# NLPIP *Lighting Answers* on Light Pollution

Outdoor lighting has become a necessary, integral part of society. Light pollution is a by-product of outdoor lighting and can be reduced by lighting only what is actually needed, when it is needed, and to the appropriate level. *Lighting Answers: Light Pollution*, a publication of the National Lighting Product Information Program (NLPIP), discusses the three elements of light pollution: sky glow, light trespass, and glare. The publication also gives examples and recommendations for minimizing or eliminating the undesirable effects of each element when designing and using outdoor lighting.

Examples of light trespass, light pollution and sky glow

Readers of *Lighting Answers: Light Pollution* will find answers to these questions:

- What is light pollution?
- What is sky glow?
- What is light trespass?
- What is glare?
- How is the issue of light pollution currently being addressed?
- What are lighting environmental zones?
- How are luminaires evaluated for their potential to contribute to light pollution or light trespass?
- Are the IESNA cutoff classifications a good indicator of direct uplight?
- What is the difference between full cutoff and fully shielded?

Find the answers at:

www.lrc.rpi.edu/programs/nlpip/lightinganswers/lightpollution
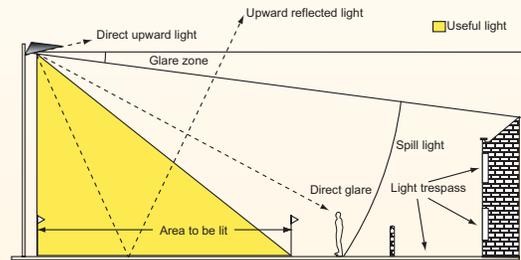
Source: Adapted from Institution of Lighting Engineers

Light pollution is often caused by the way light is emitted from lighting equipment. Choosing proper equipment and carefully mounting and aiming it can make a significant difference.

Sponsor

National Lighting Product Information Program (NLPIP):

- California Energy Commission (CEC)
- Iowa Energy Center
- Lighting Research Center
- New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)
- Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
- United States Department of Energy
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Wisconsin Focus on Energy
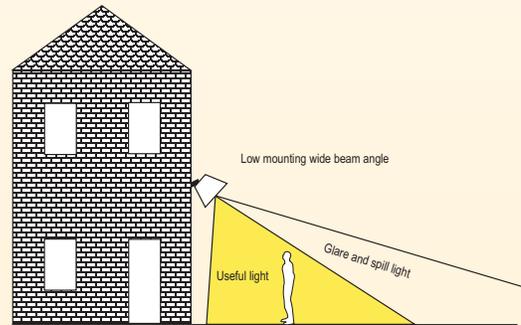
A floodlight at a low mounting height with a wide beam angle, resulting in spill light.

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