



The 45th Star

A Dark Skies newsletter
for Utah state legislators

January 2022



Another Utah Dark Sky Community?

We have it on good authority that another Utah community will soon be submitting an application to become a Dark Sky Community. Take a minute to ask yourself what good effects that would have for a community in your district. Now think about which communities in your district should enjoy all those benefits, and let us help them along.

Dark Sky license plates

Many Utahns from all over the state have been expressing interest in a Dark Skies license plate. Such a plate (a couple possible designs are shown) was proposed by Representative Stephen Handy (R – District 16/Layton) in 2021, but was not approved at that time. This year, Rep. Handy has reintroduced the license plate bill (HB-88) for your consideration. We hope you'll be supportive!



Big City lights becoming dark-sky compliant?

The city of Pittsburgh, PA, recently announced that it has adopted an ordinance specifying dark-sky compliant lighting for all city parks, facilities, and street lights. J.D. Brown, program director, said, "Dark Sky lighting provides an opportunity for city residents to reconnect with the night sky while also providing critical relief for birds and other wildlife that call the city home."

We in Utah are very fortunate that rural areas of the state already have those opportunities, and Pittsburgh's example shows that we can in principle expand them to the Wasatch Front as well.

What is "dark-sky compliant"?

It's really pretty simple; outdoor lighting should follow these five principles: 1) lighting should have a clear purpose, 2) light should be directed only to where it is needed, 3) light should be only as bright as necessary, but no more, 4) light should be used only when it is useful; using motion sensors, timers, etc., is encouraged, and 5) use warmer-hued light as much as possible, since blue-tinted lighting has been shown to be potentially harmful. Following these principles not only reduces light pollution, it makes economic sense and can increase personal safety.

To find out more about dark skies and light pollution:

For more information on reducing light pollution, how to help communities in your district to become Dark Sky Communities, or to learn more about the benefits of dark skies to your constituents, please take a look at utah.darksky.ngo for more information, including local Utah Dark Skies chapter contacts. Or you could just get in touch with this year's chapter Chair, Alan Eastman (aeastmanslc@gmail or 801-440-3875.)