

Model Ordinance for Bird-Friendly Construction

[ORDINANCE Name] Sponsored by: [list names]

WHEREAS, birds provide valuable and important ecological services,

WHEREAS, [location] has recorded [] species of resident and migratory bird species,

WHEREAS, birding is a hobby enjoyed by 64 million Americans and generates more than \$40 billion a year in economic activity in the United States,

WHEREAS, as many as one billion birds may be killed by collisions with windows every year in the United States,

WHEREAS, new buildings can be designed to reduce bird deaths from collisions without additional cost,

WHEREAS, there exist strategies to mitigate collisions on existing buildings,

WHEREAS, more than 30% glass on a façade usually increases costs for heating and cooling

WHEREAS, bird-friendly practices often go hand-in-hand with energy efficiency improvements,

And WHEREAS [any additions specific to the particular location]

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by [acting agency] [title of legislation and other necessary language]

a) [Acting agency] does hereby order [acting department] to take the steps necessary to assure that all newly constructed buildings and all buildings scheduled for capital improvement are designed, built, and operated in accordance with bird-friendly design practices, using one of the three following options.

- I. at least 95% of the exposed façade material from ground level to 40 feet is not composed of glass or is composed of glass employing one or more of the following methods:
 - (a) Elements mounted outside glass that eliminate reflectivity, like secondary facades, netting, screens, shutters, or exterior shades.
 - (b) Opaque, etched, stained, frosted, and translucent glass.
 - (c) Patterns applied to or integral to glass meeting the following criteria:
 1. Visible from the outside, from an inspection distance of 18", regardless of location of pattern (i.e. side one, side two) and reflectance of surface.
 2. Created by regular or irregular lines spaced no more than 2" apart at any point, with a minimum line width of 1/8"; Dots or other shapes with a minimum dimension of 3/8"; a combination of a and b and at least 60% of the exposed façade material above 40 feet has met the above standard.
- II. As above, but patterned glass is selected from a list of approved options provided by any glass listed on birdsmartglass.org.
- III. Design meets the requirement of the current version of LEED Pilot credit 55: reducing bird collisions.

For additional information, please contact Christine Sheppard, American Bird Conservancy, Bird Collisions Campaign Manager, csheppard@abcbirds.org.