



What is Lights Out Durham?

Lights Out is a national program with more than 40 participating cities across the U.S. Durham is launching Lights Out in spring 2024. You can be one of the first to join in this effort! We are asking community members to turn off lights during bird migration seasons to help save birds, save energy, and save money. Simply turn off your lights between 10pm and 6 am during peak fall migration, Sept 1-Nov. 30, and peak spring migration, March 1-May 31.

Are other cities participating?

Nationally, over 40 cities across the United States are participating, including Raleigh, Winston-Salem, Asheville, Greenville, Chapel Hill and Charlotte.

Will this cost me money?

No, this is a free program, and you will save money! By turning off your lights, you will be lowering your energy usage and saving money on your electric bill.

What are the building height guidelines?

We encourage that all buildings, regardless of height, participate in this effort. Bird collisions have been documented at all heights, from lobbies to upper floors and are influenced by several factors including reflectivity, lighting, surrounding habitat and design.

What kind of energy and cost savings will I receive?

Without a doubt, turning lights off will save energy, but the exact amount will vary based on the number and intensity of lights you have. One study in Washington D.C. showed that buildings could reduce their energy usage by up to 28% by dimming their night lighting.

Do I need to turn off all my interior lights?

No, however we encourage everyone to turn off all unnecessary lighting. Where possible, it is also helpful to turn off interior lights that are closest to windows, from midnight onward or use task lighting. If you are unable to turn off interior lights, draw window blinds, shades, drapes, or window coverings.

