



Lights Out, DFW!

City Engagement Guide

Cities can support *Lights Out, Texas!* through public awareness, policy action, and long-term infrastructure improvements to reduce light pollution, protect migratory birds, and enhance the environment for residents.

Public Awareness & Educational Outreach



Cities play a crucial role in educating residents and businesses about *Lights Out, Texas!* by:

- **Promoting the initiative** via social media, newsletters, and community bulletins during migration seasons (March 1 - June 15 & Aug 15 - Nov 30).
- **Distributing outreach materials** such as yard signs, flyers, and digital assets to raise awareness.
- **Sharing information** at community events, including local tabling events, libraries, and environmental fairs.
- **Hosting educational workshops** on DarkSky-compliant lighting and bird-friendly practices.
- **Encouraging participation** from businesses, downtown alliances, BOMAs, and city departments.
- **Promoting good lighting practices year-round** to encourage DarkSky-compliant lighting across the community.
- **Encouraging school districts** to incorporate the *Lights Out, Texas!* curriculum in schools (available in August).
- **Identifying high-risk buildings with high bird collision rates** and working with conservation groups to install deterrents such as window films, decals, or patterned glass.





Municipal & Business Commitment



Photo Courtesy: City of Cedar Hill



Beyond awareness, cities can take action by:

- **Issuing a city proclamation or passing a resolution** by recognizing *Lights Out, Texas!* seasons each spring and fall.
- **Actively communicating with internal departments** about Lights Out seasons by requesting the turn-off of non-essential municipal building lights between 11 PM - 6 AM during migration seasons.
- **Encouraging collaboration between city and county governments** to align Lights Out efforts.
- **Developing and implementing a citywide lighting plan** by working with building managers and custodial staff before migration seasons begin (March 1 and Aug 15).
- **Engaging local businesses** to implement seasonal lighting reduction plans for exterior and interior non-essential lights
- **Recognizing participating businesses and buildings** for their contributions to bird-friendly initiatives.

Policy & Infrastructure Improvements



Photo Courtesy: Audubon Texas

To make Lights Out practices permanent, cities can implement long-term policy and infrastructure changes, including:

- **Passing a Lights Out ordinance** requiring all municipal, commercial, and residential buildings to reduce interior and exterior lighting during migration seasons, with clear guidelines for compliance and enforcement.
- **Implementing bird-friendly building policies** by requiring bird-safe window treatments for all new and renovated buildings (e.g., patterned glass, external screens, window films) for city, county, and downtown buildings.