Regulating Artificial Light at Night: Policy Options

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Different Options for Regulate

- **“Hard law”** - binding laws.
- **“Soft law”** - eg guidance. Guidance can fill gaps.

- A combination works best.
Types of Regulation

- **Hard law-**
  - National or regional laws.
  - EU/ Council of Europe.
  - International conventions.

- **Soft law-**
  - Codes of practice/ standards (industry/ IDA/ CIE).
  - Guidance (industry/interest groups).
Regulatory Considerations?

- Tailor to the audience.
- Proportionate and balanced response to the problem.
- Balance human rights/ leisure/ safety/ commerce etc?
Regulatory Considerations?

- Tie in topical issues & make allies.
- ALAN may be built into environmental laws based on energy/carbon emissions, human and ecological health etc.
- Keep it simple.
Regulatory Considerations?

- Need for **education**: anti bad light not anti light.
- Understanding and buy in essential for enforcement.
- Myth busting.

- The message must appeal to the audience.
Considerations: Preventative & Reactive

- **Preventative.**
  - Stopping bad lighting in the first place.
  - Eg. Banning poor types.
  - Metrics-lighting limits (standards?), angling, shielding, spectra…

- **Reactive.**
  - Requires enforcement- regulatory understanding and resources.
  - Costs on the light owner= complaints of over-regulation?
Considerations: Coverage

- **All lighting** - commercial, public sector, sports and consumer lighting.
- Illuminated signs & shop windows.
- Curfews.
Exemptions?

- A common cause of problems.
- Lighting needed for emergencies, roadworks, health and safety etc..
- Festive lighting? (Eg Christmas, Diwali.)
- Consumer “security” lighting?

- However- a need to avoid automatic assumptions- standard practice isn’t always good practice.
Support Hard Law With Guidance

- Use existing guidance if it is good.*
- God to fill in gaps.
- Can aid education (eg blue rich LEDs/ angles/ glare).
- Gives part-ownership to interest groups & allows debate.
- Should increase “accuracy” of the law.
- May reduce challenges to the law.
Consider Phases

- Phases allow light owners time to acclimatise and comply.
- Eg ban certain types of new lighting, but permit continued use of old for a period of time.
There Must be Enforcement

- No understanding = no enforcement.
- No enforcement = failure.
- Keep metrics simple- minimise equipment/ training. (Eg reading a label rather than using a light meter.)
- Curfews are simple.
Conclusion

- Education.
- Mix hard and soft law approaches.
- Minimalistic regulatory burden.
- Maximise a preventative strategy.
- Ensure an effective enforcement body.
Thank you for your attention!

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