

## Ontario Hydro Leaflet on Light Pollution

Ontario Hydro is the electrical utility for the Province of Ontario, in Canada. It is a very large company and quite progressive. In 1992, it produced a bilingual leaflet on Light Pollution. The English text of the leaflet follows. IDA certainly agrees with all they say, and we applaud their wisdom and insight. We appreciate greatly their support of the issues!

### ***What is Light Pollution?***

*Light pollution refers to the glow of light we see at night above cities and towns.*

### ***What Causes Light Pollution?***

*This urban glow comes from improperly designed street and parking lot lighting which spills the light to the side and upwards to the sky. Additional light pollution is caused by lit signs, commercial building lights, sports facilities, and outdoor residential lights. Light pollution was noticed first by astronomers. The glow interferes with their ability to see the stars and galaxies. In a broader context, light pollution deprives everyone of the joys of seeing a sparkling night sky.*

### ***How Does Light Pollution Affect Us?***

***Glare:** The glare that results from light shining sideways or upwards can be annoying and potentially hazardous to both car drivers and airline pilots. Glare can be avoided by using properly designed light fixtures. Good design as established by MEA/IES guidelines incorporates shielding that minimizes sideways and upward light leakage.*

***Unwelcome Light "Trespass":** Light trespass refers to situations such as streetlights which distribute light out to the sides and into people's windows. Light trespass is not only a bother and an inconvenience, it can actually interfere with other people's activities and use and enjoyment of property. In many cases, simply drawing the curtains or shutting the blinds would be an answer, but usually the problem could have been avoided in the first place through good lighting design and proper shielding.*

### ***What Is The Cost of Light Pollution?***

*Light pollution is also a sign of waste. There is no benefit from lighting up the sky. Depending on the specific type of street light fixture, as much as 25% of its light may be wasted. Consider the energy costs in dollars when municipalities and townships in Ontario spend approximately \$35 million per year on street lighting.*

### ***How Can Ontario Hydro's Power Saver Street-Smart Lighting Program Help?***

*In an effort to make the most efficient use of energy, Ontario Hydro is promoting the Power Saver Street-Smart Lighting Program to its municipal customers. This program offers municipalities financial incentives to convert their current inefficient street lighting to high or low pressure sodium fixtures including the installation of full cut-off shields to reduce light pollution. Call your local Ontario Hydro office for further information on the Power Saver Street-Smart Lighting program.*