer in Pakistan with a school outreach of more than 20 sessions and has been a navigator and speaker at NASA Space Apps.

D U.K.

Delegates **Dan Oakley** and **Roy Alexander** and members of the **DarkSky U.K. chapter** partnered with the Royal Astronomical Society to hold a one-day light pollution conference in **London**. The conference covered ecology, climate change, and human health and was attended by U.K. ministers, policymakers, astronomers, and environmental advocates.





DISCOVER THE NIGHT

International Dark Sky Week
April 21-28, 2025



International Dark Sky Week 2025

International Dark Sky Week is a worldwide celebration of the night.

From the darkness needed for a restful night's sleep to the activities we enjoy beneath the stars, the night plays a crucial role in protecting healthy wildlife ecosystems, advancing science and exploration, preserving cultural knowledge, and much more.

This International Dark Sky Week, we invite you to join us as we discover the night together and take meaningful action to protect dark skies. Whether you're taking our home lighting assessment, signing the DarkSky pledge, or submitting a proclamation in your community, we are here to guide you!



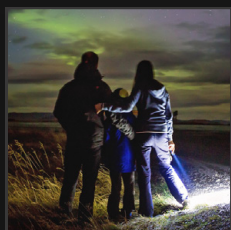
Learn more at idsw.darksky.org

Take action to protect the night



Sign the pledge to protect the night

This quick action takes less than a minute but makes a huge impact! Show your support for dark skies by signing the 2025 pledge to protect the night. Let's reach 10,000 pledges by the end of the week—sign, share, and help grow the movement!



Take action around your home and community

Each year, DarkSky promotes various activities you can do to reduce light pollution around your home and community. Whether it's swapping out lights or hosting a dark sky event, we have the resources to help you get started.



Submit a Proclamation

Are you ready to take your advocacy to the next level? Introducing a dark sky proclamation is an easy and impactful way to start meaningful conversations with community leaders and officials.

How proclamations can spark change



Far left: Brazil — the first Dark Sky Week proclamation in South America. Left: Chris Peterson and Minnesota senator Susan Kent with their 2024 proclamation.

One way to advocate for reducing light pollution is by securing a “dark sky proclamation” in your community. These are statements issued by governments, towns, or local councils to recognize the value of dark skies and encourage action to protect them. Here’s how you can use proclamations to inspire change.

What is a proclamation?

A dark sky proclamation is a ceremonial document that serves as an official statement of support for dark sky protection. These documents often align with International Dark Sky Week for increased awareness. Though symbolic rather than legal documents, proclamations help pave the way for policies and initiatives promoting better outdoor lighting practices and community engagement. They also create opportunities to generate local and regional news coverage, furthering awareness of the light pollution issue.

Why they matter

Dark skies protect wildlife, conserve energy, and support human

well-being by maintaining natural rhythms. Proclamations are catalysts that highlight these benefits, fostering pride in local natural heritage and uniting communities to take action. Proclamations can galvanize neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and government agencies to work together toward a darker and more sustainable future.

Going global

The concept of a proclamation originates in the U.S., where local towns and cities issue these symbolic documents as statements of support for dark skies. Increasingly, Dark-Sky Advocates and Delegates across the world have worked to establish their own versions of these declarations, for example in Brazil, Italy, and Australia. Though issued at the local level, proclamations can have a wider impact, connecting communities to share knowledge and build our global network of DarkSky Advocates. Whether collaborating with dark sky parks or joining global awareness campaigns, these efforts transcend borders, demonstrating that night sky protection is a world-wide endeavor.



1. Research and prepare

Familiarize yourself with existing local declarations or ceremonial documents to tailor your proposal. Highlight the tangible benefits of dark skies — energy savings, tourism opportunities, and environmental protection — which will resonate with decision-makers.

2. Engage local leaders

Build relationships with your officials, such as local council members or mayors. Explain how a proclamation would align with your community's values and goals.

3. Mobilize community support

Collaborate with local organizations, schools, and environmental groups to amplify your message. Hosting educational events or stargazing nights can generate excitement and support.



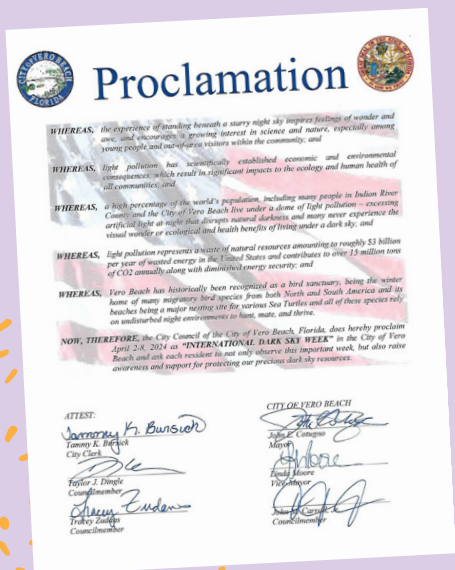
Download sample proclamations
bit.ly/darksky-proclamations

4. Submit a draft

Draft a proclamation that is concise and impactful, highlighting your community's unique connection to the night. Use DarkSky's Proclamation Template and Template Letter to write a draft proclamation and request letter that are professional and localized.

6. Celebrate and act

After the proclamation is issued, celebrate with a community event. Use the momentum to implement changes, such as promoting dark-sky-friendly lighting ordinances or holding annual awareness campaigns.



INTERVIEW

Building dark sky connections *with* Michelle Wooten

Michelle Wooten's University of Alabama astronomy students collecting data about their campus luminaires.



by Megan Eaves, London, U.K.

DarkSky Delegate Dr. Michelle Wooten is an astronomy educator and president of the Starry Skies South DarkSky chapter. In this interview with Nightscape editor Megan Eaves, she shares her work in protecting the night sky in the southeastern United States and how to build partnerships and communities in your local area.



You've built communities and partnerships with a variety of groups, from students to local environmental groups. How did you begin making those connections?

I've drawn a lot of inspiration from the DarkSky advocacy community, so I offer a lot of credit to others' sharing about their practices.

DarkSky's events and resources have been very useful. For example, at an Advocate Action Meeting, I learned how Houston collaborated with their local Audubon chapter, which inspired me to join Alabama Audubon's birding hikes. That's how I connected with Dr Lianne Koczur,

leader of Project Safe Flight Alabama, where I began volunteering and eventually joined the Board of Directors. Investing in others' efforts opens doors for collaboration on shared values and goals.

I also incorporated lessons from the University of Utah's Dark Sky Studies minor into my own courses. For example, engineering students helped design shields for glaring campus lights and used drones to measure sky quality above luminaires.

Bettymaya Foott's introductory video gave me the confidence to present publicly. I contacted a state park about hosting a talk during International Dark Sky Week, which led to collaborating on night hikes, campfires and s'mores, and constellation art programs — all complementing dark sky education.

My personal goal is to get more people outside at night to experience natural darkness safely. I organize night hikes for large groups of my astronomy students to



Michelle and participants show off their recycled astronomy art after an International Dark Sky presentation at Oak Mountain State Park.

learn the beauty and importance of unlit environments. I also created a service-learning course, “Protecting Starry Skies in Birmingham and Beyond,” to involve students in local advocacy. Networking at environmental and astronomy conferences also helps spread these ideas to other educators.

I’ve learned so much from the DarkSky community and credit the practices they’ve shared for much of my success.

What advice would you give to those hesitant to approach neighbors or strangers about light pollution?

Start by consulting your local DarkSky chapter, which understands your community’s norms and can suggest effective outreach methods. For example, my chapter, Starry Skies South, advised me to write a letter to my neighbor about reducing glare and trespass from their lights rather than approaching them

Members of the Starry Skies South chapter hosting a table at the 2024 Alabama Audubon Black Belt Birding Festival.





University of Alabama astronomy students checking staircase lighting during a campus luminaire audit.

in person. In the letter, I offered to identify a suitable shield for their lighting. Within days, the light was turned off, and it has stayed off for over a year. My chapter also recommended a show of gratitude, so I sent the neighbor a box of pears.

How can advocates link dark skies with other conservation and climate initiatives to foster collaboration?

Start by attending events hosted by other local groups, such as birding events, outdoor group hikes, or star parties with astronomy clubs. Share your passion for dark skies, offer to present at their meetings, and invite attendees to participate in activities

like Globe at Night to give them a simple way to get involved.

If you have the means, donate to these organizations and ask if they will highlight dark sky issues through their platforms, like social media or podcasts. Donations are meaningful and create a lot of goodwill. Offering to be a resource often strengthens these partnerships, too.

Finally, educators can benefit from attending meetings of local environmental or conservation organizations, such as the National Association of Environmental Educators (NAEE). These gatherings are invaluable for networking with park naturalists, climate educators,

and university professors, enabling collaborations that integrate dark sky themes into broader conservation work. You will meet educators at all levels with shared interests and a wealth of knowledge. Basically, everyone I know doing conservation education in Alabama attends the state NAEF meetings.

If someone wanted to build a dark sky network in a new area, where should they start?

I would start by drafting an email to DarkSky International members in that area and asking DarkSky to distribute it on your behalf. Include a survey to learn about members' availability, interests, and contact information. Schedule a meeting, either in person or virtually using a platform like Zoom. Even if only

one other person joins, you have just begun building a network.

Anything else you would like to share about building communities, links, and partnerships for the dark sky cause?

Yes, have confidence that your goodwill is meaningful to others. Most people want to help but need guidance, leadership, or inspiration. Be patient with those unfamiliar with our cause; a gentle, gracious approach creates understanding and collaboration.

Below: Michelle's students Rhian Scott, Amelia Hawkins, and Alex Wright participate in Alabama Audubon's Project Safe Flight bird window collision monitoring and research program.





“I’ve drawn a lot of inspiration from the DarkSky advocacy community, so I offer a lot of credit to others’ sharing about their practices.”

Above: University of Alabama astronomy students measuring brightness and color temperature of campus luminaires.

What are you currently working on with Starry Skies South? Any new initiatives or exciting partnerships to share?

One current goal is to jointly advocate for window-safe stickers and lights-out practices at my university. Building positive relationships with the Facilities Department and Sustainability Office has been key to this.

Starry Skies South members are spread out geographically, so we often share ideas during meetings and learn from each other’s successes. Our members have started petitions, introduced proclamations to legislators, written letters, created

planetarium shows, served on boards or associations that make decisions about infrastructure, given public talks, worked at events, and led night hikes. These seemingly small actions together add up to meaningful change.

Personally, I am excited that my university recently connected me to local lighting vendors and designers through the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES). They seem interested in including me in restarting an Alabama IES chapter, which would be an incredible opportunity to advocate for DarkSky Approved lighting on a broader scale. ✦

Lighting policy templates



DarkSky recently launched a set of lighting policy templates designed to support municipalities and regions in implementing responsible outdoor lighting. These resources offer practical, customizable guidelines for writing policy documents and establishing ordinances that reduce light pollution, enhance public safety, and promote sustainable practices.

Why lighting policies matter

Thoughtful policies are essential to striking a balance between illumination and preservation. While outdoor lighting plays a crucial role in our communities, from improving visibility to supporting economic activity, excessive or poorly designed lighting contributes to light pollution, disrupting ecosystems, obscuring our view of the stars, and wasting energy.

DarkSky's lighting policy templates

Our new lighting policy templates provide clear, actionable frameworks for local governments and organizations. Created with input from experts in lighting design, environmental ecology, and urban planning, these templates outline best practices in outdoor lighting design, including:

Limiting over-lighting

Ensuring lighting is only as bright as necessary

Directional lighting

Reducing glare and light trespass by directing light downward

Color temperature

Recommending warm, low-color-temperature lighting to minimize ecological impact

Energy efficiency

Encouraging the use of energy-saving technologies such as LEDs

These templates are valuable for anyone involved in outdoor lighting decisions, whether you are work-



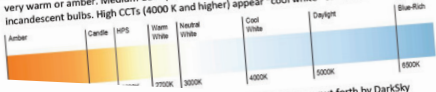
DarkSky International Policy Outdoor Lighting – Municipal Ordinance Template and User Guide October 11, 2024 – Version 1.0

Overview
This DarkSky International (DarkSky) Policy provides a template of outdoor lighting requirements for any county, city, municipality, or township seeking to implement a responsible outdoor lighting ordinance. *[Some jurisdictions may use the term "code" or "bylaw".]* The template is intended to be adapted to local needs.

4.0 DEFINITIONS

4.1 The following definitions apply to terms used in this ordinance:

- A. **ANSI:** American National Standards Institute.
- B. **ANSI/IES Lighting Standards:** Applicable outdoor lighting standards and metrics include but are not limited to:
 - 1. RP-2: outdoor retail spaces
 - 2. RP-6: outdoor sports and recreational areas
 - 3. RP-7: outdoor industrial areas
 - 4. RP-8: roadway and parking facilities
 - 5. RP-43: port terminals
 - 6. RP-43: outdoor pedestrian areas
- C. **ALAN (artificial light at night):** Light that is created from human technology, rather than a naturally occurring process. Also known as anthropogenic lighting.
- D. **Candela (cd):** The unit of measure for luminous intensity.
- E. **CCT (correlated color temperature):** The measured color appearance of light emitted by a light source described using a nominal value stated in kelvins (K). Lower CCTs (1800 K to 2200 K) appear very warm or amber. Medium CCTs (2700 K to 3000 K) appear "warm white," similar to standard incandescent bulbs. High CCTs (4000 K and higher) appear "cool white" or "blue."



ANNEX A – EXAMPLE FORMATS TO ASSIGN LIGHTING ZONES

Table Example

Zone District	Lighting Zone Designations by Land Use												
	Residential				Mixed-Use				Non-Residential				
Lighting Zones	R-A	R-1	R-2	R-3	R-4	R-5	R-6	R-7	R-8	R-9	R-10	R-11	R-12
NLz													
Lz0	X ¹	X ¹	X ¹	X ¹	X ¹							X ¹	X ¹
Lz1	X	X	X	X	X	X ¹	X	X ¹	X ¹	X	X	X ¹	X ¹
Lz2						X	X	X	X	X ¹	X ¹		X
Lz3										X ¹	X ¹		

Notes:
[1] NLz is required in NR-PO zones for open space where no anthropogenic light is allowed.
[2] Lz0 is required in NR-PO zones for open space where artificial light is needed during nighttime hours.
[3] A lower lighting zone is required on subject properties with sensitive lands.
[4] A lower lighting zone is required on subject properties adjacent to low-density uses.
[5] A higher lighting zone is allowed unless the subject property is adjacent to any residential zone district.
[6] Lz2 is allowed in parks with high pedestrian activity and many amenities.
[7] Lz3 is allowed in parks containing nighttime stadiums or entertainment activities.

Overlay Map Example



Flagstaff, Arizona leveraged its outdoor lighting code to help become the first DarkSky Community in 2001.



ing on a neighborhood streetlight project, local infrastructure changes, or regional lighting policy. Municipalities, environmental groups, advocacy organizations, and even businesses can adopt these guidelines.

Each template is adaptable to the unique needs and regulations of individual communities, making them a versatile tool for advocates and policymakers anywhere in the world.

Getting started

Visit DarkSky's website to view the templates and materials. The user-friendly format should make it easy to identify the most relevant sections for your needs.

Engage with local stakeholders,

including government officials, businesses, and community groups to begin discussions on policy changes for light pollution.

Use the templates as a starting point for public discussions, presentations, and proposals when working with policymakers on responsible lighting in your area.

These templates reflect DarkSky's commitment to a global approach to reducing light pollution. By offering accessible tools, we aim to empower communities worldwide to make a positive impact on the nighttime environment. Small changes at the local level can collectively lead to significant global improvements, fostering healthier ecosystems and a clearer night sky for all. ♦

To access the templates, visit:

darksky.org/darksky-recognized-codes-and-statutes



Get involved

Protecting the night starts with small, actionable steps you can take in your community and at home. Here are seven simple ways to make a difference today:

Assess your home

Check your home's outdoor lighting and rectify any problems by using shields, timers, and motion sensors. You can find appropriate lighting options through the DarkSky Approved Luminaires program: darksky.org/luminaires

Close curtains and cover skylights

Always close your curtains or blinds at night and ensure skylights have covers to prevent indoor light from spilling into the night sky.



Participate in citizen science

Join programs like Globe at Night to measure and report local light pollution levels, contributing to global research efforts. globeatnight.org

Raise awareness

Have a conversation with your neighbor, host a stargazing event, give a presentation, or distribute flyers in your area about the benefits of responsible lighting.

Collaborate with local groups

Work with astronomy clubs, environmental organizations, or schools to spread awareness and create collaborations.



Get involved with policymaking

Use DarkSky's templates (see p. 16) to contact local officials and encourage policies that promote responsible outdoor lighting.

Join the DarkSky community

Join your local DarkSky chapter or start one in your area. Sign up to be a Delegate or Advocate and get access to a community and resources. Being part of a larger network helps support and amplify our efforts. darksky.org/get-involved

Every action counts

Small steps at home and locally contribute to our worldwide efforts to preserve the beauty and heritage of the night sky for future generations.

Newly certified International Dark Sky Places

Announced since November 1, 2024



ABOUT THE PROGRAM



The International Dark Sky Places program certifies communities, parks, and protected areas around the world that preserve and protect dark sites through responsible lighting policies and public education.

BY THE NUMBERS

241

International Dark Sky Places around the world

33

Countries and territories represented

6

Continents represented

176,300+

Square kilometers of protected land and night sky

Find a Place near you: DarkSky.org/places



U.S. National Parks Service

Oregon Caves National Monument and Preserve

Oregon, U.S.

A sprawling ecosystem of marble caves, forests, meadows, and rivers in the Siskiyou Mountains.

Dark Sky Park

18.42 km²



Robert Gallucci

Bisbee Arizona, U.S.

Historic mining town of nearly 5,000 residents clustered in a steep canyon just five miles north of the international border with Mexico.

Dark Sky Community 13.41 km²



Klayton Dennis

Thousand Hills State Park Missouri, U.S.

Landscape of hills and ridgelines believed to be an ancient Native American ceremonial area, now open for stargazing and recreation.

Urban Night Sky Place 12.46 km²



Michael McKeag

Antelope Oregon, U.S.

Peaceful, historic community that has experienced both boom and bust, from the gold rush of the 1860s to the Rajneesh invasion in the 1980s.

Dark Sky Community 1.19 km²



Joe and Kimmie Randall

Browns Canyon National Monument Colorado, U.S.

Scenic Arkansas River valley with vast wilderness and recreational opportunities, and of deep cultural significance for First Nations people.

Dark Sky Park 89.03 km²



Dawn Davis

Cottonwood Canyon State Park Oregon, U.S.

More than 16,000 acres of public land along the John Day River with camping, fishing, rafting, and stargazing among deep canyon walls.

Dark Sky Park 65 km²



Dan Sanfillo

Gower National Landscape Wales, U.K.

The U.K.'s first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty near the city of Swansea, with pristine coastline, heath, marsh, and dunes.

Dark Sky Community 186 km²



Cody Rheault

Sisters Oregon, U.S.

The Deschutes National Forest encircles this close-knit town, home to the Indigenous Paiute, Warm Springs, and Wasco peoples.

Dark Sky Community 4.96 km²

News & notables

News from the global movement promoting responsible outdoor light at night

Dark skies and telescopes at risk in Chile

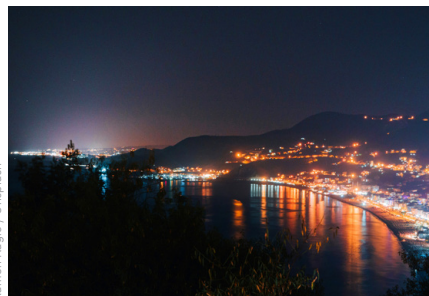
A proposed \$10 billion hydrogen project in **Chile's Atacama Desert** could threaten its world-class astronomical observatories with light pollution,

including the **European Southern Observatory's Paranal Observatory** and the new **Extremely Large Telescope**, which will

be the largest of its kind, hunting for planets beyond our solar system. Scientists and advocates are urging that Chilean authorities consider relocating the project to protect the natural environment.



ESO / V. Baletsky



Ramon Kagle / Unsplash

UN endorses marine light pollution initiative

The **United Nations** has endorsed the **Global Ocean Artificial Light at Night Network** initiative conceived by professors at the **University of Plymouth** in the U.K. International research teams will create a repository of knowledge, initiatives, and resources on marine light pollution. This follows **Plymouth Marine Laboratory's** recent release of an interactive map of European aquatic habitats affected by light pollution.

bit.ly/GOALANN



Sawtooth Writing Retreat

Upcoming dark sky writing retreat in Idaho, U.S.

The **Sawtooth Writing Retreat** will be held September 18–21 in the **Central Idaho Dark Sky Reserve**. Featuring workshops with acclaimed writers **Paul Bogard** (author of *The End of Night*) and **Kim Cross**, the retreat combines creative inspiration with the serenity of a dark night sky. There will also be telescope stargazing and lectures by environmental scientists. Accommodation options include tent camping and shared or private cabins. More info and apply:

bit.ly/sawtooth-ds-retreat



Get merch for International Dark Sky Week

Show your love during **Dark Sky Week** by purchasing our selection of customized mugs, apparel, and totes.

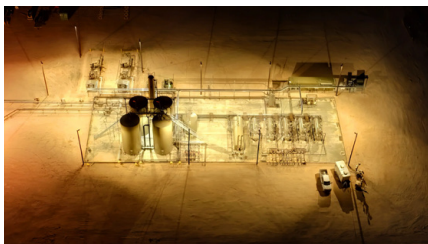
bonfire.com/store/darksky



Legal pathways to dark sky protection

A new paper by researchers **Dana Zartner, Aparna Venkatesan, and John Barentine** outlines three legal approaches to protect the night sky based on individual rights, community rights, and rights of nature. The paper suggests that these approaches, which differ from those commonly used, particularly in the United States, may provide better opportunities for communities to address the increasingly harmful amount of light pollution brightening the darkness.

bit.ly/DS-legaladvocacy



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

DarkSky's new "Oil and Gas Industry Approved Lighting" program

The new **DarkSky Approved Oil and Gas Industry Lighting** program certified its first-ever locations — three **Franklin Mountain Energy** sites in **New Mexico** — for their responsible lighting. The program aims to reduce light pollution at oil and gas sites, promote sustainable energy development, and serve as a model for balancing industry needs with environmental preservation. Find out more:

darksky.org/darksky-approved

DarkSky's CEO on Rewilding Earth podcast

DarkSky's CEO, **Ruskin Hartley**, was recently a guest on the **Rewilding Earth** podcast, discussing how rewilding the night benefits migratory birds and other species. Ruskin highlighted simple, actionable solutions like better lighting policies and the role of both community involvement and scientific studies in understanding and addressing light pollution. Full episode:

bit.ly/RE-podcast



Berlin turns off road lighting

Berlin will switch off street lighting on its motorways in line with Germany's national standard of unlit highways, reducing CO₂ emissions and curbing light pollution. The switch-off follows extensive studies conducted by the Berlin Senate over three years from 2006 to 2008. The studies showed that highway lighting does not impact accident rates. The switch-off is due to be completed by April 2025 after further improvement of reflectors and road markings.

Give to protect the night

DarkSky memberships cover only a fraction of our annual budget, and our mission to protect the night depends on generous supporters like you. Your gift (tax-deductible in the U.S.) directly funds critical programs that combat light pollution, safeguard wildlife, and preserve the beauty of our star-filled skies for future generations. Join us in making a lasting difference — every contribution matters. Give today.

act.darksky.org



DISCOVER THE NIGHT DISCOVER THE NIGHT DISCOVER THE NIGHT DISCOVER THE NIGHT



International Dark Sky Week
April 21-28, 2025



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