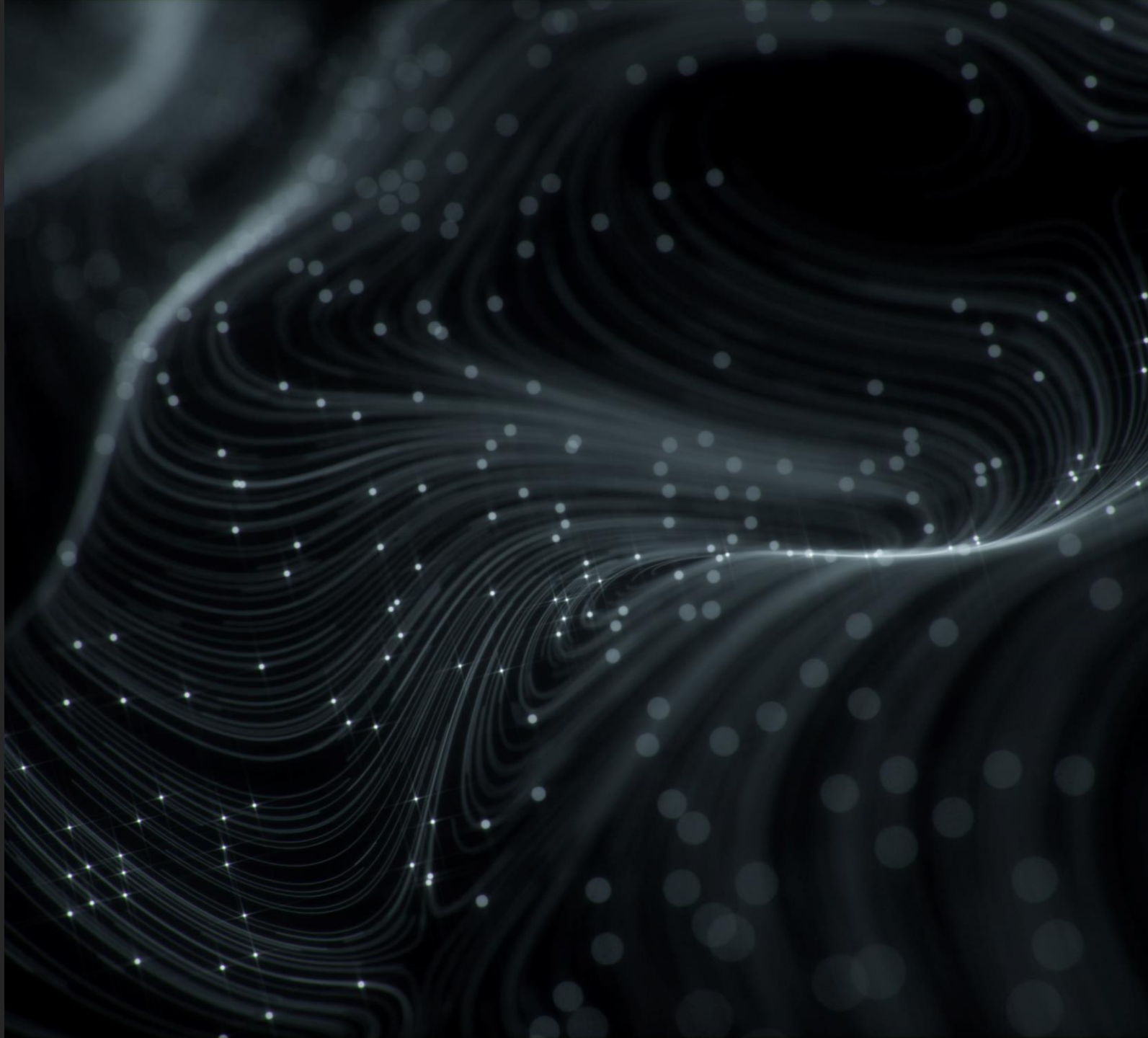


# Dark Sky Preservation

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WHAT CAN THE  
TOWN OF VERONA  
DO?



# LIGHT POLLUTION

Wastes energy and money

Contributes to climate change

Disrupts wildlife

Impacts human health and well-being

Blocks our view of the universe

# A Comparison

Photos courtesy Scott Lind

BEFORE: HPS AND 5000K LED

AFTER: 1800K LED



Bright lights casting wasted light outward and upward;  
Glare;  
Over-lighting that creates too much contrast with dark areas;  
Wasted energy.



Little glare;  
Identical average and minimum light levels on paved areas before and after;  
75% less energy;  
35% more uniform light;  
90% less skyglow.

# Current Conditions

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We have a Dark Sky Ordinance enacted in 2017.

We have abundant new residential construction, all of which should be built in accordance with the DSO.

We have several of our own street lights (around Town Hall) and several utility-owned street lights that the Town pays for.

We have neighboring communities which either have DSO or are working on Dark Sky Preservation.

- Fitchburg adopted Ordinance in 2025 with new standards for outdoor lighting using dark sky principles
- Middleton upgrading its 2024 outdoor lighting ordinance using latest template from Dark Sky International
- Town of Perry adopted DSO 2009 and amended 2024.
- Town of Rutland adopted DSO 2025.
- City of Verona to upgrade three municipal areas.

# Could We Improve the Conditions?

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## Our Ordinance

- Technology has changed. We could add updated definitions and resources.
- Compliance penalties and timings could be improved.
- General topic of enforcement could be reviewed and potentially revised. (Note that the better the ordinance and inspection, the fewer problems we're likely to have.)

## Our Lights and Utility Bills

- Energy savings = taxpayer savings. Utility bills should go down with lower K lights.  
*(City of Verona has just submitted a grant application to PSC for upgrading lighting at City Hall, Festival Park and Public Library, expected to produce 75% energy savings and light pollution reductions.)*
- Residents and neighbors appreciate dark skies.
- Town could set a good example.
- Town might seek Dark Sky Community status from Dark Sky International.



# WHERE WOULD WE START (and who would do it)

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- Review the current ordinance; we have examples from Town of Perry, Town of Rutland, Dark Sky International. (NRAC)
- Discuss inspection and compliance procedures with Town staff and other towns. (NRAC)
- Review the utility bills and lighting types being used around Town Hall and on Town streets; estimate benefits if different lights and fixtures are used. (NRAC or PW Director)
- All parties report back to Town Board for discussion and ultimately for any changes to Town property and/or ordinance.

# Take the First Steps

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1. Authorize / request that NRAC begin review of the existing ordinance and make appropriate recommendations to the Board for revisions.

2. Authorize / request NRAC (or Town staff) to review existing lighting and develop cost/benefit information for changes.