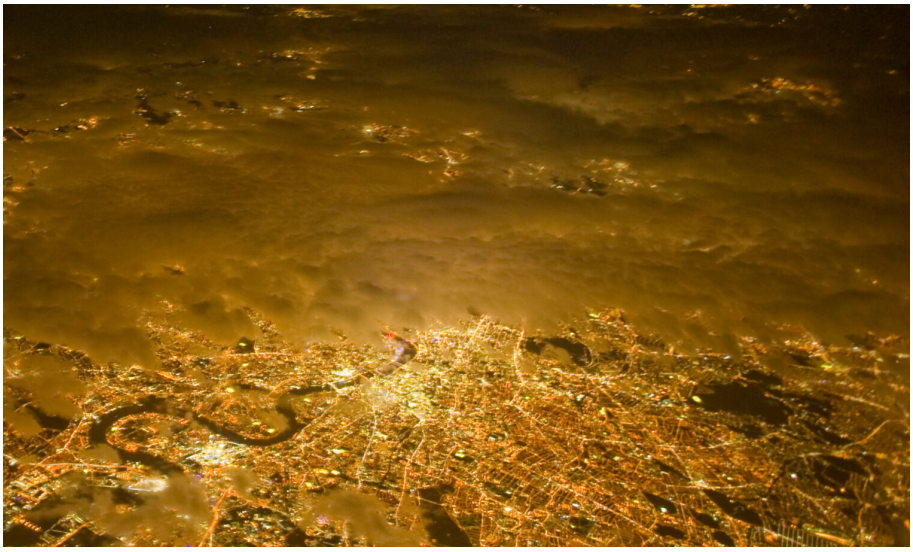
FACT SHEET #lightpollution

Light pollution wastes money and resources.



Lighting levels that are higher than necessary and light that shines when and where it's not needed is wasteful. Wasting energy on bad lighting design has huge economic and environmental consequences.

Tracking the cost of light pollution.

Light pollution wastes billions of dollars.

DarkSky estimates that 30 percent of all outdoor lighting in the U.S. is wasted, mostly due to unshielded or excessively bright lights. This adds up to $3.3 billion dollars wasted annually. Installing quality outdoor lighting could cut energy use by 60 to 70 percent, saving billions of dollars.

Light pollution contributes to the growing climate crisis.

Artificial lighting at night and the energy required to produce it has a large carbon footprint. In the U.S. alone, unnecessary lighting produces 21 million tons of carbon dioxide each year! 875 million trees would need to be planted annually to offset this waste.

30%
30% of outdoor lighting is wasted in the U.S.

21M
This produces 21 million tons of CO2 anually.

875M
It'd take 875 million trees to offset this waste.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Maximize the efficiency of your home lighting.

- **Outdoor lighting should be fully shielded and directed downward where it is needed.** Fully shielded fixtures can provide the same level of illumination on the ground as unshielded ones, but with less energy and cost.
- **Unnecessary indoor lighting – particularly in empty office buildings at night – should be turned off,** preventing leakage of that light into the night sky.
- **LEDs can help reduce energy use and protect the environment, but only warm-white bulbs should be used.**
- **Dimmers, motion sensors, and timers can help to reduce average illumination levels and save even more energy.**

DarkSky

Learn more about light pollution and waste.

darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/effects/energy-climate