

A TEN POINT PLAN FOR DARK SKIES IN LONDON

Many Londoners are deprived of the beauty of starfilled night skies. But this needn't be the case. We believe that everyone should be able to appreciate the wonder of a starry sky close to where they live. Unnecessary light pollution reduces our view of the stars at night. It can also damage human health and affect nocturnal wildlife. It can easily be tackled with a more careful approach to the design, location and use of lighting. Here is CPRE London's ten-point plan, supported by Dark Sky London, to reduce light pollution in London and to safeguard and extend dark sky areas:

1. Ensure any private security or sports flood lighting is well designed and carefully installed, and use blinds and curtains in your home to reduce light spillage and glare.
2. Persuade your local authority to minimise unnecessary lighting of streets and highways taking account of brightness, colour temperature and design, and encourage use of dimming, baffles and PIR (passive infrared) sensors.
3. Lobby your MP and Government for a better national policy framework to control light pollution by extending nuisance controls, improved planning policies, and appointing a Minister for Dark Skies.
4. Support the use of best practice guidance and local planning policies to minimise light pollution and encourage its local application by policy and decision makers, contractors and highways engineers.
5. Ask your local authority to identify and safeguard low light or dark sky areas, including improved lighting design in town centres and public spaces, and designating urban night sky places.
6. Encourage park and green space managers to identify and protect dark sky parks, or dark sky areas within existing parks.
7. Conduct a survey of lighting in your local area with other local residents/businesses to identify areas for improvement and encourage your local authorities to take action.
8. Recognise and promote the carbon, energy and cost saving benefits of reducing light pollution.
9. Educate your children on the benefits of dark skies for nocturnal wildlife and human health, read them books about the beauty of the natural night sky, get involved in CPRE's annual Star Count, and spend a 'night in nature'.
10. Encourage others to appreciate the beauty of star-filled night skies, take night walks, attend astronomy lectures, and organise trips to rural dark sky reserves.

Finally, please support our campaign as part of the [More Natural Capital](#) coalition to persuade the next Mayor of London to develop best practice guidance for lighting design to reduce light pollution and to safeguard and extend dark sky areas.