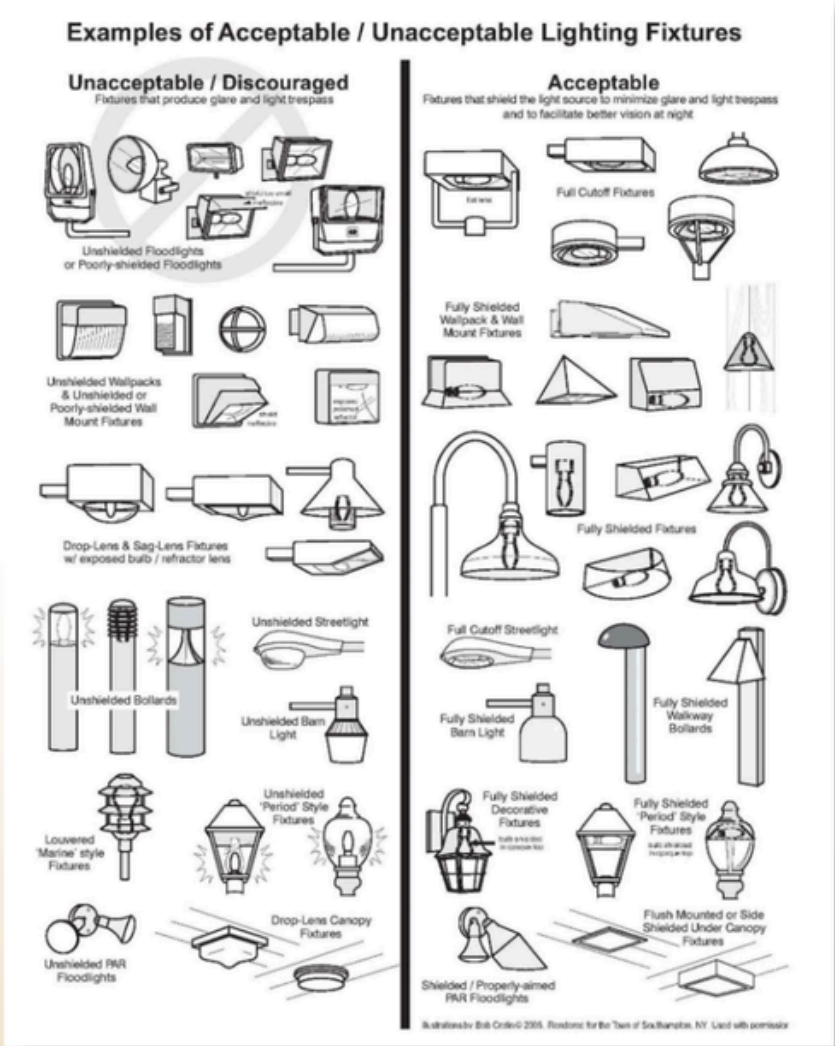


Recommended Lighting Changes to Reduce Artificial Light at Night (ALAN)

Many thanks to the Cape May Point residents who attended the Dark Skies presentation at the Cape May Arts and Science Center on Friday, July 24! During his hour-long lecture, the speaker addressed several reasons why reducing ALAN “mitigates severe disruptions to nocturnal habits” thus helping to protect “the natural behaviors, foraging, and migratory patterns of regional wildlife...”. He also addressed the concept of “light trespass,” when spill light, glare and unwanted illumination travels beyond your property and shines into neighbor’s yards and/or windows.

When asked what change homeowners could make to help reduce ALAN, he indicated that motion-activated, fully shielded residential fixtures pointing directly downward that illuminate only “intended areas” would be most impactful.

The Environmental Commission urges homeowners to assess the lighting on your property and use the information from DarkSky International to make your residence dark sky compliant, thereby reducing light trespass onto your neighbor’s property and minimizing harm to wildlife.



Five Lighting Principles for Responsible Outdoor Lighting



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.



Click here to visit
DarkSky New Jersey
and learn more!