

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, reducing light pollution has been shown to reduce bird deaths from collisions with windows,

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 increased 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) In this section the term “Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)” means a green building rating system promulgated by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) that provides specific principles and practices, some mandatory but the majority discretionary, that may be applied during the design, construction, and operation phases, which enable the building to be awarded points from reaching present standards of environmental efficiency so that it may achieve LEED certification from the USGBC as a “green” building,

b) [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 the standards and requirements of the LEED Green Building Rating System Pilot Credit #55: Reducing Bird Collisions

(c) The USGBC releases revised versions of the LEED Green Building Rating System on a regular basis; and [acting department] shall refer to the most current version of the LEED when beginning a new building construction permit project or renovation.

(d) New construction and major renovation projects shall incorporate bird-friendly building materials and design features, including, but not limited to, those recommended by the American Bird Conservancy publication Bird-friendly Building Design.

(e) [acting department] shall make existing buildings bird-friendly where practicable.