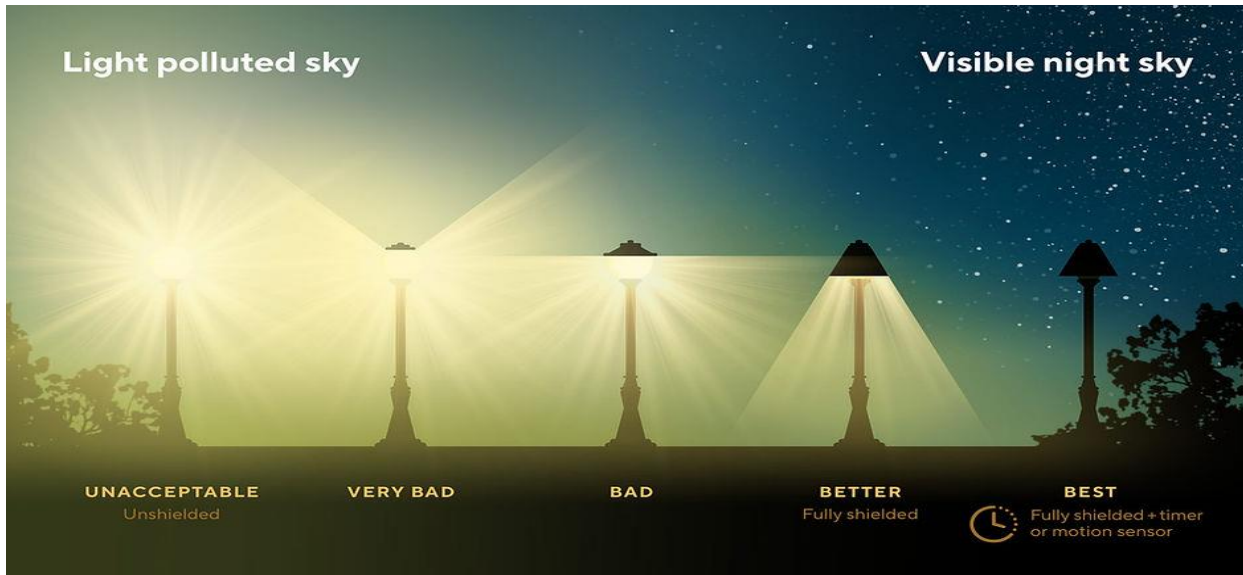


# BECKET DARK SKY BYLAW FAQ



## WHY DO WE NEED A DARK SKY BYLAW?

Light pollution, defined as an adverse and/or obtrusive effect of the use of outdoor light at night (particularly in the blue spectrum), negatively affects not only the rural character of our community, but increases human disease such as diabetes, hormonal cancers, and mood disorders. It also adversely impacts wildlife, birds, insects, plants, and ecosystems. Light pollution is increasing by 10% per year, but by making educated choices, we can have enough light at night for both safety and enjoyment while avoiding unintended consequences.

This Bylaw is necessary to keep up with current science and minimize the human health and environmental impacts of lighting, particularly surrounding new lighting technology such as LEDs.

## WHAT WILL THE BYLAW DO?

The proposed Bylaw provides a set of standards for outdoor lighting that will:

- Minimize light pollution to the greatest extent possible, especially blue light.
- Protect residents from light trespass, or unwanted blue light, that negatively affects the enjoyment of property, disrupts the natural circadian rhythm of humans, wildlife and agriculture, as well as a waste of energy.
- Provide adequate light and control glare to ensure the safe navigation of roadways, the safe performance of outdoor tasks at night and to keep property free from harm.
- Minimize skyglow, to preserve the night sky as a natural resource allowing all to see the stars and planets against the dark sky.
- Preserve the historic and rural character of Becket.
- Promote efficient and cost-effective lighting on public and private property, thereby reducing carbon emissions and costs.

## WILL I HAVE TO GET RID OF MY LIGHTS?

Absolutely not. We have every right to have a light on our own property, but we shouldn't have the right to have our lights shine on others'. This Bylaw would minimize light trespass by requiring lights, when used, to be aimed towards the ground, where needed. Dark skies does not mean dark ground!

## WHAT IS BLUE LIGHT?

Lights can have varying colors, ranging from soft yellow to blues. The term Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) is essentially a gauge of how yellow or blue the color of light emitted from a bulb appears.

## CORRELATED COLOR TEMPERATURE VALUES



Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) values are measured in Kelvin (K); this rating can be found on packaging or on the light bulb itself. Since blue color light is most harmful to humans, wildlife and our ecosystem, this Bylaw would require outdoor lighting to be at or under 3000K which is also warmer in feeling.

## DON'T BRIGHT LIGHTS MAKE US SAFER?

Bright lights cause glare; glare makes it hard to see what is behind that light. Thus, more light does not make us safer! Motion sensors can instead be used to send a signal that something is amiss. Wildlife, such as bears, can acclimate to lights that are constantly on, but are startled when motion sensor lights are triggered.

## WHAT LIGHTS IN TOWN WILL THE BYLAW APPLY TO?

The proposed Bylaw would apply to all privately owned new outdoor lighting as well as lighting owned, maintained, or controlled by the Town (unless specifically exempted), including streetlights, signs, flags, and upward search lights.

Existing light fixtures may continue to be used after the adoption of this Bylaw providing such lights comply with:

- No light trespasses onto adjacent properties.
- No light is emitted above the light fixture.
- No light causes excessive brightness which limits visibility.

## IS THIS BYLAW GOING TO COST ME OR THE TOWN MONEY?

Not necessarily! Light fixtures may be brought into compliance with the above by applying inexpensive or self-made shielding or redirecting lights. Bulbs can be replaced, put on motion sensors or turned off at certain hours as well.

## WHAT RESOURCES CAN HELP ME IDENTIFY DARK-SKY FRIENDLY LIGHTING?

Dark Sky International (the IDA, [DarkSky.org](http://DarkSky.org)) has many resources, including commercial, industrial, and residential outdoor lighting that reduces light pollution.

## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

There will be informational sessions, telescope nights, and more to keep residents aware of the benefits of dark skies and the status of the Bylaw over the coming months. Visit our website ([BecketDarkSkies.org](http://BecketDarkSkies.org)) to sign-up to help or if you would like to receive emails about programs and events.