



Background

Outdoor lighting regulations are being adopted by communities as an important component of sustainability. Light pollution impacts us all in several ways, by wasting billions of dollars annually in the United States, wasting large amounts of valuable natural resources through oil and coal use, harming nocturnal wildlife habitats, and preventing enjoyment of the night sky. Salt Lake City is proposing outdoor lighting regulations to protect our star-filled sky, promote energy efficiency and conservation, ensure outdoor lighting reduction after hours, and stop light spill onto neighboring properties.

Purpose

The purposes of the proposed Outdoor Lighting regulations are to:

1. Provide lighting adequate for safety, personal security and convenience;
2. Permit reasonable use of outdoor lighting for nighttime enjoyment and commerce;
3. Conserve energy and cut down on greenhouse emissions;
4. Reduce air pollution by reducing fossil fuel use for electricity generation;
5. Control light pollution of the nighttime sky;
6. Minimize the effects of misdirected light and glare;
7. Support properly directed light to the surface or activity intended; and
8. Promote lighting designed to clearly light people and objects for safety and security purposes.

Proposed Regulations

- ⊖ Provide general Outdoor Lighting standards for Residential and Non-Residential uses.
- ⊖ Ensure lighting is directed appropriately, shielded and glare reduced.
- ⊖ Require all new developments to have a maximum amount of lighting allowed per site.
- ⊖ Use a simple lighting calculation where the maximum amount of lighting allowed depends on how many parking spaces are on a lot.
- ⊖ Identify and address uses most prone to light pollution and energy waste, i.e. car lots, parking lots and auto fueling areas.
- ⊖ Require Non-Residential lighting controls such as auto shut-off switching and lighting reduction devices for after hours use.

Outdoor Lighting

General Questions

How strictly should lighting be regulated?

- ⊖ Should specific hours of illumination be defined?
- ⊖ How can careful crafting of regulations balance both safety and sustainability?

Residential Uses:

- ⊖ Should residential uses be exempt from the regulations?

Non-residential Uses:

- ⊖ What specific uses in Salt Lake City should have special lighting regulations (car lots, gas stations, etc.)?
- ⊖ Which uses tend to waste more energy and/or cause frequent light trespass nuisance?
- ⊖ Is the lighting maximum calculation too restrictive? Is it too general to meet the needs of individual uses?
- ⊖ Are the proposed regulations clear and easy to understand?



Questions/Comments

If you have any questions or comments
please contact Michaela Oktay at 535-6003 or
michaela.oktay@slcgov.com. Written comments
can be submitted via email or mailed to:
Salt Lake City Planning Division, 451 South State
Street Rm 406, PO Box 145480,