



DarkSky Approved Luminaires

Protecting the night through quality light.



The need to protect the night

Dark skies are quickly vanishing due to the rapid growth of light pollution—disrupting critical wildlife habitat, compromising the safety of our communities, and erasing our view of the stars. Our window to act is closing fast.

The answer: Quality lighting

The **DarkSky Approved Luminaires** program offers objective, third-party certification for light fixtures that virtually eliminate direct uplight while incorporating dimming controls, warmer color temperatures, and other features that reduce reflected light. The result—beautiful, functional lighting that substantially reduces light pollution.



Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Light at Night

Developed in partnership with the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES), the Five Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting at Night offer simple, science-based solutions that protect the night.

The DarkSky Approved Luminaires program is grounded in these core principles ensuring the highest standards for quality lighting.



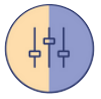
Useful

All light should have a clear purpose. Use lighting only when and where it is needed.



Targeted

Shield and aim your light so it only falls downward and where it is useful.



Low-level

Light should be no brighter than necessary to save money and reduce glare.



Controlled

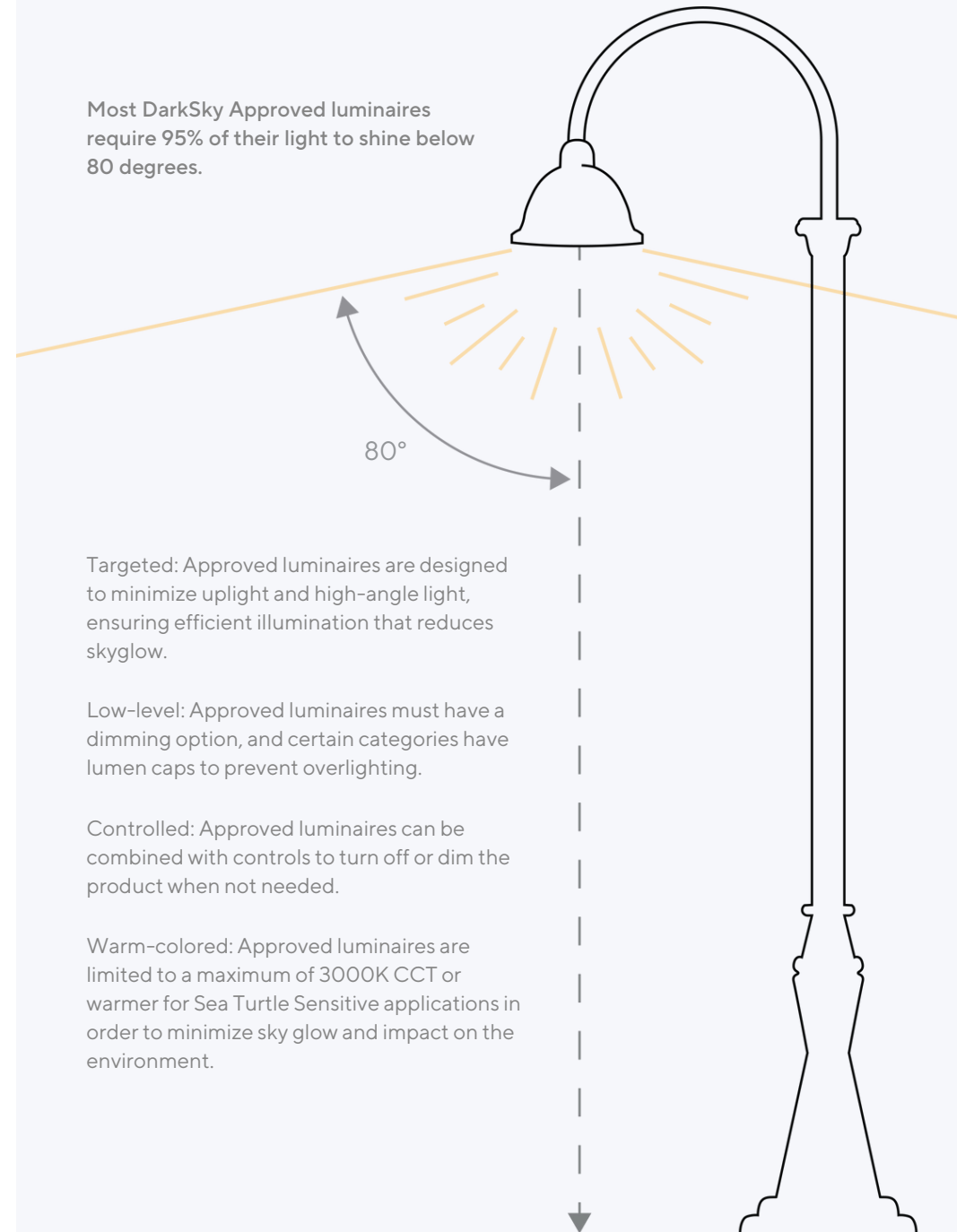
Lighting should only be on when needed. Use timers and motion sensors.



Warm-colored

Warm-colored light causes less skyglow. Use amber-toned lighting when possible.

Most DarkSky Approved luminaires require 95% of their light to shine below 80 degrees.



Targeted: Approved luminaires are designed to minimize uplight and high-angle light, ensuring efficient illumination that reduces skyglow.

Low-level: Approved luminaires must have a dimming option, and certain categories have lumen caps to prevent overlighting.

Controlled: Approved luminaires can be combined with controls to turn off or dim the product when not needed.

Warm-colored: Approved luminaires are limited to a maximum of 3000K CCT or warmer for Sea Turtle Sensitive applications in order to minimize sky glow and impact on the environment.



DarkSky Approved Luminaires

The DarkSky Approved Luminaires Program approves outdoor lighting that enhances safety and design while protecting the night.

Developed by leading lighting designers, engineers, and experts in ecology, human health, and safety, the program ensures luminaires meet the highest standards for functionality, efficiency, and dark sky protection.

Products that pass our rigorous approval process earn the DarkSky Approved seal, a trusted symbol in the industry for night sky-friendly lighting.

Outdoor lighting needs vary by location and purpose, which is why our enhanced program offers four categories of DarkSky Approved Luminaires—providing tailored solutions for every application.

LUMINAIRE PROGRAM CATEGORIES



DarkSky Approved Residential Luminaires

Outdoor luminaires that are primarily used on properties of single-family dwellings or residences with up to four connected units (four-plex) or town homes.

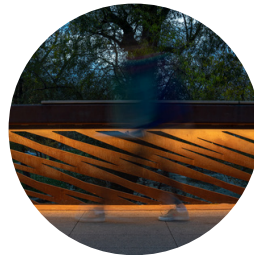
Photo credit : Lampas / Photo by Torben Eskerod



DarkSky Approved Commercial Luminaires

Outdoor luminaires that are used on properties of commercial or industrial businesses and places with high traffic, such as schools, hotels, and government buildings, as well as public spaces, roads, or rights-of-way.

Photo credit : Francis Zera



DarkSky Approved Pedestrian Comfort Luminaires

Commercial luminaires with reduced lumen output and more stringent high-angle light restrictions create a more comfortable experience for pedestrians.

Photo credit : LED Linear



DarkSky Approved Sea Turtle Sensitive Luminaires

Featuring shielding and color spectra specifically designed to protect critical habitats, these luminaires meet Florida's Sea Turtle Lighting Guidelines.

Why choose DarkSky Approved?

DarkSky Approved Luminaires are trusted by industry and consumers, offering solutions for most outdoor lighting installations.

Better quality lighting

Precision optical control, shielding of the light source, and virtually no wasted uplight provides a targeted solution, and more efficient application of light.

Future-ready compliance

DarkSky Approved luminaires meet the requirements of DarkSky ordinances, which are being adopted by more cities, states, provinces and countries each year.

Trusted seal of approval

As the leading nonprofit in the movement to protect the night, the DarkSky Approved seal is a recognized and respected symbol.

Environmental protection

Grounded in science-based principles, DarkSky Approved luminaires protect the nighttime environment and reclaim our view of the stars.

Credit : Lampas / Torben Eskerod



NEXT STEPS FOR MANUFACTURERS

Become DarkSky Approved

Join leading manufacturers in producing lighting that protects the night. DarkSky Approved Luminaires are trusted by professionals and consumers alike as the go-to solution for responsible outdoor lighting. Take the next step by learning more and submitting an application.

1. Learn More – Visit the DarkSky Approved Luminaires program website to explore how our approval supports responsible lighting.
2. Review Criteria – Explore the full set of program requirements for each luminaire category to ensure compliance.
3. Apply Now – Submit an application and take the first step toward having your products certified as DarkSky Approved.
4. Get Support – Have questions about the criteria or application process? Our team is here to help—don't hesitate to reach out.

Credit : Banko Creative Studio

DarkSky Approved programs:

Learn more

Interested in learning more about quality lighting or how to become [DarkSky Approved](#)? Our team is here to help—don't hesitate to reach out.

Approved@darksky.org

Our mission

DarkSky International restores the nighttime environment and protects communities from the harmful effects of light pollution through outreach, advocacy, and conservation. [Learn more](#)

Get involved

There are many ways to take action—from becoming an official DarkSky Advocate to simply signing up for our e-news updates. However you choose to get involved, you'll be joining a growing global movement to protect the night. [Learn more](#)

Become a partner

Our impact is amplified through collaboration with organizational partners around the world. Learn how your organization can join our mission to preserve the nighttime environment. [Learn more](#)

Follow us

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