WHAT CAN I DO?

- Use the lowest wattage of bulb that meets your needs. Turn off all lights when not needed, and modify current fixtures to reduce glare and light pollution. Street lights can be darkened or a shield added to reduce light pollution.

- Let your electricity supplier know of your lighting concerns.

- Check with OCCA for better lighting designs and examples of fully shielded fixtures before purchasing new fixtures.

- Contact your local planning board to express your specific lighting concerns, and encourage light guidelines or regulations be put in place at the local level. Contact OCCA for sample regulations.

- Ask developers to seek an OCCA-“friendly lighting recommendation” prior to board approval.

- Let your state representative know your concerns and urge support for state wide legislation to reduce light pollution and energy use.

- Support OCCA and our Outdoor Lighting Committee.

- Join International Dark-Sky Association, www.darksky.org

- Join Selene-NY Chapter IDA, www.selene-ny.org

- Check out www.energystar.gov joint site of USEPA & USDOE

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POOR LIGHTING
Too much light on house. Glare on street. Uneven lighting on sidewalk.

BETTER LIGHTING
Reduced light trespass on house due to partial cut-off fixture. More light on sidewalk and reduced glare.
WHAT IS LIGHT POLLUTION?
Light pollution is misused or misdirected light.

WASTES: Money & Natural Resources
HARMS: Plants & Animals
AFFECTS: Human Health & Behavior
DESTROYS: Our view of the night sky

WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF LIGHT POLLUTION?
Light pollution is the result of:
- Most outdoor lights being too bright
- Outdoor light not being properly shielded
- Excessive outdoor lighting

WHAT IS SKY GLOW? LIGHT TRESPASS? GLARE?
Light pollution manifests itself in various ways, the most common being sky glow, light trespass and glare.

SKY GLOW is the glowing effect seen over an urban or suburban area as light wastefully escapes from that area. It is becoming more and more of a problem as development occurs without regard to light pollution prevention measures. Sky Glow keeps us from seeing the stars at night.

LIGHT TRESPASS is unwanted light shining on a neighbor’s property or into his or her house. If you live with a neighbor’s flood light or a street light streaming into your window, you know what light trespass is!

GLARE is excess light that shines into peoples’ eyes effectively blinding them. It can reduce road visibility with tragic results. It also provides cover for criminals or vandals.

WHY? . . . IS THERE OUTDOOR LIGHTING?
Outdoor lighting is used to illuminate roadways, parking lots, yards, sidewalks, meeting places, signs, work sites and buildings. It provides better visibility and a sense of security.

When well designed and properly installed, outdoor lighting can be useful in improving visibility and safety, while minimizing energy use and operating costs.

BRIGHTER IS NOT ALWAYS BETTER.
Good Lighting:
- Provides adequate light for the intended task but never over illuminates.
- Controls the light output so that light stays in intended area.
- Maximizes the effectiveness of lighting fixtures on their targeted area and minimizes adverse effects beyond property borders.
- Uses fixtures with high-efficiency lamps while considering color and light quality as essential elements of design.

BETTER CHOICES ARE AVAILABLE
Most cheap fixtures have poor control of light output. They often have inefficient lamps and short lamp life so they use far more energy than needed, resulting in higher costs to the user.

High efficiency lamps save energy and reduce operating costs. These fixtures may cost more initially but they save a lot of money in a very short time due to their energy efficiency, low cost maintenance and longevity.

Choose energy-efficient low-pressure sodium (LPS) or high-pressure sodium (HPS) lamps wherever yellowish light will do the job. Use less efficient white lights only where ideal color rendition is important.

Put home security lights on a motion-detector switch, which turns them on only when someone enters the area. This saves money and provides a great deterrent effect!