



Bird-Friendly Building Design

PBZE Committee Meeting

**Planning, Building & Development
May 8, 2024**

Timeline



Agenda

- **Nonresidential Building Code
Proposed Amendments**
- **Next Steps**
 - **Residential Building Code
Amendments**

Prior Considerations

- Bird-friendly glass is a small, niche market (though growing)
- Bird-friendly glass is easier to use in non-residential frame systems
- Bird-friendly window assemblies for residential buildings are uncommon
- Many local residential installers have not worked with bird-friendly glass
- Short-term options require more maintenance & monitoring
- Additional residential requirements of recently adopted amendments to the building code

Proposed Building Code Amendments

BIRD-FRIENDLY GLASS DEFINITION:

Glass or materials that have a **Material Threat Factor Rating of ≤ 30** by including materials that meet any of the following conditions:

- a) any product tested and designated by the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) to have a Material Threat Factor Rating ≤ 30 (see ABC's Products & Solutions Database);
- b) any product that follows ABC's Prescriptive Rating Criteria;
- c) glass with exterior surface obstructed and effectively covered by building-integrated structures that do not have gaps larger than 12" in any dimension including non-glass double-skin facades, metal screens, fixed solar shading, and exterior insect or solar screens; or
- d) continuous-surface materials, including spandrel glass and polished or brushed metals, whose exterior surface gloss has a reflectivity of 15 percent or less as specified by the manufacturer.

Non-residential Standards

For new build non-residential properties, **at least 80%** of all glass on each exterior facade from the **ground level to 100 feet**, including but not limited to glass surrounding a green roof or landscaped area, shall be bird-friendly glass.

Planned Unit Development Standards

For new Planned Unit Developments (PUDs), **at least 80%** of all glass on each exterior facade from **ground level to 100 feet**, including but not limited to glass surrounding a green roof or landscaped area, shall be bird-friendly glass.

Building design and orientation in planned unit developments must incorporate consideration of nearby existing bird habitats, landscaped plantings, and known bird migration paths.

Accessory Structure Standards

Accessory structures to new non-residential buildings and PUDs, including but not limited to free-standing glass walls, railings, windscreens, greenhouses, and other similar construction, shall have **at least 80% of all glass** on each exterior facade be bird-friendly glass.

Renovations and Additions

Any renovation or addition to a building from the **ground level to one hundred feet** that involves **replacement and/or addition** of glass or other transparent or reflective materials, shall ensure that **at least 80%** of all such materials shall be bird-friendly.

This shall apply to all exterior glass or other transparent or reflective materials including but not limited to glass surrounding a green roof or landscaped area.



Next Steps

Residential Standards

- **Staff will evaluate results of non-residential building code standards**
- **Will consider residential standards that may include retrofits and non-permanent solutions**



Questions