



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 has some general language in the ordinance speaking to shielding light and limiting glare but the new proposed regulations are aimed to further 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 gas 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

- ⊖ Require all new developments to have a maximum amount of lighting allowed per site.
- ⊖ Set a maximum amount of lighting for basic lighting on a site including parking lot, lighting at doors and sensitive security areas.
- ⊖ Provide general Outdoor Lighting standards for all uses to ensure lighting is directed appropriately, shielded and glare reduced.
- ⊖ Use a simple lighting calculation establishing a maximum amount of lighting allowed depending on how many parking spaces or how much hardscape is on a lot.
- ⊖ Address parking lot lighting to limit overlighting, ensure pedestrian safety and protect adjacent residential properties from excessive glare and light trespass.
- ⊖ Require 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?
- ⊖ Should single-family residential uses be exempt from the regulations?
- ⊖ Which types of development 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? Can they be easily applied by a small business owner?



Questions/Comments

If you have any questions or comments
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