



*Yarmouth \* Acadian Shores*  
WHERE THE STARS ALIGN

**Light Pollution: Protecting Our Dark Skies**

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## The Importance of Dark Skies

Since 2014, the Starlight Foundation, supported by UNESCO, the International Astronomical Union, and the World Tourism Organization, has worked to preserve night skies globally.

Yarmouth & Acadian Shores is home to the 1st in North America and 4th in the world to achieve dual dark sky recognition. Acadian Skies & Mi'kmaq Lands.



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Astrotourism is a growing tourism experience worldwide, especially in destinations with quality stargazing conditions (low light pollution).

*"Astro-tourism is an emerging niche within sustainable tourism, offering destinations worldwide the opportunity to attract visitors interested in astronomical experiences. By providing exceptional views of dark skies and minimizing light pollution, destinations can enhance their tourism potential, contributing to sustainability goals and increasing tourism revenues."*

In 2018, Airbnb recognized Yarmouth & Acadian Shores as a

*"trending astro-tourism destination leading to strong growth in travel."*

Author(s). (2024). Astrotourism: A growing niche of sustainable tourism. ResearchGate. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/377627679\_Astrotourism\_A\_Growing\_Niche\_of\_Sustainable\_Tourism](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/377627679\_Astrotourism\_A\_Growing\_Niche\_of\_Sustainable\_Tourism)

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## The Value of Dark Skies

- **Astrotourism:** Expands tourism and attracts visitors.
- **Environmental Protection:** Reduces harm to wildlife and ecosystems.
- **Public Health:** Reduces sleep disruptions and health risks.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Saves money by minimizing wasted light.
- **Preserves Heritage:** Protects cultural and scientific connections to the night sky.



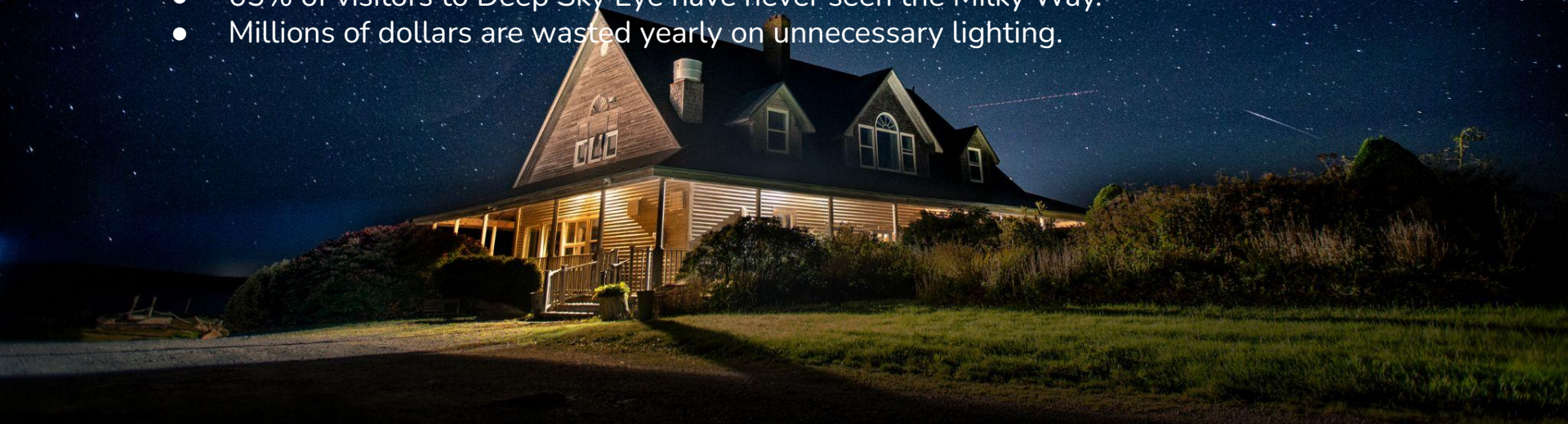
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## What Is Light Pollution?

Light pollution occurs when artificial light is misdirected, leading to energy waste and environmental harm.

- 80% of the world's population lives under light-polluted skies.
- 65% of visitors to Deep Sky Eye have never seen the Milky Way.
- Millions of dollars are wasted yearly on unnecessary lighting.



The problem: Light Pollution is increasing in the region.



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## Solutions:

### Dark Sky Friendly Lighting

1. **Shielding:** Direct light where needed.
2. **Brightness Control:** Use appropriate wattage and lumens.
3. **Color Temperature:** Reduce blue light emissions.
4. **Timing:** Utilize sensors and timers to limit unnecessary lighting, and turning off lights when not needed



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## Short-Term Objectives:

- Initiate stakeholder dialogues.
- Raise awareness about light pollution effects.

## Long-Term Objectives:

- Establish policies, best practices and or bylaws for sustainable lighting.
- Secure dark-sky designations to reinforce starlight tourism.



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Full presentation available [here](#).  
Advocacy Plan [here](#).

Thank You.

