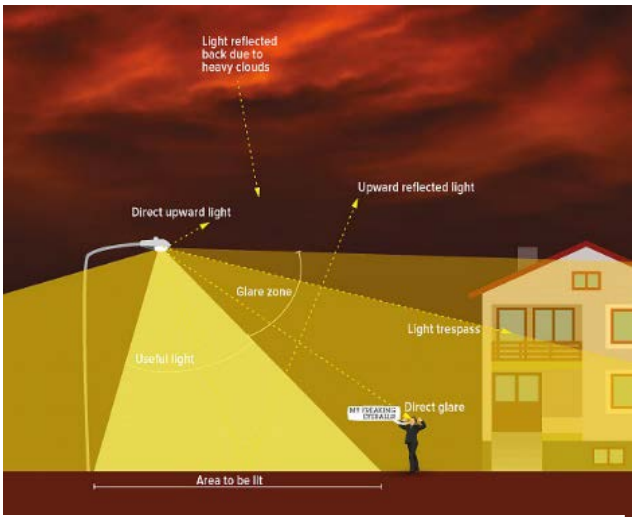
Lighting Ordinance FAQs-General

Q: What is the intent of this ordinance?

A: To protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community and its residents by limiting glare, light trespass and conserving energy while enhancing night sky visibility, and ensuring a starry night sky to preserve rural character (See Section 152.200). Visit https://www.darksky.org/ and https://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Intro_to_Lighting.ppt for extensive information on this topic.

Q: What is light pollution?

A: Any adverse effect of artificial light including, but not limited to, glare, light trespass, sky glow, energy waste, compromised safety and security, and impacts on the night environment.



Source: International Dark Sky Association

Q: What can I do to reduce light pollution?

A: Ways to reduce light pollution include using lights that shine light down where it is needed, having lights turn on only when needed, and using warmer-colored bulbs that are no brighter than needed for the task.

Q: What lighting zone am I in?

A: Lighting Zones are specified as LZ0, LZ1, and LZ2 as shown below.

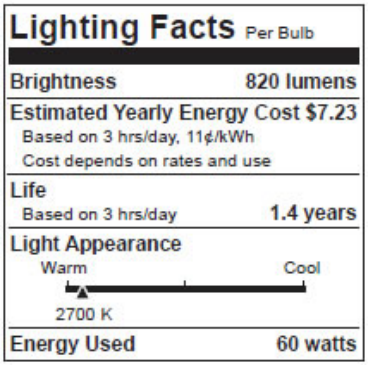
- LZ0 (Undeveloped, Agriculture, or rural areas where little to no lighting is expected): Zoning districts include Park, Agriculture Preserve, Rural Residential, and Lake Sarah Sewer Residential.
- LZ1 (Residential areas or active park uses where low levels of lighting can be appropriate): Zoning districts include Sewered Single Family Residential, Residential Townhouse, and Park.
- LZ2 (Active commercial areas where moderate levels of lighting can be appropriate): Zoning districts include General Business, Industrial, and Institutional.

Q: Do I need a permit to change a light bulb?

A: No. A permit is only needed for high intensity lighting.

Q: How can I know how many lumens a lamp gives off and what its color temperature is?

A: Both lumens and color temperature (light appearance) can be found on the packaging of a new lamp.



Source: Federal Trade Commission

Q: How much light can spill off my property without violating this ordinance?

A: Light levels shall not exceed 0.5 foot candles as measured one foot above the ground at the edge of the property line of an abutting adjacent lot or right-of-way.

Q: Does this ordinance affect indoor lighting?

A: No. Indoor lighting is exempt from this ordinance. However, nonresidential indoor lighting should be directed inward when practical.

Q: Does this ordinance affect lighting for statues, monuments, flagpoles, and the like?

A: No. Lighting for statues, monuments, flagpoles, and the like is exempt from this ordinance. However, flagpoles should be lit to minimize the amount of up-light and other forms of light pollution. Lighting for statues and monuments should be designed to minimize light "missing" a statue or monument.

Q: Does this ordinance affect the use of flashlights, lanterns, cell phones, heat lamps, and the like?

A: No. This ordinance does not affect cell phones, handheld lights, heat lamps, or lights not permanently installed on a property or a functional vehicle.

Q: Does this ordinance affect what lights I may put up for the holidays?

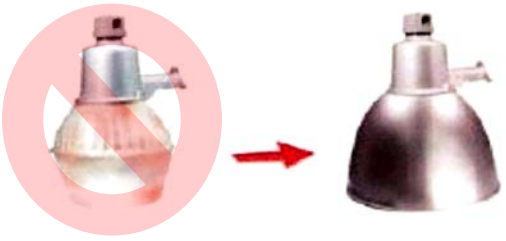
A: No. Holiday lighting is exempt from this ordinance.

Q: I have a motion sensing light. Does a motion sensing light have to dim or turn off some time after detecting the last motion? If so, when?

A: Motion sensing lights must dim or turn off within 10 minutes of detecting last motion, unless located at the main entry.

Q: Does this ordinance affect farm (or barn yard) lighting?

A: Lights mounted on functioning farm buildings or used for active agriculture practices are exempt from this ordinance ***if*** used with a motion sensor. Conventional barn yard light style fixtures are not dark-sky compliant. The intent is that these fixtures be modified or replaced within three years.

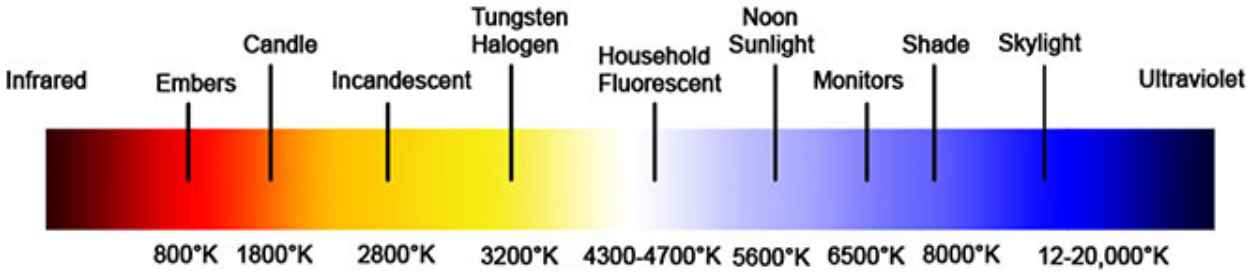


Q: What is Correlated Color Temperature (CCT)? How can I know what the CCT of a new bulb is?

A: Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) is a measure of the color of the light given off by a lamp. A lower color temperature means a warmer color. A higher color temperature means a cooler color. The CCT is often mentioned on the packaging of a lamp. It is measured in Kelvin (K). It is NOT a measure of how bright a lamp is.

Q: What does a correlated color temperature (CCT) of 3000 Kelvin (K) or lower look like?

A: A color temperature of 3000K looks like bright yellow (often called warm white or soft white). A lower color temperature means a warmer color. A warmer color gives a softer appearance than cooler colors.

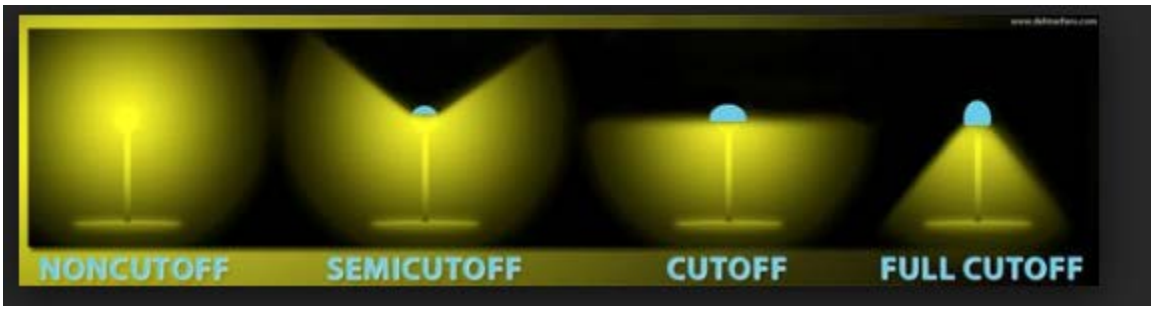


Q: Why does the ordinance require new lights to have a Correlated Color Temperature (CCT) of 3,000 Kelvin or lower?

A: The purpose of this limit is to minimize the amount of blue light in the nighttime environment.

Q: What is the difference between fully-shielded and full-cutoff?

A: Fully-shielded means no light is allowed to shine above the fixture. Full-cutoff means no light is allowed to shine above the fixture and additionally, the amount of light between the horizontal and 10 degrees below the horizontal is limited to 10% of total light output to control glare.



Q: When do I have to bring my lighting into conformance with this code?

A: There is a three year wavier of compliance for all lighting that is non-conforming. The city encourages property owners to replace existing lighting in a timely manner but recognizes it may not be practical in all circumstances. Lighting that exceeds 0.5 foot candles at the property line should be replaces as soon as possible.