

**TOWN OF BON ACCORD
POLICY STATEMENT**

SECTION: *Planning & Development*

POLICY NO.:

SUBJECT: LIGHT EFFICIENT COMMUNITY

RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY: Administration – Planning & Development

REVIEWED & APPROVED BY COUNCIL:

February 7, 2012 - Council Meeting-Resolution 12.29

PURPOSE AND INTENT: To provide direction and commitment for the use of efficient and environmentally responsible lighting.

POLICY STATEMENT: The Town of Bon Accord will be a Light Efficient Community (LEC) through application of design, technology, and practices used for lighting public and private open spaces as guided by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) and the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) regarding design, installation and operation of light sources.

DEFINITIONS:

“Light Efficient Community (LEC)” means a community that uses lighting responsibly. It uses the most effective, efficient, artificial lighting available to minimize energy waste, glare, light trespass and light pollution and employs designs, measures, legislation and good lighting practices to reduce its energy costs and carbon footprint while preserving the natural environment, and ensuring health, safety and a high quality of life for all.

“Light trespass” means the shining of light produced by a luminary beyond the boundaries of the property on which it is located.

PROCEDURE:

All new and retrofitted public and private lighting infrastructures within the Town boundaries must reflect the needs and suitability of the proposed design in accordance with the International Dark Sky Association IDA, the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America

(IESNA) Guidelines and the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Guide for the Design of Roadway Lighting.

All luminaries lawfully in place prior to the adoption of this policy shall be grandfathered. In the case that grandfathered luminaries are to be moved, repaired, or replaced for any reason, the luminary shall then be required to meet the provisions set out in this policy.

This policy will be integrated into Town policies, standards, and regulations, which will address the specific needs of various stakeholders and will be coupled with educational programs on this topic for Town staff, residents, and businesses. These policies, standards, and regulations will respect the following principles:

- Lighting will be used where it is needed, when it is needed, and at levels suited to the task. In some cases, such as natural areas, this may mean that a total absence of lighting is encouraged.
- Lighting technology will be selected to address visibility needs in the most energy-efficient form that is practical.
- Luminaries will confine light to the area needing illumination.
- Light trespass onto adjoining properties will be minimized.
- Lighting that creates unsafe conditions or harmful glare will not be permitted.
- Adequate lighting must be provided on roadways and other similar public spaces in order to ensure public safety. The definition of adequate lighting will be guided by accepted engineering standards and principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- Voluntary light curfews will be encouraged for all residential, commercial, recreation, and institutional users of exterior night time illumination.
- All types of outdoor lighting are subject to this policy, including but not limited to light for streets, trails, signs, walls and landscaping.

Special Note: Other policies, standards and regulations that may be affected by the LEC policy are the Engineering Servicing Standards and Land Use Bylaw.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The role of **Administration** is to:

1. Ensure alignment with the Strategic Plan and Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP).

The role of **Planning and Development** is to:

1. Update the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw to reflect the principles of this policy;

2. Review all outdoor lighting plans in development projects;
3. Provide for certain intermittent activities, such as construction and holiday lighting, to be exempted from this policy and/or associated regulations;
4. Develop and implement plans to retrofit existing outdoor street lighting
5. Adopt new efficient light standards within the Engineering Servicing Standards applicable to all zones and land uses;

The role of **Operations** is to:

1. Update the lifecycle program to reflect the principles of this policy as it relates to outdoor facility lighting;
2. Replace non-conforming luminaries with conforming luminaries when upgrading outdoor facility lights; or any time major repair or replacement is required and
3. Introduce time-of-day controls for existing facility lighting so that lights are only lit when facilities are in use.
4. Develop and implement plans to replace non-conforming luminaries with conforming luminaries when upgrading street lights

The role of **Arena, Parks and Recreation** is to;

1. Update the Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy to reflect the principles of this policy and
2. Replace non-conforming luminaries with conforming luminaries when upgrading outdoor lights in public parks or trails, or any time major repair or replacement is required.

The role of Economic Development and Tourism is to:

1. Incorporate the principles of this policy into the Economic Development Strategy
2. Develop a communications plan to create awareness for the business community.

The role of Communications is to:

1. Develop a Communication Plan and education strategy to create awareness in the community that may include:

- A Light Efficient Community public education program for Town staff and the community
- A website resource for responsible lighting information and links
- Community events to encourage public participation in becoming a Light Efficient Community
- Materials regarding responsible lighting practices and distribute to the entire community

PROCEDURES:

Further development of implementation plans of the above listed roles and responsibilities are required including, scheduling, budgeting, staff and resource allocation.