
Light Efficient Community

Date of Approval by Council: 07/06/2010

Resolution No.: 437/2010

Lead Role: Chief Commissioner

Replaces: n/a

Last Review Date: July 6, 2010

Next Review Date: 07/2013

Administrative Responsibility: Corporate Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs

Policy Statement

Strathcona County will be a Light Efficient Community (LEC). This means that designs, technologies and practices used for lighting public and private open space will be guided by the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) and the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) regarding design, installation and operation of light sources.

Definitions

Light-Efficient Community (LEC) means a community that uses lighting responsibly. It uses the most effective, efficient, artificial lighting available to minimize energy waste, glare, light trespass and light pollution and employs designs, measures, legislation and good lighting practices to reduce its energy costs and carbon footprint while preserving the natural environment, and ensuring health, safety and a high quality of life for all.

Light trespass means the shining of light produced by a luminary beyond the boundaries of the property on which it is located.

Guidelines

All new and retrofitted public and private lighting infrastructure in both urban and rural areas must reflect the needs and suitability of the proposed design in accordance with the International Dark Sky Association IDA, the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) Guidelines and the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) Guide for the Design of Roadway Lighting.

All luminaries lawfully in place prior to the adoption of this policy shall be grandfathered. In the case that grandfathered luminaries are to be moved, repaired, or replaced for any reason, the luminary shall then be required to meet the provisions set out in this policy.

This policy will be integrated into County policies, standards, and regulations, which will address the specific needs of various stakeholders and will be coupled with educational programs on this topic for County staff, residents, and businesses. These policies, standards, and regulations will respect the following principles:

- Lighting will be used where it is needed, when it is needed, and at levels suited to the task. In some cases, such as natural areas, this may mean that a total absence of lighting is encouraged.
- Lighting technology will be selected to address visibility needs in the most energy-efficient form that is practical.
- Luminaries will confine light to the area needing illumination.

- Light trespass onto adjoining properties will be minimized.
- Lighting that creates unsafe conditions or harmful glare will not be permitted.
- Adequate lighting must be provided on roadways and other similar public spaces in order to ensure public safety. The definition of adequate lighting will be guided by accepted engineering standards and principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED).
- Voluntary light curfews will be encouraged for all residential, commercial, industrial, recreation, and institutional users of exterior night time illumination.
- All types of outdoor lighting are subject to this policy, including but not limited to light for streets, trails, signs, walls and landscaping.

Special Note: Other policies, standards and regulations that may be affected by the LEC policy are the Municipal Development Plan, Open Space Development Standards, Engineering Servicing Standards and Land Use Bylaw.

Roles and Responsibilities

The role of Engineering and Environmental Planning is to:

1. Develop and implement plans to retrofit existing outdoor street lighting in Strathcona County;
2. Adopt new efficient light standards within the Engineering Servicing Standards;
3. Update the Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy to reflect the principles of this policy and
4. Adopt new efficient light standards within the Open Space and Development Standards.

The role of Corporate Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs is to:

1. Ensure alignment with the Corporate Strategic Plan and future Sustainability Platform.

The role of Facilities Services is to:

1. Update the lifecycle program to reflect the principles of this policy as it relates to outdoor facility lighting;
2. Replace non-conforming luminaries with conforming luminaries when upgrading outdoor facility lights; or any time major repair or replacement is required and
3. Introduce time-of-day controls for existing facility lighting so that lights are only lit when facilities are in use.

The role of Planning and Development Services is to:

1. Update the Municipal Development Plan and Land Use Bylaw to reflect the principles of this policy;
2. Review all outdoor lighting plans in development projects and
3. Provide for certain intermittent activities, such as construction and holiday lighting, to be exempted from this policy and/or associated regulations.

The role of Recreation Parks and Culture is to:

1. Update the Open Space and Recreation Facilities Strategy to reflect the principles of this policy and
2. Replace non-conforming luminaries with conforming luminaries when upgrading outdoor lights in public parks or trails, or any time major repair or replacement is required.

The role of Transportation and Agriculture Services is to:

1. Develop and implement plans to replace non-conforming luminaries with conforming luminaries when upgrading street lights or any time major repair or replacement is required.

The role of Economic Development and Tourism is to:

1. Incorporate the principles of this policy into the Economic Development Strategy.

The role of the Beaver Hills Initiative is to:

1. Develop a Communication Plan and education strategy to create awareness in the community that may include:
 - A Light Efficient Community public education program for County staff, the community and the development industry
 - A website resource for responsible lighting information and links
 - Community events to encourage public participation in becoming a Light Efficient Community
 - Materials regarding responsible lighting practices and distribute to the entire community

Procedures

Further development of implementation plans of the above listed roles and responsibilities are required including, scheduling, budgeting, staff and resource allocation.