FACT SHEET #lightpollution

Light pollution destroys critical wildlife habitat.

Photo by Tengyu Cai @tengyu.cai

Plants and animals depend on natural light cycles to govern life-sustaining behaviors such as reproduction, nourishment, sleep, and protection from predators. Scientific evidence suggests that artificial light at night has deadly effects on many creatures, contributing to the decline of biodiversity worldwide.

Migratory birds

Artificial lights can cause migrating birds to wander off course towards dangerous nighttime landscapes and cities. Millions of birds die colliding with needlessly illuminated buildings and towers every year.

Pollinating Insects

Around 60% of insects are active at dusk, night, and dawn, and many of them are also pollinators. Artificial lights can cause changes in insect movement and make species more vulnerable to predators. This could lead to significant population declines leading to reduce crop yields and threaten food supplies.

And many more...

We are just starting to understand the devastating effects of artificial light on habitats. Every year, new research adds even more wildlife to the list of affected animals, including:

- Hummingbirds
- Wallabies
- Little penguin
- Zebrafish
- Sweat bees
- Songbirds
- Peahens
- Bats
- Owls
- Mice
- Seabirds
- Monarchs
- Atlantic salmon
- Zooplankton
- European perch
- Sea Turtles
- Geckos
- Fireflies

WHAT CAN I DO?

Protect wildlife through sensitive lighting choices.

- **Get to know your neighborhood at night.** It's hard to protect what you're not familiar with.
- **Use only fully shielded, fixtures for all outdoor lighting**, so lights shine down, not up.
- **Use only the right amount of light needed.** Too much light is wasteful and harms wildlife.
- **Install timers and dimmer switches** and turn off lights when not in use. If you must have security lighting, use motion sensors.
- **Turn off office and home lights when not in use.**
- **Use only lighting with a color temperature** of 3000K and below to reduce the blue light that is more harmful to wildlife.
- **Work with your neighbors and local governments** to ensure outdoor lighting isn't harming the wildlife in your area.

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