

Topic: Light Pollution**Convener:** Robert Wagner**Room:** I**Discussion Summary:**

Need to educate people on difference between types of lights. Efficiency versus dispersion of light. Light pollution one of most visible forms of energy waste. Ties into green building, sustainability issues. Think federal government will be regulating this more heavily in next decade. If KC area wants to not be a pollutant to neighbors, need to establish light practices that keep lights to ourselves.

Impact state parks (Weston Bend, Watt's Mill), and wildlife (lights disorientating and illuminate more animals as prey). Lights affect driving, safety issue. Being exposed to light at night suppresses melatonin (cancer-fighting chemical). Referenced various studies on breast cancer connection to night light exposure. Considered a carcinogen in some places. What does that mean for businesses and legal community? How do we be responsible with our lighting?

Lighting broken into different zones from rural to urban in terms of lighting levels. More light pollution allowed in city centers. From engineering standpoint, want conformity in lighting levels so eyes not constantly readjusting.

Strategies to address light pollution:

- Educate people about the problem (light crossing border – “trespass”; skyglow – seeing lights miles away; glare – especially from above)
 - Public service announcements, brochures, school programs, “lights out” KC event
- Tax incentives for buying solid-state lights
- Nuisance standard for light trespass
- Support Night Sky Protection Act (KS and MO)
- Reduce nighttime energy use in order to plug in hybrid/electric cars
- Model ordinance for city use, performance standards
 - Light trespass
 - Skyglow
 - Glare

EnergyStar specifications to improve efficiency with solid-state fixtures as they are upgraded. KCMO working on exterior lighting ordinance. No longer a free for all, would limit spread of light. Discussion of practices in other places, such as testing motion sensors in parking lots, light nuisance standards.

Kansas City Astronomy Club could be resource.

Meeting time: Session 1: 9:30 a.m.**Recorder:** Julie Wittman