

## NEW LED STREETLIGHTS IN NYC: THE PROBLEMS AND THE SOLUTIONS

NYC is currently installing a type of LED streetlight which is the subject of an increasing number of complaints from NYC residents because of its harsh, white glare. A New York Times OpEd accurately describes the reaction of the residents to LED street lights:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/18/opinion/sunday/ruining-that-moody-urban-glow.html>

The harsh glare is caused by the high Kelvin (4000 plus) rating of these LED streetlights. This is an excessively high rating that is not necessary to properly illuminate NYC streets. For example, current streetlights are rated at 1800 Kelvin. **The simple solution is to mobilize support for City Council bill Int. 0822-2015 that would mandate a maximum Kelvin rating of 3000 Kelvin for all NYC LED streetlights. For this bill, see: <http://tinyurl.com/j75yyew>**

Please call or write to your City Council members and ask them to co-sponsor the bill. To find out who represents you in the City Council member and their contact information, see:

<http://council.nyc.gov/html/members/members.shtml>

**Here are the five main reasons for supporting City Council bill Int. 0822-2015:**

1. **Negative impacts on public health:** LED lights with 4000 Kelvin-plus ratings are high in blue light waves which have been shown to have negative impacts on night vision and human eye health, and, as well, disrupt circadian rhythms linked to sleep disturbances and ill health.
2. **Negative impacts on the environment:** LEDs high in Kelvin contribute to light pollution by increasing skyglow and deteriorating our view of the stars. This 2015 WNYC report describes how LED lights can also undermine key ecosystems: <http://tinyurl.com/jrqhx5f>
3. **Precedents:** Several states and municipalities have proposed or enacted legislation to reduce the color temperature of their LED street lights to 3000 or 2700 Kelvin. See this article about how the 4000 Kelvin-plus LEDs installed in Davis, California were changed to LEDs with a Kelvin rating of 2700 in response to citizen complaints: <http://darksky.org/citys-led-retrofit-shows-need-for-careful-lighting-choices>
4. **Any reduction in efficiency is minimal:** A 2700 Kelvin rating compared with a 4000 or more Kelvin rating may only result in a less than 10% reduction in energy efficiencies. Even so, according to NYC's greenhouse gas inventories, streetlights and traffic signals are typically only responsible for 0.2% of NYC's greenhouse gas emissions.
5. **Cost effectiveness:** When purchased in sufficient quantities, the price for streetlights with a Kelvin rating of 2700 is comparable to that of streetlights with a Kelvin rating of 4000 or more.

**To voice your concerns about the new LED streetlights, we ask you to also contact your Community Board, call 311, and write to Mayor de Blasio at: <http://tinyurl.com/lz9ummk> and the DOT at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/contact/contact-form.shtml> (On the DOT form, scroll to streetlights for the general topic and street for the kind of place.)**