Residential Restrictions

Main Entrance Light

No shielding requirements

Lumens limited to 630 lumens

If one porch light is used
40 watt incandescent
11 watt compact fluorescent
9 watt LED

If two porch lights are used then
2-25 watt incandescent
2-7 watt compact fluorescent
**Lighting Around a Residence**

*No shielding requirements*

Lumens limited to 315 lumens per fixture
- 25 watt incandescent
- 7 watt compact fluorescent

*If shielded fixture so direct glare is not visible to abutters (defined as the lamp not being visible from the property line)*

Lumens limited to 1,260 per fixture
- 2-40 watt incandescent
- 2-65 watt PAR38
- 15 watt LED
- 19 watts compact fluorescent
Exceptions Around Residences

Lighting that has motion sensors with a 15 minute shutoff if the fixture is aimed/shielded so that the lamp is not visible from an abutter’s property line.

Low voltage landscape lighting aimed away from abutting properties and not exceeding 1,050 lumens output for any luminaire.

15 watt LED
50 watt halogen
Commercial Restrictions

For commercial developments and multiple residential properties of seven or more domiciles within the City, the developer/owner shall be required to submit for review the following items:

Calculations showing that the total amount of lumens used for the exterior lighting doesn’t exceed 840 lumens per parking space proposed.

Or calculations showing that the exterior lighting system doesn’t exceed 5 lumens per square foot of hardscape area of the development.

Confirmation that all lighting doesn’t emit any light upwards unless the luminaire lumens are limited to 630 lumens.

That the light trespass doesn’t exceed 8 vertical lux along the property line.
Correlated Color Temperature of all sources shall be 4500°K or less. (If available this information is found on the bulb Lighting Facts label).

Building mounted lighting shall be restricted to mounting heights of no greater than 14'.

Pole mounted lighting shall be mounted no greater than 25' and must be positioned at least 25' from the property line.

Lighting controls shall be provided to extinguish all outdoor lighting during daylight hours.

Lighting shall be dimmed or extinguished at curfew time set by the City unless:

- Needed for common areas in multiple residential developments.
- Needed for safety (e.g. stairs, entrance walkways, etc.).
- Equipped with motion sensors.
- Associated with a 24 hours business.
“Buildings larger than 5,000 SF shall be equipped with an automatic control device to shut off lighting in those areas.” – state building code (IECC 2009)
“For all regularly occupied spaces, use light fixtures with a luminance of less than 2,500 cd/m² between 45 and 90 degrees from nadir.” – LEED v4
Movable shading with electronic controls
City to review Dark Sky Ordinance after residents claim it's unreasonable

February 11, 2014
By MCKENZIE CASSIDY (mcassidy@breezenewspapers.com), Island Reporter, Captiva Current, Sanibel-Captiva Islander

The Sanibel City Manager’s office was recently directed to compile information about the Dark Sky Ordinance so council could address concerns raised by residents that it wasn’t reasonable.

By Jan. 1, 2015 properties are expected to comply with the ordinance, which passed in 2000 to protect the Island’s natural beauty and habitat for nocturnal and crepuscular species - such as sea turtles in nesting season - by minimizing the amount of light pollution.

Jeff Molnar, owner and operator of Molnar Electric on the island, said the Dark Sky Ordinance had undergone 17 revisions over the course of a year-and-a-half before it was passed, and that included regular consultation with the International Dark Skies Association.

He said there aren’t a lot of reasonably priced, compliant light fixtures on the market today. When the ordinance passed in 2000 the presiding council believed 15 years was enough time for the upgrades to be made and for new technology to be developed, but it didn’t work out that way.

"At the time they thought the industry was going to catch up, but it really hasn’t," said Molnar.

Local resident Gloria Hannan said property owners have had enough time to make the changes, but she agreed that more work needed to be done to find reasonably-priced fixtures.

Other residents addressed city council on Feb. 4 to discuss the costs associated with updating light fixtures and local safety concerns at night.