

ISLAND COUNTY WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE RURAL CHARACTER — AND THE NIGHT SKY



This brochure is intended to provide general information on the County Lighting Ordinance. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

Phone: (360) 679-7339

■ from Camano (360) 629-4522

■ from S. Whidbey (360) 321-5111

Fax: (360) 679-7306

■ P. O. Box 5000, Coupeville, WA 98239-5000

<http://www.islandcounty.net/planning/>

On March 6th of 2000, the Island County Commissioners adopted a Signs and Lighting Ordinance. It was designed to preserve our County's character, including our view of the night sky, while providing for the security of people and property. There was strong grassroots support for the new ordinance, which was developed with the help of local citizens and models from other rural communities across the country. Many of our friends and neighbors attended public hearings to help create new standards and support the goal of preserving our night sky.

We all need to do our part now to replace or modify existing light fixtures that do not meet new standards. Please join your friends and neighbors to preserve Island County's excellent night sky vista by reading and following the new lighting standards:

- Light fixtures must be shielded, hooded and oriented towards the ground so that direct rays of light don't shine on your neighbor's property and pollute the night sky or the surrounding community;
- Use of motion sensing devices is encouraged;
- No lighting shall blink, flash or be of an unusually high intensity or brightness; and
- All lighting fixtures shall be appropriate in scale, intensity and height to their use;

Other lighting that achieves these goals includes fixtures that are:

- installed on residential structures with incandescent lamps, or equivalent;
- used for seasonal decoration;

- used temporarily for emergency purposes;
- used for public athletic fields, fairgrounds and approved temporary special events;
- 60 watts or less.

Lighting using fossil fuels, such as patio torches and luminaria, is also OK.

Appropriate Outdoor Residence Lighting will be 60 watts or less:



Appropriate Commercial Wall Lighting:



Appropriate Parking Lot Lighting:



Legal Hooded Mercury Vapor Lighting:



Appropriate Shoe Box Lighting (Sodium Light) on the side of a building:



Non-Compliant Parking Light:



Non-Compliant Mercury Vapor Light:



Come see examples of light fixtures that comply with the new regulations, at the County offices in Coupeville or at the Camano Annex.

Please work with us to preserve Island County's dark skies and a more pleasant nighttime environment — without sacrificing the effectiveness of security lighting.