

# Local News

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## Local Briefs

### P.R. CONSERVATION TRUST PROJECT TARGETS LIGHT POLLUTION AT NIGHT

In an effort to reduce the impact of excessive artificial light at night, the Puerto Rico Conservation Trust has launched a pilot project in Fajardo aimed at modifying lighting that contaminates the night.

Trust Executive Director Fernando Lloveras said illumination contamination affects marine turtles, disrupts enjoyment of bioluminescent bays like the one he manages at Las Cabezas reserve and affects the life cycles of numerous animals, while limiting the ability to observe the night sky.

"[Artificial light] seems inoffensive, to not have an impact, but it really does. We have to rescue the night that is leaving us, that is escaping from us," he said in a press conference Thursday.

Excessive illumination also

wastes energy, increasing the emission of global warming gas and costing consumers money, he said.

The pilot project is part of an initiative dubbed "Puerto Rico Brilla Naturalmente," or "Puerto Rico Shines Naturally," an educational campaign that includes state and federal agencies.

Along with cutting down on excessive light, officials will push to modify lighting so that it points toward the ground — where it is needed — instead of up into the sky.