

Community Focus Statement A: Celebrate and maintain the rural character of Phelan Piñon Hills.

Action Statement A.1: Establish an educational program to educate community members on private-property lighting that is dark skies compliant.

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Benchmark: A local International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) chapter or group is organized, meets regularly, and continues to function and promote dark skies protection for a period of at least three years.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$300–\$1,200

Dark skies are a valuable community asset and goal, especially in rural communities such as Phelan and Piñon Hills. The dark-sky movement is a campaign to reduce light pollution, defined as the inappropriate or excessive use of artificial light. Light pollution can have serious environmental consequences for humans, wildlife, and our climate. The advantages of reducing light pollution include an increased number of stars visible at night, a reduction in energy usage, ecotourism benefits, and protection of wildlife, particularly nocturnal animals.

A Dark Sky Community is a community that has shown exceptional dedication to the preservation of the night sky through the implementation and enforcement of quality outdoor lighting, dark sky education, and citizen support of dark skies. The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) is a leading nonprofit that works to protect the night skies and certifies Dark Sky Communities. To work toward this goal, Phelan Piñon Hills community should establish a local IDA chapter or group. It is recommended that the IDA group create a community education campaign to help bring awareness to the growing problem of light pollution and inspire more people to take the necessary steps to protect the natural night sky. The campaign could include:

- Disseminating information to residents and business property owners about the benefits of dark skies.
- Working with homeowners, homeowners associations, business property owners, and/or business improvement associations to recommend shielded and motion-activated outdoor light fixtures that reduce light pollution.
- Organizing dark sky festivals to educate the community and the public about light pollution.
- Adding dark sky education in community schools and curriculum.

Protecting the night sky starts with **YOU!**

<p>1 Light only what you need</p> 	<p>2 Use energy efficient bulbs and only as bright as you need</p> 	<p>3 Shield lights and direct them down</p> 
<p>4 Only use light when you need it</p> 	<p>5 Choose warm white light bulbs</p> 	<p>6 Join IDA!</p> <p>We need your help to continue the fight against light pollution.</p> 

Example of educational material available from the Dark Sky Organization. Photo source: Dark Sky Organization

Local organizational support of dark skies and good lighting could include publications, flyers, public service announcements, and funding of public lighting upgrades.

The Phelan and Piñon Hills community should take advantage of the numerous public outreach resources offered by the IDA such as guides for starting a local dark sky group, informational brochures, Light Pollution Solution postcards, traveling pop-up displays, lesson plans for teachers, light guides, and other publications.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Contact residents and organize volunteers to establish an IDA chapter or volunteer group.	Champion	Month 1	<p>Resources and the application form to start an IDA chapter can be found at: http://darksky.org/about/chapters/</p> <p>Dark skies compliant lighting fixture information can be found at: http://darksky.org/fsa/fsa-products/</p> <p>Dark skies outreach materials and resources can be found at: http://darksky.org/resources/public-outreach-materials/</p> <p>Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District https://www.pphcsd.org/index.html</p>
2. Select a leader to serve as chair who will provide leadership and champion the chapter/group.	IDA chapter/group	Month 2	
3. Develop a list of community goals and strategies/actions to promote dark skies protection.	IDA chapter/group	Months 2 – 3	
4. Organize community-wide communications and outreach events to promote dark skies protection.	IDA chapter/group, with support from Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District, Local Organizations	Month 3 – On-going	
5. Work with the Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District to install dark skies compliant public lighting.	IDA chapter/group, with support from Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District	Month 4 – On-going	
6. Work with local stores to stock dark sky complaint light fixtures and bulbs	IDA chapter/group, with support from CSD	Month 4 – On-going	
7. Work with homeowners, homeowners associations, business property owners, and/or business improvement associations to recommend shielded and motion-activated outdoor light fixtures that reduce light pollution.	IDA chapter/group, with support from Phelan Piñon Hills Community Services District, homeowners associations, business improvement associations, business property owners, homeowners	Month 5 – On-going	