

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: Mariel Platt
788-9815, Ext. 24

HAILEY WORKSHOP ON OUTDOOR LIGHTING

(Hailey, Idaho) – On Wednesday, January 28th from 6-7pm, the City of Hailey will hold an informal public workshop, in City Hall's upstairs meeting room, to inform businesses and residents of its Outdoor Lighting standards. The presentation will cover Hailey's standards and provide examples of conforming and nonconforming lighting. Anyone interested in learning more is invited to attend.

Hailey adopted outdoor lighting standards, which all residents and businesses were to comply with by 2005. The progressive lighting standards were passed in an effort to protect Hailey's night sky, environment, and quality of life. There are still numerous businesses and residents that have not complied with the standards and possibly do not know Hailey has had outdoor lighting standards since 2003. This workshop will benefit those wanting more information on Hailey's Outdoor Lighting standards and those that are unsure if their lighting meets the requirements.

Hailey standards require lights to be downcast, shielded, or other measures taken, which are deemed appropriate by the standards, depending on the amount of light energy (lumens) a light bulb produces. The less lumens a light bulb produces, the less coverage of the bulb, by the light fixture, is required. The tricky part is that lumens vary significantly depending on the type of light bulb used. For example, a 60-watt incandescent produces 950 lumens, while a 55-watt low pressure sodium light bulb produces 8,000 lumens. Because of this variation, Hailey's standards are based off of lumens and not watts. The lumen output of most light bulbs is listed on the packaging.

If a light bulb has a maximum of 400 lumens it may be left unshielded provided the lighting fixture has an opaque top or is under an opaque structure. If a light bulb has a maximum of 1,000 lumens it may be partially shielded (translucent shield) provided the light bulb is not visible, and the light fixture has an opaque top or is under an opaque structure. If the lumens exceed 1,000 the light fixture must be completely shielded and downcast with an opaque material. Motion sensor activated lights are an exception to Hailey's requirements provided that they are not triggered by motion off of the property and once triggered they do not stay on longer than five minutes.

There are many benefits to preserving and protecting a night sky from light pollution, which is caused by misdirected, unshielded, excessive, or unnecessary night lighting. Some plants and animals depend on darkness for a healthy habitat. Light disturbances at night in your bedroom can disrupt your sleep and immune system. Glare from unshielded lights can interfere with night vision for pedestrians and drivers. Eliminating excessive lighting, beyond what is required for safety at night, reduces energy use and saves



money. But perhaps the biggest benefit is an aesthetic one – the ability to enjoy the beauty of our night skies as nature intended. The Milky Way is only visible to 1/3 of the world’s population due to light pollution, also known as sky glow, which blocks our view of the starry skies.

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