

Light Pollution Report

A view of London in the evening

Key information

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1. Light Pollution Report

The London Assembly is urging the Mayor to put in place London's first ever light pollution strategy with agreed targets in place to show a true commitment to reducing light pollution in the capital.

The **London Assembly Environment Committee** has **today** published its report into light pollution in London, which explains how a lack of a light pollution strategy is impacting London.

The Committee heard from experts on the damage excessive and unnecessary artificial light has on biodiversity and energy consumption.

The investigation into light pollution found that statutory nuisance legislation is not adequate to control light pollution because the criteria it sets is too narrow and focusses only on the impact of light emissions on humans, rather than the environment. At present, there is no national or London city-wide strategy on light pollution, meaning there is no set requirements for monitoring and addressing light pollution.

Like noise, artificial light is addressed within 'statutory nuisance' laws under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.^[1]

The Committee's report into light pollution in London includes six recommendations the Mayor and the Greater London Authority (GLA) should take forward to reduce the impact of light pollution in London.

Recommendations within the report include:

- The Mayor should develop a city-wide strategy on light pollution, which involves making a commitment to reducing light pollution across the capital, monitoring and targets, and raising awareness about the impacts and costs of light pollution among businesses.
- The Mayor should consider curfew times for lights in office buildings and for advertising hoardings, drawing on the examples of several other countries where this has been established.

- The Mayor should show leadership through better lighting design and practice across the GLA estate, including TfL.
- The Mayor should refuse the planning application to develop the MSG sphere in Stratford to prevent light pollution impacts on the surrounding environment and residents.

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