

MAG Dark Sky Initiative

Status

The MAG Dark Sky Stakeholders Group (DSSG) collected information on outdoor light pollution, reviewed best practices in lighting codes, and developed a Pattern Outdoor Lighting Code. This code was reviewed by astronomers, MAG legal Counsel, and external stakeholders. The Pattern Outdoor Lighting Code (POLC) can be used by the county, municipalities, and Native American Indian communities in our region in order to reduce outdoor light pollution, save energy and as a result save money. This project was completed at a regional level in an effort to promote uniformity in lighting codes throughout all jurisdictions in this region.

Timeline

Date	Activity
August 2008	MAG Executive Director meets with a member of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) and agrees to provide information on Dark Skies to the MAG Planners Stakeholders Group (PSG).
October 2008	Dr. Buell Januzzi, Director of the Kitt Peak Observatory, provided a report to the MAG Management Committee. He stated that outdoor light pollution creates a significant waste of electricity and money, and degrades the visibility of our night skies. This affects the world-class observatories located in the state.
December 2008	Dr. Januzzi gave the same presentation to the MAG Regional Council. Regional Council asked MAG staff to work on making the night-time sky darker by creating a Pattern Outdoor Lighting Code (POLC).
January 2009	MAG Management Committee approved convening a Dark Sky Stakeholders Group (DSSG). Jurisdictional managers were encouraged to send staff.
March-September 2009	DSSG collected information on outdoor light pollution, reviewed best practices in lighting codes, and developed a Pattern Outdoor Lighting Code.
October-November 2009	Made revisions to the POLC.
December 2009-January 2010	Comments collected from MAG legal counsel.
February 2010	Briefed Intergovernmental representatives.
July 2010	Held Dark Sky Workshop to gather comments from external stakeholders on the draft POLC.
August 2010	Evaluated all comments from external stakeholders and revised the POLC.
September 2010	Update Intergovernmental representatives.
October 2010	Place on MAG Management Committee and Regional Council agenda.