



Methods to reduce lighting impacts on Florida's Federally listed Threatened and Endangered Sea Turtles

Eliminate or turn off all unnecessary lights, such as landscape lighting or decorative lighting.

Replace white lights with 40 Watt (W) incandescent or 11 Watt (W) compact fluorescent yellow bug lights. Studies have shown that the yellow and red (570-750 nm) long wave spectrum of light is less attractive to juvenile sea turtles and less disturbing to adults.

Replace non - directional lighting fixtures such as globe lights with directional fixtures, so that the light can be redirected away from the beach surface.

Redirect fixtures away from the beach. In some cases slightly angling or rotating the lights away from the beach can reduce the impact.

Reduce the height of pole-mounted fixtures. Simply reducing the height can allow the natural dune system to block the trespass of light from the beach surface.

Placing a shield on the seaward side of a fixture is often an easy and inexpensive solution to lighting problems. Covering the seaward most side of a globe light type fixture or other similar lighting fixture with heat resistant black paint or black tape may also work.

Reposition lights behind existing barriers. This eliminates light casting or reflecting towards the beach surface.

Create lighting barriers by planting natural dune vegetation. This provides a buffer between the beach and the light source. This will also help with dune stabilization and provide a natural buffer for privacy.

Install timers and/or motion detectors in areas where public safety or security lighting is of concern. Light sources designed for public safety and security are allowed to be illuminated for a period of no more than 5 minutes.

Refrain from the use of flash photography and/or flashlights, even red-filtered ones, at a nest site. Even lights from cell phones can disturb the hatchlings if they are near the top of the nest.

Refrain from the act of building campfires. They are prohibited on our beaches. Campfires can negatively impact sea turtles and our coastal system.

Reposition interior lights away from windows. The highest rate of disorientation, according to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, occurred because of interior lighting.

If you need further technical assistance on beach lighting or if you see potential lighting issues please contact our office at 904.209.0323.