2014

The Dark Night Project

Elio Daci
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Benjamin Preston
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Abigail King
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Alex Riley
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Louis Muller
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

See next page for additional authors

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Recommended Citation
Daci, Elio; Preston, Benjamin; King, Abigail; Riley, Alex; Muller, Louis; and Muller, James, "The Dark Night Project" (2014). Great Problems Seminar Posters. Book 250.
http://digitalcommons.wpi.edu/gps-posters/250

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The Dark Night Project

Elio Daci (AE), Abby King (BME), Jimmy Muller (ME), Louis Muller (ME), Benjamin Preston (AE), Alex Riley (FPE)
Advisors: Professors Marja Bakermans (BBT), Geoffrey Pfeifer (HUA)

The Problem, The Vision
Migratory bird deaths due to light pollution is a problem. Nocturnal migrators use the stars and the moon to navigate in the night and bright lights disorientate them. Light pollution also causes birds to become exhausted and fall to their deaths or collide with obstacles. Cost and energy expenditures and detrimental effects on the natural cycles of both plants and animals also result. We aim to combat light pollution by cancelling one of its largest sources: stadium lights.

"Perhaps the largest number, however, will perish from exhaustion as they circle around the lit towers, struggling to escape." – Kill the Lights, Save the Birds from Mass Audubon Newsletter 2009

Methods/Process
- Research all of the impacts of light pollution
- Talk to facilities and athletics
- Determine lighting details
- Raise awareness
- Propose to WPI executives
- Extend to consortium

Results
We have determined that an effort to reduced light pollution on the WPI campus is simple and beneficial to the school. Our plan is to turn off the stadium lights whenever not in use by using a signup option and then extending this solution to the Worcester Consortium. This will combat the multiple problems created by light pollution.

References & Acknowledgments
Thank you WPI Facilities and Athletics Departments, Professors Bakermans and Pfeifer, Rebecca Zins, John Ross and Ellen Thomson, FLAP Toronto and Lights Out Boston.

$23,515.73
Estimated money Saved per Year by Implementing Our Plan - More Savings Than a Semester of Tuition
$12.08
Cost to run the lights for 1 hour. (Based on 2014 data)

Would You Support Efforts To Turn The Athletic Field Lights Off While Not In Use?

Has Unwanted Light from the Athletic Fields Ever Hindered Your Sleep?

Yes 63%
No 37%

Yes 14%
No 86%