

HOW YOU CAN HELP



Turn off lights that are not in use. Remove decorative exterior lights from your property and use wildlife friendly lights in coastal communities.



Apply window film with a net visible light transmittance of 30% or less. Close opaque window coverings after dark to reduce interior light trespass.



Leave flashlights, cell phone lights, toys with lights, and other temporary lights at home.



Dune vegetation produces habitat for wildlife, screens artificial light, keeps sand in place, and protects coastal homes from storm surge. Protect dunes by not walking through them.



Follow the requirements in your local lighting ordinance for sea turtle protection.

CONTACT US

Sea Turtle Conservancy is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Florida with over a 60-year history of sea turtle research, conservation, and education.

If you have questions or are interested in learning more about sea turtles and lighting, please visit the lighting program's page on our website.



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Cover Photo by Jeff Waldorff

SEA TURTLES & LIGHTING



For more ways to help, please visit:
www.conserveturtles.org
Click "Get Involved"



@conserveturtles

Sea Turtle Conservancy



THE PROBLEM OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHTS



Adult and hatchling sea turtles use natural cues to make their way to the ocean. Artificial light

from coastal properties can disrupt these natural nesting and emergence cues. Adult females may be deterred from nesting on the beach and hatchlings often become confused or disoriented, leading to death from dehydration, exhaustion, or predation.

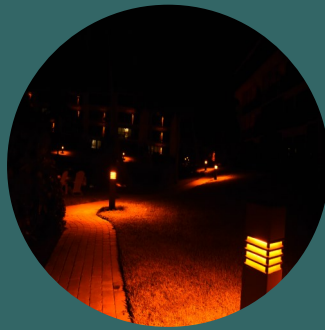


WILDLIFE FRIENDLY LIGHTING BENEFITS

- Improved human health (sleep cycles, mood, headaches, etc.)
- Restored night vision
- Using LEDs saves energy
- Clear views of the night sky
- Compliance with lighting ordinances
- Protects endangered sea turtles and other wildlife

Photos by Staci-Lee Sherwood (Top left); Ralph Pace (Bottom right)

THREE RULES TO WILDLIFE FRIENDLY LIGHTING



1

Keep it Low.
Use low mounting heights, wattages, and lumens. The lower the fixture, the less likely it is to be seen from the beach.



2

Keep it Shielded.
Shield fixtures so you cannot see the source of light. Shielding also helps direct the light down to the ground where it is needed.



3

Keep it Long.
Sea turtles are less disturbed by longer wavelengths of light (560 nanometers or longer). Long wavelength lights appear amber, orange, or red in color.

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY LIGHTING EXAMPLES



Wall Mounts



Ceiling Mounts



Pathway Lights



Parking Lights

For a more detailed list of wildlife friendly fixtures and bulbs, please visit Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's website.



DID YOU KNOW?



It is estimated that one third of all lighting in the U.S. is wasted in the form of light trespass and sky glow. With an annual release of 21 million tons of carbon dioxide, the cost of wasted lighting is about \$3 billion each year! (IDA, darksky.org)