

## Outdoor Lighting

### Why we care

Nearly 30 percent of the electricity used for lighting our homes is used for outdoor lighting. Outdoor lights reduce our ability to see the stars at night and negatively affect wild animals that rely on darkness when migrating, foraging for food, or mating. Outdoor lights may help with security, but when not used wisely they are a waste of energy. Reducing, or changing, outdoor lighting is one more action we can take to reduce global warming.

### Simple, positive change

- One energy-saving solution is a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) on a timer. If you install a new timer, ensure that it is rated for use with fluorescents. Cold temperatures can dim CFLs, so make sure your lamp is for outdoor use.
- Even more energy efficient than CFLs are LED lamps. They are more expensive but last a long time. They also direct the light to where you want it.
- Another good choice is a motion detector so that the light goes on only when someone approaches. Experienced thieves say that lights don't deter; they just show the thief where the shadows are. However, lights that go on unexpectedly are a problem for thieves.
- To minimize light pollution, select new fixtures that shine lights down, not up. By shielding the fixture and directing the light to where it is needed, you can decrease the energy used to obtain the desired level of illumination. <http://store.starrynightlights.com/idacefi.html>
- No matter what type of lamp you choose, use the lowest wattage that does the job.

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