



DARK SKY IRELAND



Photo: Ken Williams

Dark Sky Ireland Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027

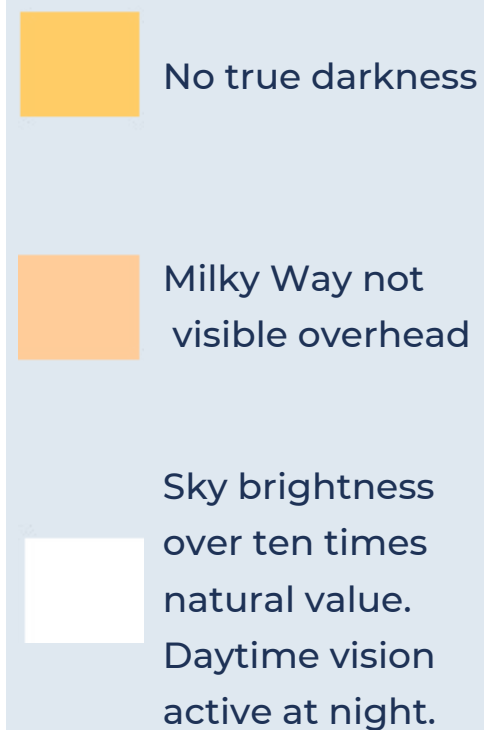
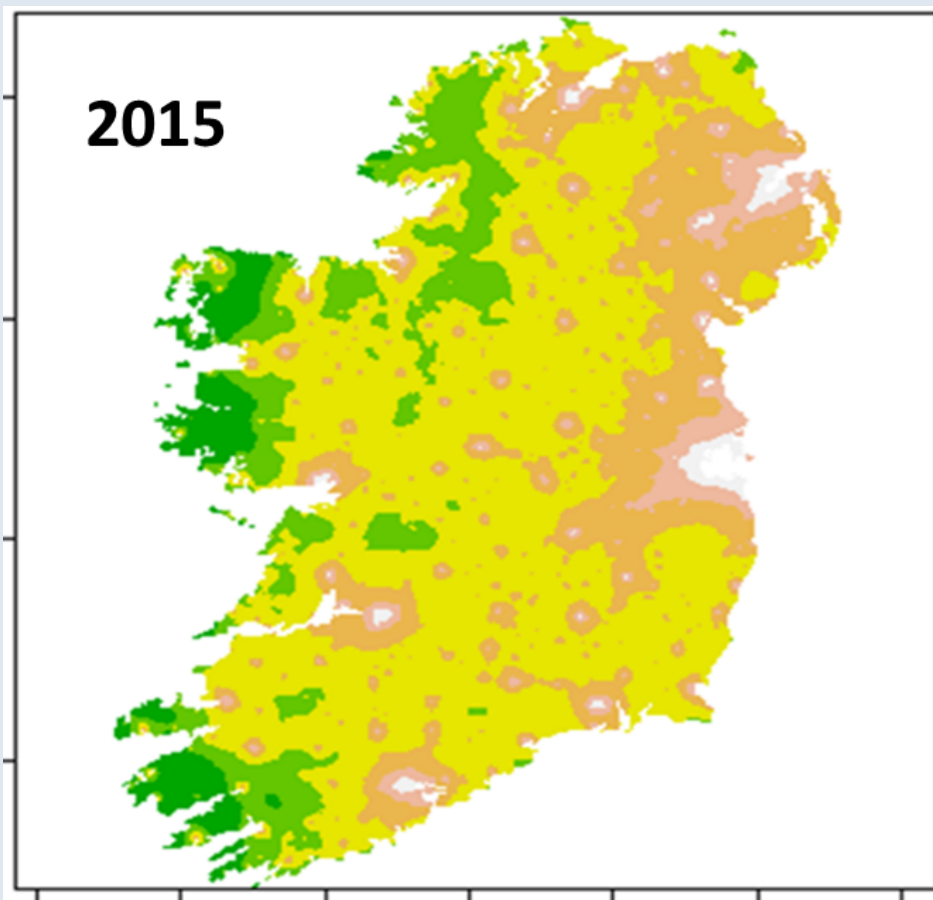
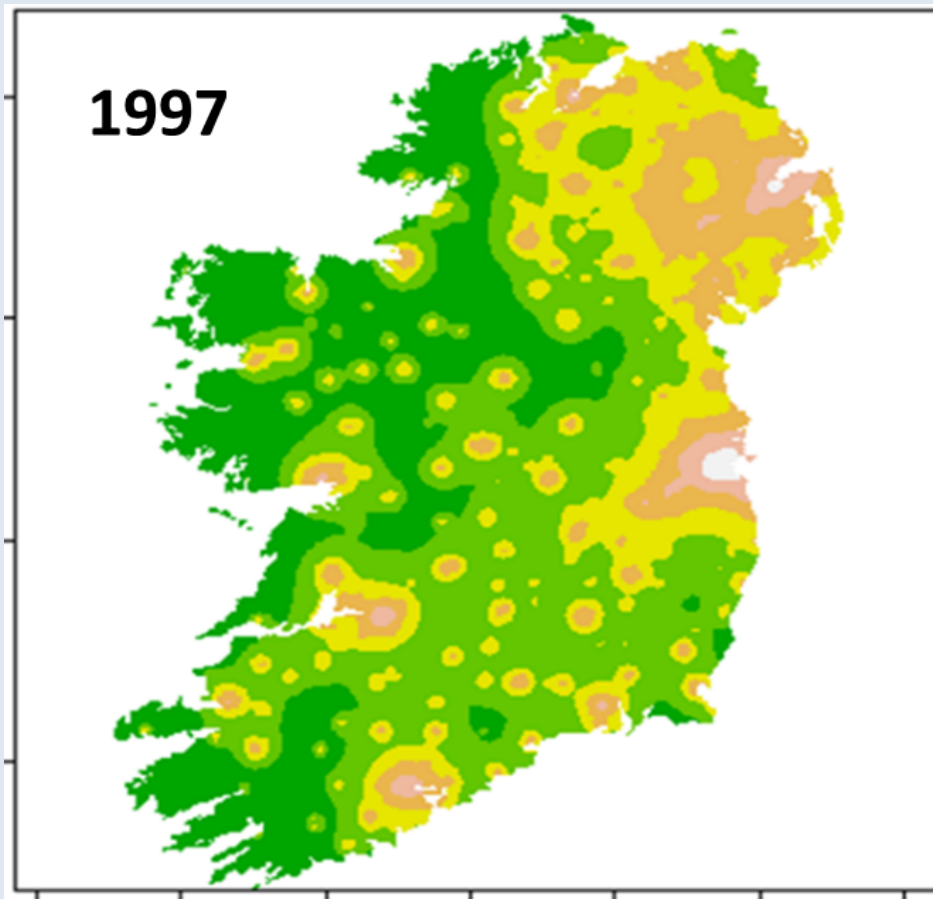
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Cistithe ag

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council

Growth of light pollution



Maps based on data of Cinzano, Falchi & Elvidge (2001) and Falchi et al. (2016)
DOI: 10.1046/j.1365-8711.2001.04882.x / DOI: 10.1126/sciadv.1600377

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FOREWORD BY CHAIRPERSON

PROFESSOR BRIAN ESPEY

I am delighted to present Dark Sky Ireland's strategy which is the product of many hours of stakeholder engagement and subsequent consideration. This document marks an important step forward in the life of Dark Sky Ireland and its future intentions to protect the Irish nocturnal environment – both in urban as well as rural locations – for the benefit of all living things.

We thank all of the stakeholders who contributed to the meetings and feedback required for the development of this strategy and we look forward to working with you in the coming years. Your involvement has focussed and crystalised our thoughts of the priorities that form Dark Sky Ireland's core motivations.

On a practical basis, it is appropriate to thank a number of people and entities without whom this plan would not have been developed successfully. In particular, we'd like to thank the staff at 2into3 who led the strategic development plan and, in particular Fiona Barry who facilitated the stakeholder discussions and also drafted the initial version of this document. We also extend our grateful thanks to The Heritage Council who supported our work towards formalising Dark Sky Ireland's structure with the provision of funding.

With the goals described in this document we believe that Dark Sky Ireland has a clear route towards achieving an improvement in night-time skies across the island of Ireland for the benefit of all. We look forward to engaging with you and participating on this journey together.

Brian Espey
Chairman
Dark Sky Ireland

INTRODUCTION

A plan for strategic development is crucial to ensure the sustainability, growth and continued success of an organisation. For Dark Sky Ireland ("DSI") this is a foundation strategy and so is an opportunity to reflect on the organisation's future ambitions and set out a map for the key activities for the organisation.

In May 2022, DSI engaged 2into3 to facilitate the development of a three-year strategy and to support them in governance capacity building work, including establishing DSI as a legal entity.

DSI has its foundations in the Irish Light Pollution Campaign founded by Colm O'Brien and Albert White in the early 2000s. In 2003, this campaign became a chapter of the International Dark-sky Association^[1] known as Dark Sky Ireland.

Light pollution has increased worldwide and over the period 1995-2012 satellite measurements showed the light output of the Republic to space increased by approximately 60%. In October 2018, a coalition of interest groups focused on the protection of Ireland's night sky from the effects of light pollution established a formal group.

This group was given permission to form under the banner of Dark Sky Ireland (DSI) which is formulated as an all-island partnership of stakeholders. The participants, currently consisting of approximately 70 groups and individuals, have diverse interests and focus on health, biodiversity, astronomy, heritage, lighting, tourism and community development, but have the common goal of raising awareness of the effects light pollution and promoting the use of responsible lighting.

[1] <https://www.darksky.org/> International Dark Sky Association IDA

The term “light pollution” is a relatively modern term and research into the impact of light pollution on our body’s melatonin production, circadian rhythms and sleep patterns, wildlife, insects and trees is ongoing. As a result of increased knowledge and awareness of the impact of light pollution, the committee of DSI recognised the need to develop a strategic plan and establish DSI as a fully functioning Non-Government Organisation (NGO). To this end, funding was secured in early 2022 from The Heritage Council[1] for work to formally establish as an NGO and develop a DSI strategic plan as its foundation.



Photo - Adrian Hendroff (Kerry)



Photo - Martin McKenna (OM Dark Sky Park)

DARK SKY IRELAND TODAY

The benefits of a Dark Sky Friendly Lighting policy are clearly laid out in the Dark Sky Ireland Policy document “**Our vision and policy on reducing light pollution in Ireland**”[2] which is referenced throughout this strategic plan. While dark skies are explicitly mentioned in the title of the document, the aim is to improve lighting in all environments.

To summarise, the benefits of improved lighting are:

- Protection of wildlife and biodiversity
- Lower energy consumption and costs
- Reduction in carbon emissions
- Improved human health – both mental and physical
- Improved traffic safety
- Enjoyment of culture and natural heritage
- Enhance off-season tourism
- Increased engagement and interest in education and lifelong learning : astronomy, environment and energy conservation

[1] <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie>

[2] Espey, B and MacMillan, G, 2019 Dark Sky Ireland policy document

OUR DARK SKY PLACES

International Dark Sky Places are defined by the International Dark Sky Association (IDA) which has assigned several categories according to size, topography and management strategy. However, all have common language in their definition which is “a land that possesses an exceptional or distinguished quality of starry nights and a nocturnal environment that is specifically protected for its scientific, natural, educational, cultural heritage and/or public enjoyment”. [1]

Ireland has three internationally recognised dark sky places: Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve, Mayo International Dark Sky Park and OM Dark Sky Park, with the former two of the highest (“Gold Tier”) standard. Each of these places underwent a rigorous process by the IDA to be recognised for the quality of their night skies and areas free from light pollution. Accreditation requires the adoption of dark sky friendly policies and protection on an on-going basis. Other regions across Ireland are pursuing international recognition as dark sky places.

[1] <https://www.darksky.org/our-work/conservation/idsp/parks/>



Photo - Mayo Dark Sky Park
by Brian Wilson



Photo - Ged Dowling



Photo - Vincent Wildlife Trust



THE SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

Over the past century and a half levels of light have increased, particularly with the introduction of electric light in the final decades of the 19th century. This increase has amounted to nearly 70% over the past 25 years and may even have increased four-fold in some areas.[1] As a result of this increase 99% of the population in the United States and Europe have lost the ability to experience a “natural night”[2]

which, in Europe, is defined as the percentage of the population where the night sky is above the threshold for “polluted” status[3]. This level of pollution is formally defined as occurring “when artificial brightness is greater than 10 percent of the night’s natural light”. In Ireland, over 50% of the population have lost sight of the Milky Way due to light pollution, while in the UK this rises to 80%.[4]

[1] Sánchez de Miguel, A.; Bennie, J.; Rosenfeld, E.; Dzurjak, S.; Gaston, K.J. First Estimation of Global Trends in Nocturnal Power Emissions Reveals Acceleration of Light Pollution. *Remote Sens.* 2021, 13, 3311. <https://doi.org/10.3390/rs13163311>

[2] <https://www.darksky.org/light-pollution/>

[3] <https://eonline.com/articles/2019/12/06/european-union-adopts-new-guidance-to-reduce-light-pollution.aspx>

[4] Espey, B and MacMillan, G, 2019 Dark Sky Ireland policy document



Light pollution has an impact on many aspects of life. It interferes with the human body’s melatonin production, hence impacting sleep patterns, which can have longer-term impacts on general health. Light pollution can also impacts biodiversity by changing the behaviour of insects, birds, bats, fish and other animals. It can disrupt natural plant growth by distorting the natural day/night cycle by drawing important night pollinators away from natural habitats and food sources [1]. High levels of blue-rich light is of particular concern as this scatters far more into the atmosphere and has wider implications for all living things.

Landscapes are considered to be important cultural and heritage assets and UNESCO states that “the sky, our common and universal heritage, forms an integral part of the total environment that is perceived by mankind” [2]. Natural night skies have been an inspiration for many forms of art for many years including, for example, van Gogh’s famous “The Starry Night” and “Café Terrace at Night”.

[1] (PDF) Light Pollution as a Biodiversity Threat (researchgate.net) https://www.researchgate.net/publication/47634612_Light_Pollution_as_a_Biodiversity_Threat

[2] <https://whc.unesco.org/en/astronomy/>

Photo Pine Marten by Ruth Haniffy



POLICY CONTEXT

The DSI strategy is being launched in the context of the Department of Community and Rural Development launching its Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 entitled “Our Rural Future”. This policy included a goal to *“Develop a Dark Skies strategy with a focus on the opportunities this unique blend of tourism and science can create for rural communities [1].* Subsequent discussions identified that the focus of this national strategy will be on the opportunities for increased employment and tourism resulting in economic benefit.

Whilst the focus of this the tourism strategy is on economic benefit, the process also affords DSI an opportunity to pursue its own mission through engagement with this process and the Department is keen to engage with representatives from DSI in the development of the National Dark Sky policy. As a result, DSI can help to ensure that the Department’s strategy promotes ethical and sustainable dark sky initiatives.

DSI members contributed to a 2019 feasibility study commissioned by Fáilte Ireland on maximising Dark Sky assets and increasing tourism opportunities and the report was favourable to the development of such assets[2]. It is probable that the rollout of recommendations contained within this study was postponed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and that it will be included in the development of the National Dark Sky strategy.

LEGISLATION

Ireland currently has no legislation governing light pollution. Whilst the Environmental Protection Agency[3] has legislative and regulatory responsibility for a wide range of climate pollutants (air, noise, water, waste), light pollution is not referred to in the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992[4]. European Union guidance on public lighting to reduce light pollution has been published but to date, a European Directive relating to light pollution has not been issued.

[1] Our Rural Future, Rural Development Policy 2021 - 2025

[2] Feasibility Study for Maximising the Tourism Potential of Dark Sky Assets of the Wild Atlantic Way, CHL.

[3] <https://www.epa.ie/>

[4] Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 (irishstatutebook.ie)

POLICY CONTEXT continued...



EU2022.CZ

Czech Presidency of the Council
of the European Union

An EU Light Pollution Workshop was hosted by the Czech Ministry in Brno in October 2022 to discuss the status of legislation pertaining to light pollution across Europe. Dark Sky Ireland was represented at this meeting, as was Mayo Dark Sky Park, on behalf of the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The workshop published a call for light pollution measures to be actioned [1].

Several European countries have implemented regional and national laws against light pollution, including Italy and France and, in 2005, the UK passed the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act which criminalised light pollution[2]. Although in 2022 the United Nations called for a Clean Environment to be a basic human right, the European Commission has noted that very few member states are reporting legislative statistics on light pollution.

Light pollution
reduction
measures in
Europe

[1] [https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/light_pollution_2022/\\$FILE/SOTPR-programme-20221025.pdf](https://www.mzp.cz/C125750E003B698B/en/light_pollution_2022/$FILE/SOTPR-programme-20221025.pdf)

https://www.mzp.cz/en/light_pollution_2022

[2] <https://eponline.com/articles/2019/12/06/european-union-adopts-new-guidance-to-reduce-light-pollution.aspx>

ENERGY AND ECONOMY

Satellites measured a 70% increase in light levels across most of Ireland since 1995. There are now over half a million public lights in Ireland and it is estimated that roughly 30% of public lighting ends up outside its area of usefulness. This number does not include lighting of private and commercial premises which is subject to less controls. International research also indicates the spread of light pollution is more pervasive than previously known as the blue emission of LED lighting lies outside the sensitivity range of the satellite detectors.

In the 2017 Public Sector Energy Efficiency Strategy published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment[1], it was noted that the cost of public lighting at that time was €56 million and used 485GWh[2] of primary energy each year. This is one half of the entire electricity consumption of Ireland's Local Authorities.

Guidelines for lighting for residential, commercial, heritage and public buildings have been researched and are available through the DSI website. At a local level, recommendations for a Dark Sky friendly lighting policy have been adopted by Newport in County Mayo[3], which aims to become the first Irish dark sky town. Under the SEAI Sustainable Energy Community scheme for Newport a lighting report was commissioned by Mayo County Council which demonstrates that potential savings in the region of 70% can be made from adopting dark sky friendly policies. Additionally, it was noted that newly installed low blue content LED lighting is over-achieving intended lighting levels.

[1] gov.ie - Public Sector Energy Efficiency Strategy (www.gov.ie)

[2] A gigawatt hour (GWh) is a measure of the amount of energy that is consumed over time to produce the power required for a particular activity.

[3] Newport <https://www.mayodarkskypark.ie/what-s-on/mdsp-admin/newport-sustainable-energy-community-lighting-audit-energy-plan-launch>



OVERVIEW OF STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AND CONSULTATIONS



The DSI strategic planning process which was undertaken is visualised above. To start with a Steering Group was established to oversee the strategic planning and consultation process. The steering group met before and after each workshop to advise on process execution and stakeholder engagement, to review workshop outputs, and to produce recommendations for consideration by the Board appointed prior to the end of the process.

In total, three workshops were held to progress the strategic plan development:

- **31st May**, a broad selection of DSI's key stakeholders were invited to participate in a virtual workshop.] At this session, participants were asked to consider the Vision, Mission and Values of DSI and subsequent to the event the Steering Group met and drafted a draft Vision, Mission and Values statement. The final Vision, Mission and Values are set out below.
- **19th July**, a virtual workplace was held to reflect on the challenges and opportunities facing DSI to work towards its mission. This workshop was attended by some who had been in attendance at the first workshop and also included others who heard about the process following the first workshop or who couldn't make the initial meeting. The key findings are summarised below.
- **7th September**, the DSI Committee met to focus on all the outputs from the first two workshops and to identify Goals to move DSI one step closer to its vision. During this workshop, participants were asked to imagine a high-level achievement at the end of this first strategy.

[1] Member of Steering Group were Prof. Brian Espey, Ms. Georgia MacMillan, Dr. Niall Smith.



VALUES, VISION & MISSION

MISSION

Finally, stakeholders contributed to the development of an ambitious Mission statement that laid out a roadmap toward Dark Sky Ireland's Vision. This Mission forms the cornerstone of Dark Sky Ireland's future development and also the rest of the strategic plan. Dark Sky Ireland's agreed Mission is:

Protect, Reconnect, Inspire, Collaborate, Educate

This mission will be achieved through the provision of:

- Events for public appreciation and enjoyment
- Provision of educational resources and toolkits
- Evidence-based research
- Policy development
- Trusted Brokerage
- Partnerships and stakeholder engagements



ate

**DAR
IRELAND**

Celebrating, re
and protecting
nightskapes for th
and future genera
living thing

OUR MISS

To empower communit
and ambassadors to pro
night sky as a natural h
shared heritage

OUR VALU

Protect, Reconnect,
Educate, Collaborate

OUR TIMELINE ...



A timeline for the organisation over the past 20 years was developed identifying key milestones in its journey and working towards our goal of becoming a non-governmental organisation.

2000's: Irish Light Pollution Awareness Campaign (ILPAC) was founded

2001: International Dark Sky Programme established

2003: ILPAC became a chapter of the International Dark-sky Association (IDA)

2009: Armagh hosts 9th European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky

2014: Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve awarded Gold Tier status

2016: Mayo International Dark Sky Park awarded Gold Tier status

2018: Dark Sky Ireland was formed by stakeholder groups across the island of Ireland

2019: DSI/Mayo Dark Skies host 14th European Symposium for the Protection of the Night Sky

2019: Failte Ireland study on "Maximising the tourism potential of Dark Sky Assets"

2020: OM Dark Sky Park International Dark Sky Park accreditation

2021: Rural Development Policy inclusion of action to develop Dark Sky strategy

2022, Heritage Council Funds development of DSI strategy, governance and website



Dark Sky Ireland Committee Members

GOVERNANCE TRAINING AND REVIEW PROCESS

In parallel to the strategic planning process, the Committee also engaged in a governance training and review process. This identified the need to establish Dark Sky Ireland as a legal entity, namely a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG).

A difficulty with this process was encountered as the CRO had already registered a company with a similar name (but unrelated aims). As a result, it was decided to register the company name "Dark Sky Island, trading as Dark Sky Ireland".

Board members were identified, and the first Board meeting of Dark Sky Ireland took place on 10th October 2022.

This initial Board meeting:

- adopted a new constitution for DSI,
- presented the induction pack and key documents
- approved the conflict-of-interest policy
- approved the code of conduct for board members
- agreed the filing of the constitution



KEY FINDINGS FROM SWOT ANALYSIS

The next multi-stakeholder workshop took place in July and participants were asked to share their perceptions of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) facing DSI. The SWOT exercise was undertaken against three categories of analysis namely:

THE PROFESSIONAL PROFILE THE PUBLIC AWARENESS ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY



TIMING

While not explored as a specific area for analysis, throughout the time of the development of this strategy, there has been a developing energy crisis as a result of the Ukrainian war [1].

In all three diagnostic analyses, the subject of timing consistently came up for discussion. The current impact of climate change on biodiversity but, particularly, the deepening energy crisis and rising energy costs, has resulted in both State policy makers and the general public being more connected with the issues that DSI represents [2]. Hence, the issues represented by DSI are current and relevant and so the launch of this strategy is an important milestone.

[1]<https://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/energy-crisis-will-last-two-years-warns-environment-minister-1370747.html>
[2]<https://www.thejournal.ie/public-bodies-energy-saving-measures-5860329-Sep2022/>

From this work it was identified, right across the range of diverse interest groups, that DSI contains experts in specific fields. However, this also means that the organisation's dependency on these individuals is a weakness. As a result, consideration will need to be given to succession planning to ensure knowledge is transferred.

A key opportunity which was identified in each diagnostic area is the time at which this strategy is being developed and launched. Currently, policy makers are open to discussing solutions to the energy crisis and rising energy costs. As a result, the commencement of corporate and State policies to turn off lights at night as part of a programme to conserve energy will result in increased opportunity to engage in discussions about the impact of light pollution.



LAs = Local Authorities

PUBLIC AWARENESS

A number of topics were identified as a result of the stakeholder interaction:

The issue will appeal to a broader public audience given to the diverse reasons for the coalition of members to come together to protect dark skies and reduce light pollution.

General public perception that increased lighting means increased safety was the greatest obstacle identified. Changing this mindset will require significant public communication and education.

UN Sustainable Goals module, which has many dark sky synergies, has already begun to be rolled out in schools providing an opportunity to bring education on light pollution and dark skies to younger people.

A major opportunity identified in the meetings is that protection of dark skies enables significant socio-economic potential through ecotourism and sustainable development, if managed ethically and effectively planned and supported.



ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

The passion and interest of participants involved in the strategic development process was clearly identified. While there were diverse reasons behind participants' motives to be a part of the process, the one specific aim in common was to protect dark skies - and hence also requiring the reduction of light pollution - as a means of protecting their specific interest. The reliance on volunteers was seen as a significant weakness which can impact the long-term goals.

As a part of this process, the Heritage Council awarded funding for a part time post, to be hosted by Leave No Trace[1] and this proved to be a significant resource and enabler. While the lack of structure and governance was an issue at the time of the workshop, through the development of this strategy, DSI is in currently registering as a Company Limited by Guarantee and now has a Board who have been inducted into the responsibilities of their roles as Directors. By formalising its structure, DSI positions itself to obtain further, longer-term, funding.



[1] <https://www.leavenotraceireland.org/>



SPECIFIC GOALS FOR STRATEGY:

Finally, the DSI Committee was asked to participate in a goals workshop to draft goals that would support DSI to move one step closer to its vision. Participants in the goals workshop were asked to engage in an exercise at the start of the session to write a headline for a specific result that might be publicised at the successful end of the strategy. This headline needed to be both specific and attainable. These outputs identified aspirations which focussed the committee on their priorities for the coming years, and what they felt was achievable in the timeframe of this strategy.

Breaking News

Vol. 127

November 2025



DARK SKY IRELAND announces education module

This week national organisation, Dark Sky Ireland announced that the Department of Education has agreed to roll out their education module to all schools across Ireland. Professor Brian Espey stated "this module will educate children of all ages on the impact of light pollution on health, environment and bio diversity

The first headline identified that DSI had developed an education module to inform students of the impact of light pollution.

Breaking News

Vol. 127

November 2025



Dark Sky Ireland provides lighting policy guidelines to Local Authorities

The national expert organisation on public lighting yesterday provided public lighting policy guideline to Local Authorities. These guidelines are expected to be rolled out nationally over the next 5 years resulting in a significant reduction in light pollution across the country.

The second headline identified that DSI will provide lighting policy guidelines to Local Authorities.

Breaking News

Vol. 127

November 2025



Night Sky visible from town centres!

The Department of Environment announced the success of their new urban lighting policy following the successful sighting of the Milky Way from a number of town centres across Ireland last night. Inspired by the 2022 vision of Dark Sky Ireland, the Department said that lighting policy would now continue to follow this progressive route

The third identified the success of a new urban lighting policy to increase the view of the Milky Way by homes in urban areas.

Breaking News

Vol. 127

November 2025



NIGHT SCAPE CITIZEN'S ASSEMBLY ESTABLISHED!

Dark Sky Ireland announced yesterday the successful establishment of a national citizen's assembly to celebrate, restore and protect Ireland's night scape for present and future generations

The final headline announced the establishment of a Citizen's Assembly similar to a current Citizen's Assembly on biodiversity loss by the Irish Environmental Network.



PRIORITIES, GOALS AND STRATEGIC ACTIONS:

The strategic process identified four Strategic Priorities that DSI will focus on in the course of the coming years. These priorities and related goals have been developed as a result of multiple stakeholder consultation and engagement events in 2022 which were followed up with SWOT analysis, a scan of the external environment, and a review of key strategies and policies that may affect DSI.

The four strategic priorities are:

1

Influence policy and legislation to reduce the impact of light pollution in Ireland.

2

Increase public awareness of our organisation and the importance of protecting and restoring dark skies.

3

Seek funding and develop organisational capacity for long-term sustainability.

4

Implement our mission by developing partnerships and membership base.

We follow these points with an Action Plan which provides the detail required for the implementation of the strategy as well as to enable its monitoring by the Board.

ACTION PLAN:

Our first year plan of actions required to implement our four strategic priorities is detailed below:



1

Influence POLICY and LEGISLATION and position DSI as a trusted goto organisation:

- Ensure dark skies are recognised and restored at national level with Government Departments
- Establish sub-committee focused on lobbying and advocacy
- Update DSI public lighting policy document to promote dark sky restoration
- Enhance all-Ireland presence and brand awareness

2

Increase PUBLIC AWARENESS of DSI and the importance of protecting and restoring dark skies:

- Establish sub-committee focused on education and communication
- Develop & update advocacy training materials for communities
- Host webinars and events to increase public awareness of light pollution
- Enhance online resources and publicly accessible toolkits
- Prepare Press & Media statements

3

Seek funding and develop ORGANISATION CAPACITY for long-term sustainability:

- Ensure our organisation is well resourced to support staff & cover operational costs
- Establish sub-committee to explore funding opportunities
- Increase active participation of committee members
- Improve organisational governance with regular training for compliance
- Strengthen structural capacity to deliver our organisational mission.

4

Implement our mission by DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS and membership base:

- Develop a membership and affiliation programme
- Identify new members and supporters for collaboration
- Guide members groups to achieve dark sky status accreditation
- Provide members with information on light pollution research
- Develop new and strengthen existing partnerships at local & national level

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE



Throughout the process, DSI's work has been supported by a voluntary committee. Three of these committee members are now Board members of the new company. Other committee members were afforded the opportunity to join the Board but were not in a position to do so. The Committee will continue to add value to the mission of DSI through participation on subcommittees dedicated to specific DSI actions.

The optimum organisational structure for the delivery of this strategy and to address organisational governance was agreed by the newly-appointed Board. This organisational structure is dependent on securing funding for the staff post.



CONCLUSION

This foundation strategy of DSI aims to identify achievable actions for the foundation of the organisation. It also aims to move one step closer to the vision of an Ireland where night skylscapes are celebrated, restored and protected for present and future generations of all living things and will achieve this through empowering community custodians and ambassadors.

READING LIST:

Available from www.darksky.ie

A statement of national relevance, Dark Sky Ireland. MacMillan, G, 2021

Best Practice in Public Lighting, Espey, B.

Dark Sky Ireland Framework, MacMillan, G.

Our vision and policy on reducing light pollution in Ireland. Dark Sky Ireland. Espey, B. and MacMillan, G., 2019

Public Lighting Recommendations – A document prepared for the Road Management Office. Espey, B.

Available from www.mayodarkskypark.ie

It's time to protect the night, Mayo Dark Sky, Espey, B and MacMillan, G.

Newport's sense of Night and Light, Lighting Master Plan.

Newport's Sustainable Energy Lighting Plan & Audit

Policy / Strategic Plans

Our Rural Future, Rural Development Policy 2021 – 2025, Government of Ireland.

Feasibility Study for maximising the tourism potential of dark sky assets, CHL Consulting Company Ltd., 2019 on behalf of Fáilte Ireland.
Heritage at the Heart, Heritage Council Strategy 2018-2022.

Academic Literature referenced:

Hölker, F., Head of research group, Privatdozent (Associate professor), Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries, Berlin, IGB ([researchgate.net](https://www.researchgate.net))

Light Pollution: spatial analysis and potential ecological effects in rural Ireland, Power, M, Gonzalez Del Campo, A, Espey, B.

Dark Sky Resource Websites

www.darksky.ie

www.darksky.org

www.kerrydarkskytourism.com

www.mayodarkskypark.ie

www.omdarksky.com

DARK SKY GALLERY...



©Martin McKenna www.nightskyhunter.com



Photo - Donegal by Colin Graham



Photo - Connemara by Aisling McGuire



Photo - Newgrange by Ken Williams



Photo - Rathcroaghan by Davy Patton



DARK SKY
IRELAND

STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 – 2027

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