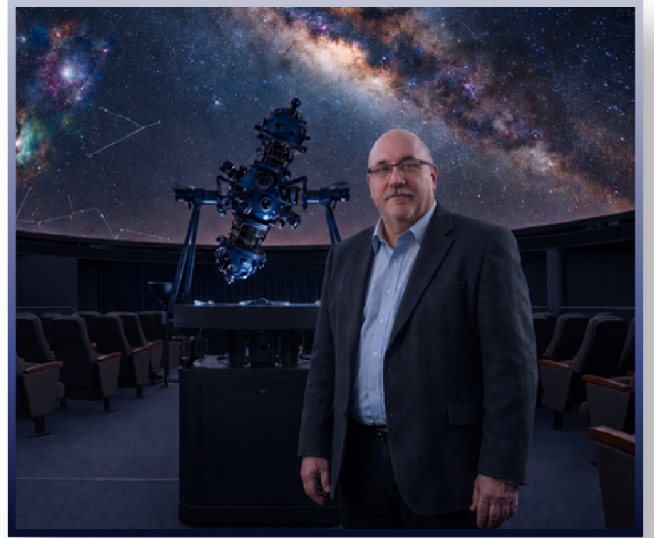


An Introduction to Night Skies

As you may know, the Borough Commissioners have been discussing the concept of “light trespass” (when a neighbor’s light or light from a streetlight shines onto your property), and further discussions about nighttime light will be taking place.

Also, the Environmental Commission and the Cape May Point Arts and Science Center (CMPASC) are jointly hosting a speaker about Dark Skies on **Friday, July 24 from 6:30–7:30 pm at CMPASC**. There is no cost! We hope you will join us. To learn more about the speaker, Jim Webster, [click here](#).



In order to provide some background for residents about nighttime light, in addition to co-hosting the lecture on July 24, the Environmental Commission will be sharing a series of articles about ways to minimize nighttime light, as well as the impact that too much light has on our environment.

This first article will introduce you to the work of the DarkSky International Organization.

DarkSky International formed in 1988 to combat the growing issue of light pollution and to protect the night sky. The organization formed for three primary reasons:

- Protecting Astronomy: Growing artificial light from expanding cities was severely hindering the ability of professional and amateur astronomers to view the universe.
- Preserving Human Health: Unregulated artificial light at night (ALAN) was found to disrupt human circadian rhythms and biological clocks.
- Safeguarding Ecosystems: Constant nighttime lighting was causing disruptions to wildlife migration patterns, breeding cycles, and predator-prey dynamics.

This organization developed five principles of lighting. They are:

Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting



| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| Responsible outdoor lighting is | 1 Useful | Use light only if it is needed All light should have a clear purpose. Consider how the use of light will impact the area, including wildlife and their habitats. |  |
| | 2 Targeted | Direct light so it falls only where it is needed Use shielding and careful aiming to target the direction of the light beam so that it points downward and does not spill beyond where it is needed. |  |
| | 3 Low Level | Light should be no brighter than necessary Use the lowest light level required. Be mindful of surface conditions, as some surfaces may reflect more light into the night sky than intended. |  |
| | 4 Controlled | Use light only when it is needed Use controls such as timers or motion detectors to ensure that light is available when it is needed, dimmed when possible, and turned off when not needed. |  |
| | 5 Warm-colored | Use warmer color lights where possible Limit the amount of shorter wavelength (blue-violet) light to the least amount needed. |  |

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The Environmental Commission encourages you to attend the lecture on July 24 and to be on the lookout for future articles about this important topic.