

NS Credit: Light Pollution Reduction

This credit applies to

- Cities (2 points)
- Communities (2 points)

Intent

Minimize negative effects on nocturnal environments and human health and functioning, reduce sky-glow, and increase nighttime visibility by reducing light trespass within the city.

Requirements

CITIES, COMMUNITIES

Street lighting in the city or community must meet the requirements of Section on Glare and Sky-Glow requirements of 'ANSI/IESNA RP-8-14 Roadway Lighting' or local equivalent.

AND

CITIES

Adopt a lighting ordinance for the city conforming to the Section II to VI of the Model Lighting Ordinance (MLO), 2011¹⁴ developed jointly by the International Dark Sky Association and Illuminating Engineering Society.

Reference:

STAR Communities BE-1: Ambient Noise & Light

Guidance

Behind the Intent

Inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light, known as light pollution, can have serious environmental consequences for humans, wildlife, and the climate. Components of light pollution include glare, skyglow, light trespass, and clutter. Much of outdoor lighting used at night is inefficient, overly bright, poorly targeted, improperly shielded, and, in many cases, completely unnecessary. This light, and the electricity used to create it, is being wasted rather than being focused on targeted areas that need to be illuminated. Moreover, artificial lights disrupt the natural light patterns and the delicate balance of our environment. A growing body of evidence links the brightening night sky directly to measurable negative impacts including disrupting the ecosystem and wildlife and harming human health¹⁵. The credit requires compliance with standards to reduce light pollution and limit its negative effects.

Further Explanation

¹⁴ http://darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/bsk-pdf-manager/16_MLO_FINAL_JUNE2011.PDF , accessed on December 17, 2018.

¹⁵ <https://www.darksky.org/light-pollution/> accessed on March 24, 2019

Required Documentation

Documentation	All cities and communities
Declaration from development authority or electrical / energy engineer stating street lighting will meet the requirements from the listed standard.	X
Narrative explaining the lighting type and design for various types of streets	X
Lighting ordinance for the city	X (cities only)

Exemplary Performance

This credit is not eligible for exemplary performance.