

**Horizons Village Property Owners Association
Requirements and Recommendations on Light Pollution**

(Adopted July 2008 and Revised February 2009 by the HVPOA Board of Directors, based on the discussion by lot owners at the 2008 Annual Meeting)

Background:

Horizon's Village is based on a commitment to green living as is reflected in our Horizons Village Covenants. The aim is to preserve a sense of balance and harmony between ourselves and the surrounding flora and fauna. It has been cited that light pollution has serious consequences on our environment and on ourselves.

What can we do?

Of all the pollutions we face, light pollution is perhaps the most easily remedied. Simple changes in lighting design and installation yield immediate changes in the amount of light spilled into the atmosphere and, often, immediate energy savings.

Requirements:

* High intensity discharge lighting, including mercury vapor, metal halide, and high pressure or low pressure sodium lights are not permitted at Horizons Village

Recommendations:

Reduce the light escaping from your home

1. Keep exterior lights off as much as possible. Your neighbors and the wildlife will thank you.
 - Put your exterior lights on motion detectors or timers so they only come on when needed.
 - Minimize wattage, and direct illumination toward the ground, not upward.
 - Use reflectors, solar lights, low voltage lights, compact fluorescent lights, or other energy-conserving methods.
 - Use the lowest wattage of lamp possible; no more than 100 watts incandescent, and 26 watts compact fluorescent.
2. Keep interior light indoors.
 - Use blackout blinds or curtains at night so birds aren't fatally attracted to your windows.
 - Put as many household lights as possible on dimmer switches so you can save energy.

Take a walk one night and look back at your house. You'll be surprised at how much "glow" your home produces. What you see is what the local wildlife and your neighbors experience every day so for everyone and everybody's sake:

Use the right amount of light, in the right place, at the right time.

Further Background

From National Geographic:

<http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/light-pollution/klinkenborg-text>

Light pollution is largely the result of bad lighting design, which allows artificial light to shine outward and upward into the sky, where it's not wanted, instead of focusing it downward, where it is. Ill-designed lighting washes out the darkness of night and radically alters the light levels—and light rhythms—to which many forms of life, including ourselves, have adapted. Wherever human light spills into the natural world, some aspect of life—migration, reproduction, feeding—is affected.

Darkness is as essential to our biological welfare, to our internal clockwork, as light itself. The regular oscillation of waking and sleep in our lives—one of our circadian rhythms—is nothing less

than a biological expression of the regular oscillation of light on Earth. So fundamental are these rhythms to our being that altering them is like altering gravity.

To power five 100-watt light bulbs from dusk to dawn for one year costs about \$200. But there are also "hidden" costs: the electricity used to burn those lights comes from burning coal, which releases carbon dioxide, a cause of climate change, sulfur dioxide, which contributes to acid rain, and trace amounts of mercury and other toxic pollutants.

It's estimated that light pollution costs the US alone 5-10 Billion dollars annually (see <http://starrynightlights.com/blog/?p=48>).