

Rémi Boucher Scientific coordinator

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Submission Date	Jan 30, 2026 5:29 PM
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International Dark Sky Place Name	Mont-Mégantic International Dark Sky Reserve
International Dark Sky Place Category	International Dark Sky Reserve
Designation Year	2007
Guidelines Version	2007
Your Name	Rémi Boucher Scientific coordinator
Email Address	boucher.remi@sepaq.com
Primary Contact	Rémi Boucher Scientific coordinator
Primary Contact Email Address	boucher.remi@sepaq.com
Primary Contact Phone Number	
Secondary Contact	Mélina Dubois-Verret Manager
Secondary Contact Email Address	duboisverret.melina@sepaq.com
Secondary Contact Phone Number	
Place Manager Name (if different from above)	Mélina Dubois-Verret

Management Agency (if applicable)

Parc national du Mont-Mégantic

What is the physical address of the Place?

189 route du pac

Notre-Dame-des-Bois, Québec, JOB 2E0

Canada

Is the site currently under Provisional Status?

No

Are you a DarkSky Delegate, Affiliate, or Chapter Representative?

No

Total average or typical zenith night sky brightness reading for this reporting period:

21.49

Upload your night sky quality raw data documents for this reporting period:



MontMegantic_SkyQuality_Additional_...docx
1.67 MB

Upload a map (PDF or image) that shows the locations and names of the places that were used to take SQM measurements. If you provided a map last year and your sites have not changed, you may skip to the next section:



MontMegantic_Monitoring-Devices_TE... .png
3.14 MB



MontMegantic_Monitoring-Devices_TE... .png
9.44 MB

Describe any changes detected in night sky quality from receiving your certification to the present:

See uploaded file "MontMegantic_SkyQuality_Additional_Info_2025.docx" for a comprehensive analysis of the night sky quality monitoring.

Reserves, please fill out the applicable row to describe your lighting compliance rate (%) with your Lighting Management Plan (whole numbers only):

	Year of Certification	Compliance % in Original Application	Current Compliance %	Anticipated % for Next Reporting Period
Core	2007	100	100	100
Periphery	2007	75	75	75

What actions have you taken to meet the requirements of your Lighting Management Plan/Policy during this reporting period? Include a summary of any actions taken with privately owned lighting that helped improve your night sky quality as well:

See attached document "MontMegantic_Lighting_LMP-Compliance-Additional-Info_2025.docx" for more precise information.

For private lighting, we are continuously assisting municipal inspectors to ensure that lighting/signage changes or new constructions meet the requirements of the outdoor lighting ordinances. We are also engaging with other actors of the industry, like distributors, manufacturers and electricians.

Thanks to years of past efforts, many projects are also done without any support from us and end with good lighting practices.

Upload any relevant documentation showing examples of lighting changes made during this reporting period:



MontMegantic_Lighting_LMP-Complia...docx
15.67 KB



MontMegantic_photos2025-007.jpeg
1.98 MB

Have you used any fixtures from the DarkSky Approved Lighting program?

No

For International Dark Sky Communities and Reserves, have there been any changes to your local outdoor lighting ordinances? If yes, please describe and provide a link to the updated policy if available:

No

Provide a list of events and/or outreach offerings, and their estimated attendance numbers for 2025.

Name of Event/Program	# of Times Offered	Estimated # of Attendees
Daytime visits to the ASTROLab+Observatories	104 days (May-Nov)	11689 visitors
Astronomy evenings at the ASTROLab	76 nights (May-Nov)	8672 visitors
Astronomy Festival	9 nights	779 visitors
Perseid meteor shower annual event	4 nights	1330 visitors
Evening talk "Lumière sur les étoiles"	16	562 visitors
School groups (ASTROLab/observatories)		3785 students
Social groups (ASTROLab/observatories)		256 visitors
Tele-groups (videoconferences)	240 schools classes	5872 students
Vive la nuit! (our light pollution outreach sessions in elementary schools)	36 sessions (2 per classes)	335 students (seen twice)
Le Jour de la nuit : Online Night Photography Workshop	1	9000 views
Le Jour de la nuit : Kiosk in Sherbrooke with activities and telescopes	1	300 visitors

Name of Event/Program	# of Times Offered	Estimated # of Attendees
Kiosk on light pollution : During the Astronomy Festival	9	230 visitors
Kiosk on light pollution : Rivière de lumières Festival in Sherbrooke	2	225 visitors
Kiosk on light pollution : Marché de la Gare in Sherbrooke	2	155 visitors
Kiosk on light pollution : Fête nationale du Québec in Lac-Mégantic	1	80 visitors
Kiosk on light pollution and outdoor conference	1	72 visitors
Kiosk on light pollution : Lennoxville's Public Market	1	55 visitors
Kiosk on light pollution : La Patrie's Public Market	1	51 visitors
Kiosk on light pollution : National Parks Day – Mont-Mégantic	1	50 visitors
Kiosk on light pollution : Cultural House of Piopolis	1	35 visitors
Kiosk on light pollution / Mont-Mégantic National Park: CHUS Foundation fundraising dinner	1	740 guests
Ecological Light Pollution Conference by Dr. Avalon Owens, held at Mont-Mégantic National Park for employees and retransmitted to our colleagues of Quebec National Park Network	1	45
Conference on light pollution at Baie-D'Urfé, Qc	1	25
Conference at the Montréal Planetarium, in association with the ACFAS conference	1	100
Conference at Agriculture Canada Research and Development Center in Sherbrooke	1	25

Did you promote DarkSky International and its mission during your outreach programs/events? If so, describe:

It depends on the specific event, but DarkSky International is often mentioned in a way or another. The DarkSky Logo and seal is used in different places (website, presentation, etc), most often when mentioning the certification of the IDSR or showing the network of DarkSky places.

Is there any programming, ongoing or planned, blending the arts and/or culture with dark skies? If so, describe:

No specific program blending arts or culture is currently underway.

What have you noticed about your visitors' experiences? For example, is attendance/visitation of dark-sky programs consistent, growing, or dropping off? Have visitors provided any feedback on their experiences at your site? Please describe:

One important thing to know about this year attendance to activities in Mont-Megantic National Park is that there were no astronomy evenings at the Popular Observatory for 2025 due to a large reconstruction project underway. Because of this, double evening sessions were available at the ASTROLab and the closure of the Popular Observatory only resulted in a -2% visitors overall.

In parallel, the addition of our new public kiosk on light pollution allowed us to directly engage with more than a thousand people in the region.

Provide up to five photos of events you hosted this year:



MontMegantic_photos2025-002.jpeg
2.18 MB



MontMegantic_photos2025-003.jpeg
2.42 MB



MontMegantic_photos2025-005.jpeg
2.68 MB

Provide social media handles or website links used to promote dark skies (these will be added to your Place's DarkSky page):

www.meganticdarksky.org
www.facebook.com/montmegantic
www.linkedin.com/company/cieletoillemontmegantic

Has your Place participated in any DarkSky-led initiatives such as International Dark Sky Week, the Under One Sky conference, or other relevant promotions during this reporting period?

Yes

If you answered yes to the previous question, please describe:

We attended the Under One Sky conference but did not present this year. For the Dark Sky Week, we also did special social media post about the event.

We are also often interacting with other advocates on the DarkSky Advocates Slack.

Upload files of any media coverage (articles, interviews, etc.) about your site or dark-sky efforts you are involved with. This may also be a document with a list of links to the respective coverage.



MontMegantix_PressReview_2025.docx
39.37 KB

Has your site erected signage identifying your site as an International Dark Sky Place?

Yes

Briefly describe how educational materials are being dispersed/provided at your Place:

Our website, meganticdarksky.org, remains our main hub for most information about the IDSR, how to visit, links to outdoor lighting regulations, lists of recommended luminaires, lighting guides, brochures and more.

This year, we created a new mailing letter about outdoor lighting that most municipalities of the IDSR will send to citizen with their tax account in early 2026. By this mean, we hope to reach many owners to remind them of the outdoor lighting regulations in places and how to use proper lighting at home. (see attached PDF file)

In 2025, we also worked again on adapting the new infographics and posters about the “Jour de la nuit” and distributed those in the region prior to the event in October (<https://www.cieletoilmontmegantic.org/jourdelanuit>)

Upload examples of new (not developed/provided by DarkSky International) printed educational materials that have been created this reporting period. These may include brochures, handouts, policy-related materials such as utility notices, and/or informative messages distributed through utility companies:



MontMegantic_Example_mailing_MRC-... .pdf
431.5 KB



MontMegantic_photos2025-001.jpeg
1.65 MB

Describe any permanent or temporary exhibits that have been created this reporting period (these may include trails, informative waysides, interpretation signs, gift shop items, etc.):

We created a brand-new kiosk to use in public places and festivities to raise awareness about light pollution and spread the word about the Dark Sky Reserve. We managed to integrate not only an example of “bad” vs “good” light fixtures, but we made it more interactive and allowing to change the bad fixture following the 4 principles of good lighting with 3D-printed shiels, different light bulbs, a dimmer and a switch. The background illustration also illustrates the impacts of light pollution, which can be identified by adding magnetized labels. Material use at the kiosk also included naturalized moths, a bat house, photographs, stickers, brochures, etc. Thanks to this new way to reach people, our team was a lot more visible in the region. Special thanks to our team member Mélanie Houle for many of these representations.

We also added the International Dark Sky Reserve Seal on the main signs at both entrances of the national park.

Upload photos showing any of the above items you are currently providing (limit 5 photographs):



MontMegantic_photos2025-006.jpeg
2.93 MB



MontMegantic_photos2025-004_5816.jpeg
2.16 MB

Briefly describe any efforts undertaken to reach new audiences. If this was not part of your efforts last year, describe what you plan to do to

Our new public kiosk, described above, was our main way to reach more people in 2025, especially citizens of the Dark Sky Reserve.

Early in 2025, we issued a press release about night pictures taken from the International Space Station that shows the results of the Mont-Megantic

engage new visitors in the 2025 reporting period:

IDSR continuous efforts on outdoor lighting. The use of amber LEDs and the general darkness of the area mark a striking difference with the rest of the Province, where white LEDs are now widely used.

We continue to work on expanding the number our home-made “Dark Sky Friends” designation with businesses and organizations that use good lighting practices (<https://en.cieletoillemontmegantic.org/amis>), with close 150 places across the Dark Sky Reserve.

In April, we gave a webinar about the conservation of nocturnal environments in partnership with the “Réseau de milieux naturels protégés” (<https://rmnat.org>).

During the summer, Rémi Boucher made 4 radio columns with the local branch Radio-Canada, talking about the Dark Sky Reserve, nocturnal environment conservation, our work with other national parks, and the Jour de la nuit. Links are provided in the attached media coverage file.

Have you worked with any external partners to promote the dark-sky movement within and outside of your Place's boundaries? If so, identify these partners and explain the result of this collaboration:

This year, we delivered specialized outdoor lighting training to Hydro-Sherbrooke technicians and electricians. This sparked an ongoing partnership where we will provide targeted recommendations to improve lighting across Sherbrooke's municipal buildings and parks.

Our collaboration with SÉPAQ (Québec's national parks network) continues to expand. In early 2025, we gave a conference on light pollution for head-office project managers and architects. Locally, we supported Parc national du Mont-St-Bruno and Parc national des Îles-de-Boucherville in a total lighting overhaul, prioritizing fewer fixtures and fully shielded amber LEDs. Other SÉPAQ highlights include:

- Hosting a astronomy/dark-sky evening for Parc national de Frontenac staff.
- Participating in a meeting between the Parc national d'Aiguebelle and a local mining company to support their Dark Sky certification.
- Starting dark-sky initiatives within Quebec's Wildlife Reserves, with field actions beginning in 2026.
- Recording a featured podcast and video on the Mont-Mégantic International Dark Sky Reserve, slated for release in 2026.

For the second year, we co-organized the Quebec edition of “Jour de la nuit” with our French colleagues, leading provincial promotion and regional events.

On the technical front, Rémi Boucher continued his work with the DLC LUNA Advisory Group, contributing to the release of the LUNA V2.0 Technical Requirements: <https://designlights.org/news-events/news/luna-v2-0-technical-requirements-address-light-pollution/>

He also joined an international working group to revise the CIE-001-1980 guidelines for minimizing urban sky glow near astronomical observatories.

Were you awarded any grants or funding for projects during this reporting period? If yes, please describe:

The work of the Mont-Mégantic IDSR team is funded by the Mont-Mégantic National Park (SÉPAQ), Haut-Saint-François RCM, Granit RCM, city of Sherbrooke, and the Mont-Mégantic Observatory. Projects outside of the IDSR received funding from those specific partners.

Have you collaborated with a DarkSky International Delegate or Chapter on dark-sky issues since the last reporting period? If so, please describe:

Mélina Dubois-Verret, our manager, also sits a member of the DarkSky-Québec Chapter board.

Are there any ongoing conservation and/or research programs at the site? If so, who runs them, and what are the goals?

The Mont-Mégantic national park has its own monitoring program on different species and anthropogenic impacts, but the only one related to dark skies is the monitoring of light pollution mentioned elsewhere in this report. We are also responsible for the measurement and monitoring of light pollution in every SÉPAQ's national park in Québec with a large network of TESS-W photometers.

Briefly describe future plans (in 2026 and beyond) to engage with existing and new partners and how you will expand the dark-sky movement:

We will continue working with others national park in the SÉPAQ network. In particular, the ongoing work underway to change outdoor lighting in two national parks (Mont-Saint-Bruno and Iles-de-Boucherville). Parc national de Frontenac, which sits on the border of the IDSR is also on the top of our lists of national parks with which we actively collaborate regarding future dark sky certification.

In 2026, we will be working more closely with Hydro-Sherbrooke about outdoor lighting of Sherbrooke's city buildings and parks. We will also be working with the communication department of the city of Sherbrooke, to create more information on their website about the efforts to reduce light pollution and the existing regulation on outdoor lighting.

In the fall of 2025, we recorded more than two dozen interview with people that were involved in the creation of the Mont-Mégantic International Dark Sky Reserve. With our 20th anniversary coming in 2027, we want to use the material from these interviews to create and share the story of the Reserve in new ways (audio/video) and enhance existing sources of information (website, Wikipedia, etc.). We will be working on this project in 2026.

For Dark Sky Reserves, briefly describe any new (or ongoing) examples of night sky friendly installations on private sites and/or public spaces such as roadways or parks:

Lighting for new constructions is generally monitored by municipal inspectors, but for smaller municipalities, our team is often asked to help with technical documents. This leads to many new constructions with good lighting practices.

Thanks to continuous efforts and more availability of lighting fixtures below 2200K, we often seen good lighting practices on new constructions. That said, there are still cases of fixtures replaced with non-compliant lighting.

Have the "threats" identified in your application for certification:

Stayed the same

If the "threats" identified in your application for certification have increased or decreased, please provide a brief explanation of how they have changed (i.e., increased/decreased visibility of light domes, new sources of glare/problematic lighting, new industry/development, etc.):

No "threats" were specifically identified in our application for certification back in 2007. We keep on working with our regional partners for a continuous enforcing of the outdoor lighting regulations.

Provide a brief description of how you will continue to manage "threats" over the next year:

See the 2023 report for our actions on greenhouse light pollution.

We keep working with municipal inspectors, urbanists, electricians and manufacturers on nay levels to ensure that regional regulations on outdoor lighting are followed and that appropriate fixtures are available.

We also sometime assists municipalities outside the Mont-Megantic IDSR that are looking into adopting outdoor lighting regulations.

What is the total size of your Place (in square kilometers only)?

5167

For Dark Sky Communities and Reserves, what is the current population size?

230241

Have there been any changes to the size, access and/or boundaries of your Place (this could be property acquisition, sale, road development/closure,

No changes to the boundaries since last year. We did meet with the municipal council of Saint-Robert-Bellarmin about a possible future expansion of the IDSR, but there is no specific plan for now.

The population size grew by 1.87% in 2025.

easement access, etc.)? If so,
please describe: