

INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY COMMUNITIES

BASIC REQUIREMENTS

THE BASICS:

Access the complete set of rules and guidelines for the International Dark Sky Community program at: <http://darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/IDSC-Guidelines-Jun2018.pdf>.

- ❑ **LEGALLY ORGANIZED COMMUNITY:** *The community must have some type of legal organization that is officially recognized by outside groups (p4).*
- ❑ **LIGHTING POLICY:** The community's lighting policy meets the IDA's minimum requirements (*see minimum lighting policy requirements*).
- ❑ **LETTER OF NOMINATION:** *The nomination may be initiated by an IDA qualified nominator who has personally reviewed a community's outdoor lighting and commitment to night sky preservation (p9).*
- ❑ **LETTERS OF SUPPORT:**
 - » *A letter of support is required from the community government (mayor, council, etc.) consenting to the nomination for IDSC status.*
 - » *Solicit additional letters of support from community organizations, clubs, groups, universities, dark sky cooperatives, etc (p9).*
- ❑ **COMMUNITY COMMITMENT TO QUALITY LIGHTING:** *City owned lighting conforms with the lighting policy or will be fully compliant in no more than five years. Community commitment to quality lighting will also be demonstrated by city publications, fliers, public service announcements, and funding of lighting upgrades (p7).*
- ❑ **COMMUNITY COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION:** *Community commitment to education includes execution of at least two community dark sky awareness events per year, inclusion of dark sky awareness documents with other community information, or dark sky education included in school curriculum (p7).*
- ❑ **SUCCESS IN LIGHT POLLUTION CONTROL:** *Success will be demonstrated by evidence of new construction and renovation activities effectively applying the lighting policy or alternative evidence as discussed with the IDA (p7).*

MINIMUM LIGHTING POLICY REQUIREMENTS:

For an overview video of policy requirements for International Dark Sky Community status, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97PAL-kwvKc&feature=youtu.be>.



POLICY RELATED QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

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The International Dark Sky Association requires a quality comprehensive lighting policy that includes all of the following minimum standards for permanent lighting installations.

LIGHTING POLICY REQUIREMENTS

1. Description of town/city/community lighting code (p4, C)
2. Fully-shielded or full cutoff standard for all fixtures over 1000 lumens initial lamp output (p4, 1, A)
3. Establishes spectrum control of all lighting fixtures (pp.4-5, 1, B)
4. Restrictions on total amount of unshielded lighting, such as lumens per acre or total site lumens in unshielded fixtures (or equivalent wattages) (p5, 1, C)
5. A policy to address over-lighting, such as energy density caps, lumens/acre caps, or maximum illuminance specifications (p5, 1, D)
6. A provision that clearly indicates where, when, and under what circumstances new public outdoor lighting is warranted and will be permitted (p5, 1, E, i)
7. A provision that clearly requires that adaptive controls and curfews be employed in all future installations of public outdoor lighting (p5, 1, E, ii)

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BASIC REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

LIGHTING POLICY REQUIREMENTS CONTINUED

8. Restrictions on the installation and operation of illuminated signs:
 - » *Luminance levels for operation between sunset and sunrise shall not exceed 100 nits (100 candelas per square meter) as measured under conditions of a full white display (p5, 1, F, i)*
 - » *Sign illumination shall be extinguished completely one (1) hour after sunset, and remain off until one (1) hour before sunrise (p5, 1, F, ii)*
 - » *The luminous/illuminated surface area of an individual sign shall not exceed 200 square feet (18.6 square meters) (p5, 1, F, iii)*
9. Exemption of outdoor sports/athletic field lighting from other provisions of the code, if:
 - » *Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) lighting guidelines (RP-6) are followed according to the appropriate class of play (p6, 1, G, i)*
 - » *Field lighting is provided exclusively for illumination of the surface of play and viewing stands, and not for any other applications (p6, 1, G, ii)*
 - » *Illuminance levels are adjustable based on the task (e.g., active play vs. field maintenance) (p6, 1, G, iii)*
 - » *Off-site impacts of the lighting are limited to the greatest practical extent possible (p6, 1, G, iv)*
 - » *A strict curfew requirement (e.g., lights must be extinguished by 10pm/2200h or one hour after the end of play, whichever is later) is observed (p6, 1, G, v)*
 - » *Timers are be installed to prevent lights being left on accidentally overnight by automatically extinguishing them (p6, 1, G, vi)*
10. Affects an amortization period, applicable to ALL publicly AND privately owned lighting, to end not more than ten (10) years from the effective date of the outdoor lighting policy, after which all non-conforming lighting extant at the time of enactment must be brought into compliance with the policy (p6, 1, H)
11. "Community commitment to dark skies and quality lighting"
 - » *City-owned lighting conforms, or city shows commitment to achieve conformity, with lighting code? (p3, B, i)*
 - » *Municipal support of dark skies and good lighting through community outreach efforts (e.g., flyers, PSAs, etc.) (p3, B, ii)*
12. "Community commitment to dark skies and education"
 - » *Planning and execution of at least two (2) dark-sky awareness events per year (p4, D, i) AND/OR*
 - » *Inclusion of dark-sky awareness documents with other community info documents for residents and visitors (p4, D, ii) AND/OR*
 - » *Inclusion of dark-sky education in community school curricula (p4, D, iii)*
13. "Success in light pollution control"
 - » *Examples of at least ten (10) projects built under the lighting code showing effective application of the code (p4, E, i) AND/OR*
 - » *Alternative demonstration of success, approved by the IDSPP Manager (p4, E, ii)*

RESOURCES

Utah Community Development Office Dark Sky Assessment Guide

The initial groundwork for a dark sky certification is establishing the current status. This worksheet guides users through several evaluation methods which could be used for a general assessment of dark-sky-friendly lighting.

<https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/2019/06/Dark-Sky-Assessment-Guide-Update-6-11-19.pdf>

Utah Community Development Office Dark Sky Planning Guide

An introduction to the issues surrounding light pollution, lighting basics, dark sky relevance, and guidance to local leaders. It also provides case studies and resources to assist communities.

<http://ruralplanning.org/darkskies>

Flagstaff Dark Skies Coalition - Outdoor Lighting Codes

Hub of information, resources, and links

<http://www.flagstaffdarks skies.org/dark-sky-solutions/dark-sky-solutions-2/outdoor-lighting-codes/>

Pattern Outdoor Lighting Code (POLC) - 2010

Defines practical and effective measures by which the obtrusive aspects of outdoor light usage can be reduced, while preserving safety, security, and the nighttime use and enjoyment of property.

<http://www.flagstaffdarks skies.org/WPdev/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CBL-POLC-standard-v2.0.pdf>

IDA Model Lighting Ordinance (MLO) - 2011

This Model Lighting Ordinance (MLO) is the result of extensive efforts by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) and the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IES). Among its features is the use of lighting zones (LZO-4) which allow each governing body to vary the stringency of lighting restrictions according to the sensitivity of the area as well as accommodating community intent.

https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/16_MLO_FINAL_JUNE2011.PDF