

Municipal Solid-State
STREET LIGHTING
CONSORTIUM
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The Light Post

Official MSSLC e-Newsletter

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Greetings, MSSLC Members:

I wanted to let you know about a number of updates to our [Street Lighting and Blue Light](#) resources page on the DOE SSL website. Some of these consist of materials generated in continued response to the concerns that were raised last summer by the American Medical Association's (AMA) public release, [Guidance to Reduce Harm from High Intensity Street Lights](#), while others address related dark-sky issues.

None of these issues are simple and therefore don't lend themselves to quick, sound-bite discussion. This has been one of our biggest concerns with the public discourse around these issues to date: it doesn't sufficiently convey the complexity and is thus too easily misinterpreted. We've thereby tried to provide clarification on the issues with the general lighting community in mind.

In addition to the health concerns raised by the AMA, related concerns about increased brightness of the night sky are likewise being raised from the dark-sky community in regards to the higher blue-light content emitted by LED products. These topics bring a similar need for clarification. For example, while issues are typically discussed with an exclusive focus on LEDs, in fact higher levels of blue (or, more accurately, short-wavelength) content are common to all broad-spectrum, or "white," light sources. But LEDs also offer other features that usually offset (and often more than offset) any increase in sky glow that might be anticipated by considering only spectral content. In other words, there's much more to the story than just increased blue light content.

For this reason, the [DOE Solid-State Lighting Program](#) recently completed a more comprehensive investigation of the expected impacts to sky glow from the ongoing conversion of primarily high-pressure sodium street lighting to LED around the U.S., taking into account "typical" characteristics of the "before" and "after" installations. You'll find the [final report on this investigation](#) posted on the resources page mentioned above. Again, these are not simple topics, but I think you'll find the executive summary of the report well worth your time to read.

Finally, DOE's SSL Program is hosting an upcoming set of two webinars to present the sky glow investigation. I'm presenting the [first webinar](#) on Thursday, July 20, from noon – 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time, providing a high-level summary of the results and putting them into context. My colleague Tess Perrin will present the [second webinar](#) on July 27 during the same time slot and will provide a much deeper dive into the modeling effort we used to develop the results. Both of these webinars will feature live Q&A sessions following the presentations. For more information, or to register, visit the [DOE SSL website](#). Links to both webinars will also be posted on the [resources page](#) within a few weeks, for those who aren't able to attend but are interested in viewing them.

We hope you find these resources useful in discussions with your colleagues and constituents.

Bruce Kinzey, MSSLC Director
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory
MSSLC@pnnl.gov