

From: [Vaughn, Jessica L](#)
To: ["evbuehrle@madison.k12.wi.us"](mailto:evbuehrle@madison.k12.wi.us)
Cc: [Tucker, Matthew](#); [Firchow, Kevin](#); [Cleveland, Julie](#); [Cox, Stefanie L.](#); [Board of Public Works](#)
Subject: FW: Light Pollution - Public Comment - Street Lighting
Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 10:43:00 AM

Good morning, Emma!

Thank you for your email. Your comments are greatly appreciated and will be passed on to the Urban Design Commission for their consideration as part of the general public comment. I will also pass your comments along to the Transportation Commission and Board of Public Works as well, which are the board/commission that administers lighting and design in the public right-of-way (i.e. street lights).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best,

Jessica



Jessica Vaughn, AICP (She/Her/Hers)
Urban Design Commission Secretary – Planning Division
Department of Planning & Community & Economic Development
215 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd | Suite 017
PO Box 2985
Madison, WI 53701
jvaughn@cityofmadison.com
608.267.8740

From: Emma V Buehrle <evbuehrle@madison.k12.wi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, September 19, 2023 9:32 AM
To: Vaughn, Jessica L <JV Vaughn@cityofmadison.com>
Subject: Light Pollution

Caution: This email was sent from an external source. Avoid unknown links and attachments.

Dear Julie Clevelan,

My name is Emma Buehrle and I am a senior at Vel Phillips Memorial High School. I am currently taking an astronomy class and I am interested in it as a career. Right now we are learning about light pollution and the effect humans have on the night sky.

I am writing this email to ask you to consider the light fixtures in place all over downtown Madison. They are left on most nights and are not contained the best they could be. Overall, they

increase light pollution and that can affect the environment, animals, and people. Increased light pollution has been proven to affect the planet and many life forms on it, including humans. Humans' health and happiness can be impacted by light pollution. Increased exposure to artificial light has been shown to suppress melatonin levels, disrupt the circadian rhythm, and lead to increased health risks. Additionally, light pollution disrupts migration patterns of birds, turtles, and other animals. Furthermore, it creates excessive energy consumption since most light is being wasted, bouncing back into the night sky.

I understand that changing all the light fixtures would take a long time and would be very expensive. Instead, I suggest you consider leaving the lights on less or investing in more energy-efficient lights.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this important matter. I know you receive a lot of emails with various requests. Downtown Madison has always been an important place for me and I have so many memories there. The night sky is also very important to me and I want to be able to see both of them when I go downtown. I look forward to hearing about the development of this issue and seeing what the Urban Design Commission can do to help.

With great appreciation, Emma Buehrle.