Sample letter to your neighbor. Please modify before sending.

Dear [insert neighbor's name],

Please allow me to introduce myself. I'm your neighbor [insert your name] and I would love to talk with you about good outdoor lighting. I notice that you have installed outdoor lights on your property, and I applaud your desire to help improve our neighborhood.

However, and I certainly realize that you may be unaware of this, your lights are a bit too bright and are shining in [pick areas as they apply: our bedroom window, the backyard, into our house etc.] and interfering with our [sleep, hobbies, view of the sky, etc.]. As I mentioned, I'm sure you weren't aware of this until now, but I wanted to bring it to your attention as soon as possible so we can discuss possible remedies or solutions. Please understand that I'm not asking you to remove the lights, but perhaps re-direct them onto the ground where they will do the most good.

In addition, we could also discuss shielding the lights so that they are even more effective. Shielding a lamp usually requires using a lower wattage bulb, which in and of itself is a big money saver. Shielding also reduces glare that can be dangerous and unsafe. Glare can be blinding and create harsh shadows where "bad guys" can hide. Shielded lighting provides real security, not just the illusion of security, which I think we both want for our families and friends.

There are several other ways to improve lighting, save money, and still be safe. One is using motion sensors, which alert you if someone is in your yard after dark and have the added benefit of reducing your electric bill by keeping the lights off when they're not needed. Timers are another way to save money because these devices turn off your lights when they're not needed, for example, when you retire for the night.

Thank you so much for your time and understanding. I would love to talk with you about how I can help you to improve your lighting and how it can benefit your safety, budget, and the night sky.

Sincerely,

[insert your name]