

# la nuit est belle!

## an awareness action on light pollution



September 26th, 2019  
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September 23th, 2022

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### ❖ What is it about ?

An ambitious action whose aim is to ask municipalities that want to participate in the event to **completely turn off street lighting for one night** to create a large no-light zone to discover a starry sky and the nocturnal wildlife  
We are working closely with Grand Genève cross-border area, which created this event in 2019

<https://www.lanuitestbelle.org>

### ❖ Why turn off the lights ?

The REASONS to turn off the lights are MULTIPLE

- ✓ **to (re)see the stars** (80% of humans no longer have access to the starry sky)
- ✓ **To preserve human health** (disturbed chronobiological rhythms, disturbances in the production of proteins and hormones)
- ✓ **To protect biodiversity** (serious disturbances of flora and fauna at night)
- ✓ **To save energy**: public lighting represents about 35% of a municipality's bills! Between 1992 and 2010, it has increased worldwide by 90%

### ❖ genesis and organisation of the event

Created by the Grand Genève team in 2019 to positively engage the population in the ecological transition. Each year a key theme.



**2019: Astronomy**  
Grand Genève only  
152 cities involved



**2021: Biodiversity**  
Grand Genève + Lyon area  
178 + 10 cities involved



**2022: energy savings**  
Grand Genève + Lyon area  
187 + 34 cities involved

Teaser of the 2022 edition: [bit.ly/3Xlcbnp](http://bit.ly/3Xlcbnp)

This evening must include the public with many varied animations, for all, in the evening.  
Participating cities organized discovery walks, astronomical observations, exhibitions, nocturnal picnics, candlelight dinners, storytelling under the stars, candlelight belote tournaments ..... And live video conferences!

### ❖ Results!

Of course, **the ultimate goal is obviously to encourage municipalities to switch off their lights every night, not just one night a year ...**

- **2/3 of the municipalities having participated in the event are committed to a daily extinction approach at least in the middle of the night**

### ❖ How to do it in your area?

1. Get in touch with elected officials of your city
2. Describe **What is it about**
3. Detail the reasons **Why turn off the lights**. The elected officials are much more sensitive to the issues of energy/money savings than the starry sky... Develop this aspect! And give some numbers, for example:  
Public lighting in France = 5.6 billion kWh (emission of 670 000 tons of CO2/year) This waste is expensive. By having a virtuous approach, municipalities can make substantial savings (up to 30% according to ADEME), just by reducing the duration of lighting at night.
4. contact amateur associations to develop animations for the public
5. Make people understand and repeat that we live on a beautiful planet, but that **we must not forget that it has finite dimensions and therefore its resources are limited too!**

### THE DISAPPEARING NIGHT

light pollution = excessive or inappropriate use of artificial light.

**factor of alteration of the night environment which causes multiple nuisances.** With an ever increasing use of night lighting, often unjustified in relation to real needs, light pollution is constantly increasing.



(©Suomi NPP, NASA)

Europe at night seen from space between April and October 2012

- The photos of the Earth taken from space at night show how much light energy is wasted since it illuminates towards the sky and therefore is useless on the ground ...



City of Geneva during « la nuit est belle! » Septembre 23, 2022 and the night before  
© Grand Genève



City of Saint-Genis-Laval, south of Lyon, during « la nuit est belle! » Septembre 23, 2022 and the night after  
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