

## NEW MEXICO IS A SPECIAL PLACE FOR DARK SKIES

Around the world:

New Mexico is home to:

More than 200 International Dark Sky Places have been certified by DarkSky International, protecting over 160,000 sq km of dark places around the globe.



New Mexico's dark sky places are tourist destinations: Clayton Lake State Park, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, Capulin Volcano National Monument, Cosmic Campground, El Morro National Monument (pictured above), Fort Union National Monument, Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument, Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Valles Caldera National Preserve.

## Light pollution is reversible!

Unlike other forms of pollution, light pollution is a problem with solutions that are easy to implement. These solutions deliver immediate and lasting results.

### SUCCESS STORY

In 2018, the City of Tucson, Arizona, U.S.A. (population 500,000) upgraded its streetlights. By doing so, it saved \$2.2 million per year in energy costs and reduced light pollution by 7%.



## The stars are disappearing

Light pollution continues to grow at an alarming rate, harming our health, damaging the environment, and diminishing our view of the stars. DarkSky International has a plan to save the night, but we need your help.

## Join the movement to save the night



DarkSky International is a U.S.-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit that supports a global community and movement dedicated to preserving and protecting the natural nighttime environment.

*New Mexico DarkSky seeks to restore and preserve New Mexico's ancestral heritage of majestic, star-filled skies and dark night-time environments. We endeavor to eliminate light pollution throughout the State and protect all communities from its harmful effects, through advocacy, outreach, education, and conservation.*



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[nmdarksky.org](http://nmdarksky.org)

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# Protect the New Mexico Night Sky

Preserving and restoring the natural night-time environment is more urgent than ever.



# What is light pollution?

Light pollution is the human-made alteration of outdoor light levels from those occurring naturally. When we over-light, fail to use timers and sensors, or use the wrong color of light, we negatively affect many parts of our world.



*Learn more about light pollution* ↗

## Light pollution...

### Robs us of our heritage



Our ancestors experienced a night sky that inspired science, religion, philosophy, art, and literature. Now, millions of children across the globe will never know the wonder of seeing the Milky Way.



### Wastes energy and money



Most outdoor lighting is wasted. This energy waste increases greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change and wastes billions of dollars each year.

### Decreases safety and security



There is no clear scientific evidence that increased outdoor lighting deters crime. In fact, glare from unshielded and improperly aimed lights can decrease personal safety, contributing to both crime and accidents.

### Harms human health



Studies indicate that artificial light at night negatively affects human health by increasing our risks for obesity, sleep disorders, depression, diabetes, breast cancer, and more.

### Inhibits scientific research



New Mexico is home to several astronomical observatories that depend on dark skies for education, research, and even important programs that monitor the sky for Earth-threatening asteroids!

## What can we do?

New Mexico has a Night Sky Protection Act, passed in 1999, and many New Mexico municipalities have lighting ordinances. However, light pollution has continued to grow, and existing legislation needs to be updated and improved. We also need to address challenges of compliance and enforcement.

DarkSky's Five Principles for Responsible Lighting provide a guide to reduce light pollution at your home, business, municipality, or state level. Share them with friends, neighbors, businesses, and legislators!



#### Is it useful?

All light should have a clear purpose. Use lights only when and where they are needed.



#### Is it targeted?

Shield and aim your light so it only falls downward and where it is useful. Don't allow light to trespass!



#### Is it low-level?

Lights should be no brighter than necessary to save money and reduce glare.



#### Is it controlled?

Lights should only be on when needed. Use timers and motion sensors.



#### Is it warm-colored?

Redder colored light (lower color temperature) causes less skylight. Use amber-toned lights whenever possible.