



Update - July 2008

Escambia County Environmentalist Tim Day reports that Gulf Power is currently removing all directional lights and shielding the remaining ones along Perdido Key Drive and Sandy Key. It will take an additional 30-45 days to complete. Gulf Power is also contacting private entities that lease lights to advise them that the enhancement is available at a rate increase of \$1.00 per month. It's a simple matter of installing a shield to direct light downwards rather than into the sky and changing to a more energy efficient bulb. It's a win for everyone, especially the turtle hatchlings.

ARCHIVE

Perdido Key Sea Turtle Friendly Lighting Workshop

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Perdido Bay Community Center, 13660

Innerarity Point Road,

5:30pm to 7:00pm

-Presentations begin at 5:45pm

Attend the Sea Turtle Lighting Workshop to learn the newest ways to safely light your property while reducing excess artificial lighting that disorients adult and hatchling sea turtles. Grant funds may be available through the Turtle Friendly Beach Program to purchase turtle friendly bulbs and fixtures. The Turtle Friendly Beach Program also provides recognition for turtle friendly

Lights out for turtles!

Brightly lit beaches disorient the nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings, but beach residents can't be expected to live in the dark, either. Even the smallest light, such as a porch or deck light, or table lamp visible through a window can distract the mother or hatchling, leading them onto a road to be hit by a vehicle, victimized by fire ants or predators or to suffer from deadly dehydration. Now, there are ways to coexist with sea turtles, including using turtle friendly light bulbs available to participants in the Turtle Friendly Beach Program (TFBP).

Here are some ways beach front property owners can modify lighting to be more turtle friendly:

- Turn off unnecessary lights. Don't use decorative lighting (such as runner lights or uplighting of vegetation) in areas that are visible from the beach and permanently remove, disable, or turn off fixtures that cannot be modified in any other way.
- For lights that can be repositioned, face them away from the beach so that the light source is no longer visible.
- Shield the light source. Materials such as aluminum flashing can be used as a shield to direct light and keep it off the beach. When shielding lights, it is important to make sure they are shielded from all areas on the beach (including from either side and on top), and not just from the beach directly in front of the light. Black oven paint may be used as a temporary solution.
- Light sockets with an exposed light source (such as plain bulbs) should be replaced with fixtures that are specially made to recess and/or the light source should be shielded.
- Replace fixtures that scatter light in all directions (such as globe lights or carriage lights) with directional fixtures that point down and away from the beach.
- Replace lights on poles with low profile, low-level lamps so that the light source and reflected light are not visible from the beach.
- Replace incandescent, fluorescent, and high intensity lighting with the lowest wattage low-pressure sodium vapor lighting or replace white incandescent bulbs with the yellow "bug" light variety of 25 watts or less for

properties through signage, certificates, and listing on the website.

For more information contact:
Andrew P. Diller, 850-475-5230
Email: apdiller@ufl.edu
Florida Sea Grant Extension
Escambia County University of Florida
Extension

incandescent and 9 watts or less for compact fluorescent.

- Plant or improve vegetation buffers (such as sea grapes and other native beach vegetation) between the light source and the beach to screen light from the beach.
- Use shielded motion detector lights for lighting, and set them on the shortest time setting.
- To reduce spillover from indoor lighting move light fixtures away from windows, apply window tint to your windows that meets the 45% inside to outside transmittance standards for tinted glass (you'll save on air conditioning costs too!), or use window treatments (blinds, curtains) to shield interior lights from the beach.
- Although not appropriate for the short-term solutions that are needed immediately, there are several potential sources of state and federal funding for long-term lighting improvements.