

Dear Neighbor:

Does it seem that the stars are a little less bright these days? Do you find yourself squinting to avoid the glare of streetlights? If so, you are experiencing some of the side effects of what is called “**light pollution**”.

Well-meaning attempts to increase safety, security and visibility through more lighting on roadways, businesses and homes have resulted in an overabundance of excessive and inefficient lighting. It seems that we are blinded by the light that is oversized, unnecessarily bright, poorly directed and wasteful. Light pollution has become an increasing nuisance which intrudes on our privacy, deprives us of sleep, disturbs natural ecosystems, and most importantly wastes valuable energy.

This year, legislation I sponsored addressing the environmental impact of light pollution was overwhelmingly passed by both the Senate and the Assembly. For the first time New York is going to look at light the same way it does water, air and noise – as a potential pollutant. Please take a moment to review the information inside which explains **light pollution** and offers helpful ideas on how to reduce wasteful lighting.

Michael Balboni

Senator
Michael Balboni

Reports on



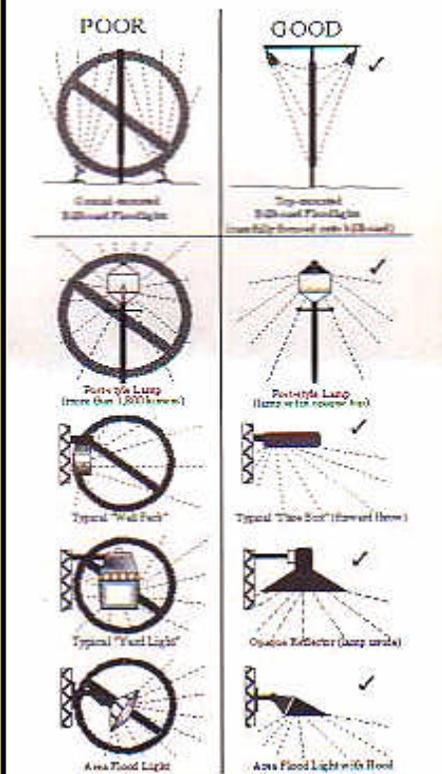
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DID YOU KNOW?

- * Inefficient and misdirected lighting wastes over \$2 billion annually nationwide, according to the New England Light Pollution Advisory Group.
- * "Sky glow" refers to the hazy glow in the sky caused by excessive and misdirected artificial light reflecting off airborne particles, dust and water droplets.
- * There are currently 13 Long Island municipalities and six states with lighting ordinances.
- * Senator Balboni's light pollution legislation provides for better management of outdoor lighting by state agencies, local governments, businesses, and home owners. "Dark areas" to enhance star gazing would also be designated.
- * "Light trespass" occurs when poor outdoor lighting shines onto neighboring properties and into bedroom windows reducing privacy and hindering sleep.

For further information visit www.darksky.org,
www.selene-ny.org, or members.aol.com/ctstarwchr

EXAMPLES OF SOME COMMON LIGHTING FIXTURES



BRIGHT IDEAS:

- * Refit outdoor lighting fixtures with shielded, directed lighting.
- Carefully install lighting to maximize effectiveness and minimize light trespass.
 - Light should focus downward, not upward and outward.
- Use lighting with motion sensors.
- Replace flood lights with spot lights.
- Replace older incandescent bulbs with newer high-efficiency bulbs.
- Use timers for outdoor and holiday lights.
- Use lower wattage bulbs for outdoor lighting.

Visit www.senatorbalboni.com
 To participate in my light pollution survey