

# Toward a Sustainable Future With Birds

Beth Decker, Safe Skies Maryland  
Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership Symposium  
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**Defined:**

**sustainability** *noun* [U]

**UK** /səˌsteɪ.nəˈbɪl.ə.ti/ **US** /səˌsteɪ.nəˈbɪl.ə.ti/

the quality of being able to continue over a period of time

the quality of causing little or no damage to the environment and therefore able to continue for a long time:

*The company's commitment to environmental sustainability*





1 Billion  
Arrival  
Mar-M



th







Because we have this:









































We have this:













































Taking *one billion* healthy birds  
right out of the sky  
every year



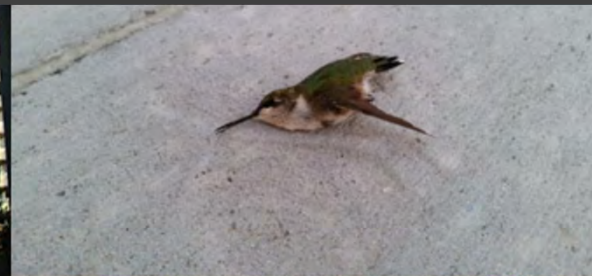
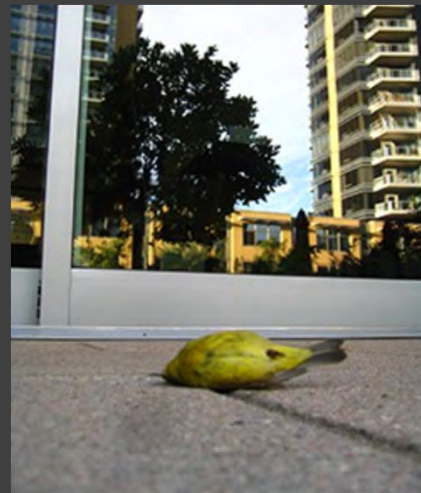


# Sustainability:

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.

*Does this look sustainable to you?*

- Migratory – long range neotropical migrants
- Healthy – good body weight score
- Breeding condition
- Lost prior to completing migration / chance to reproduce
- Face the threat twice per year – spring and fall
- Spring migration includes fledgling deaths
- Numbers are increasing due to increases in use of glass and lighting







Reflected habitat



Transparent





Sky walks







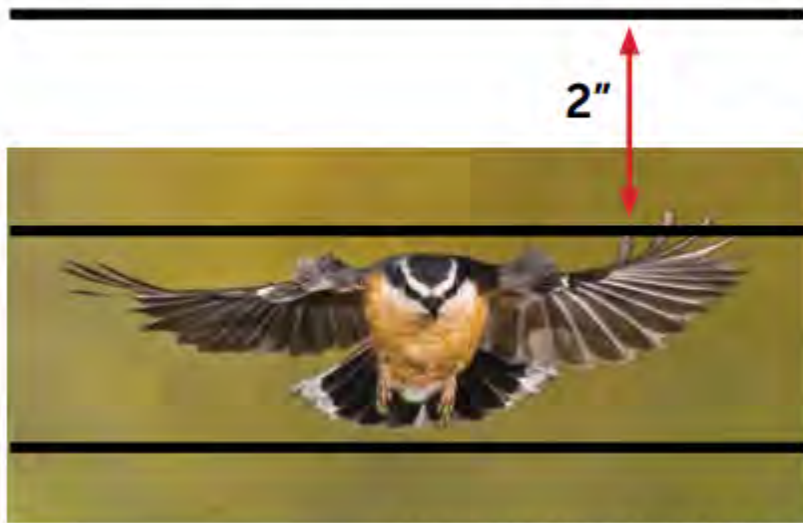
Stairwells &  
Bus Shelters



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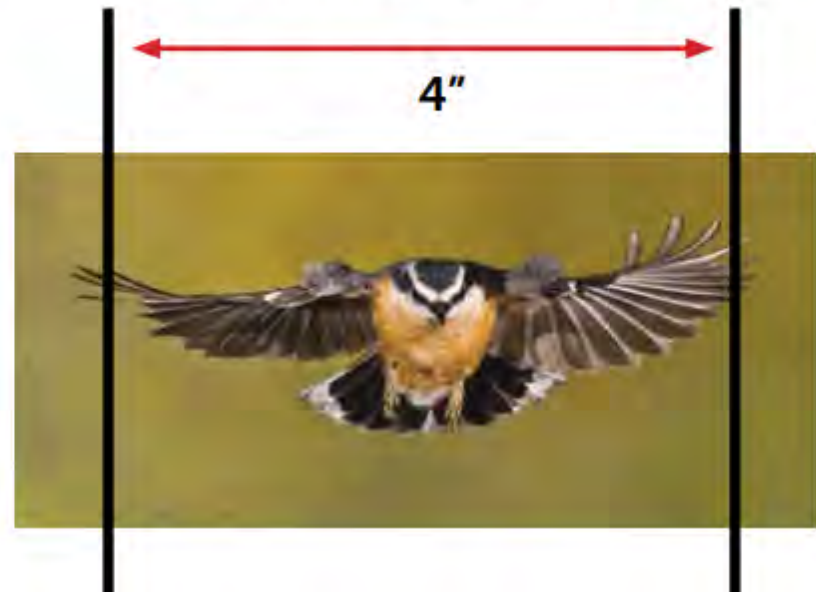


Horizontal lines with a maximum spacing of 2 inches



Red-breasted Nuthatch. Photo by Roy Hancliff

Vertical lines with a maximum spacing of 4 inches



## 2x4 Rule



Artificial Nighttime Lighting





Left on all the time

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Diffuse Light, Glare,  
Too much light

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Downshield  
On Timers  
Use  
Minimums

## Protecting the night sky starts with **YOU!**

**1** Light only what you need



**2** Use energy efficient bulbs and only as bright as you need



**3** Shield lights and direct them down



**4** Only use light when you need it



**5** Choose warm white light bulbs



**6** Join IDA!  
We need your help to continue the fight against light pollution.



# Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2019

HB 136 | SB \_\_\_\_

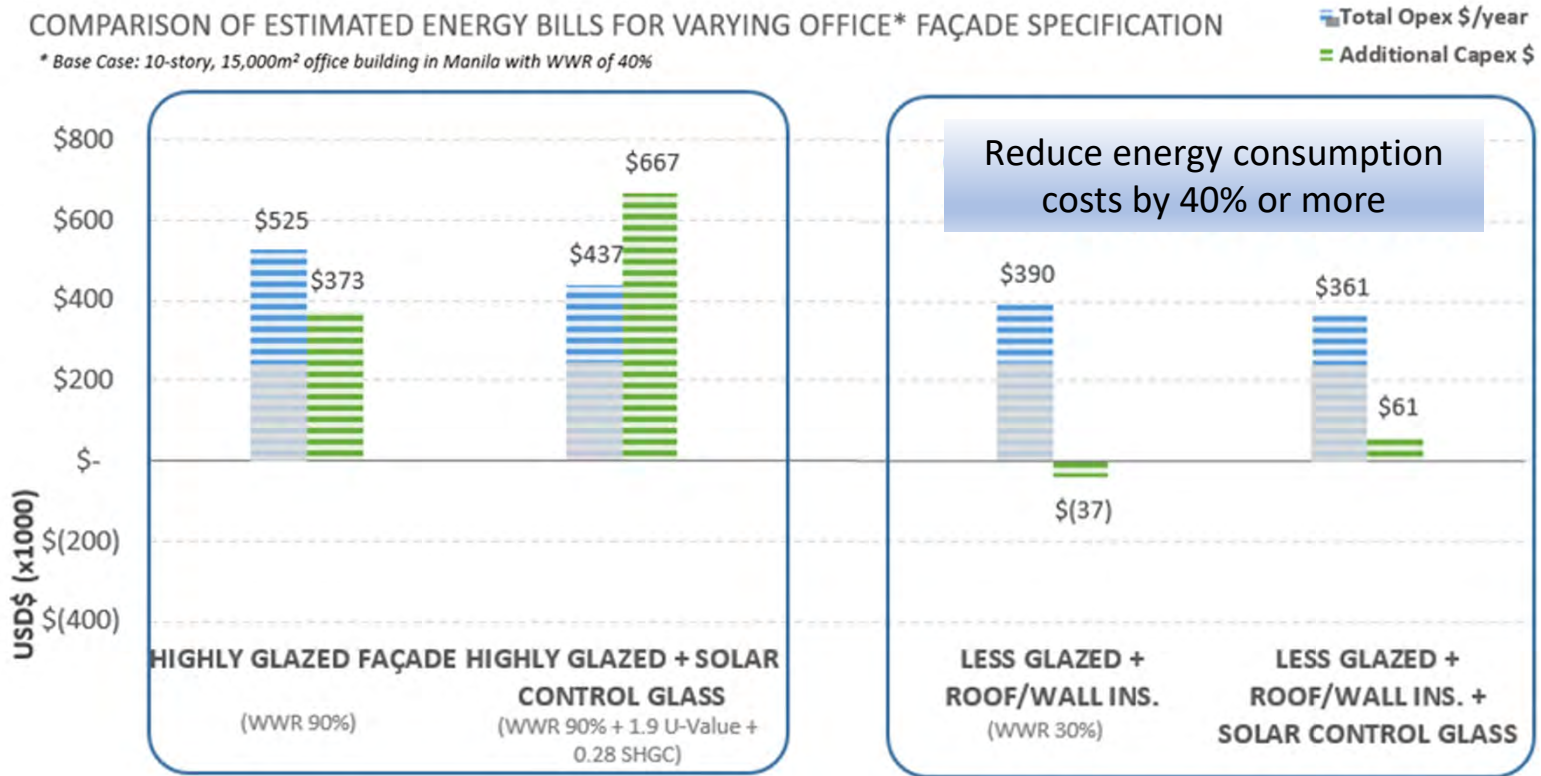
Sustainable,  
Energy-Conserving,  
Bird-Safe Building Standards





# Sustainable, Energy-Conserving, Bird-Safe Buildings #ESBbreakfast1

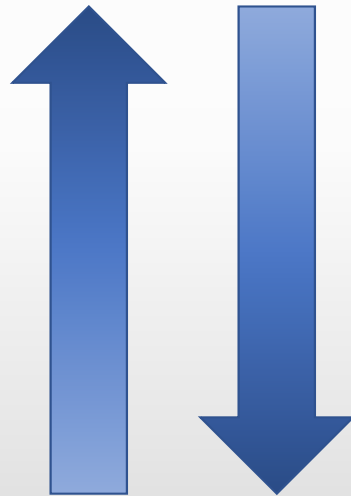
Adopting building standards to protect birds will reduce energy usage consumption by 40% or more



# Sustainable, Energy-Conserving, Bird-Safe Buildings #ESBbreakfast1

The Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2019 provides for the conservation of energy while minimizing the impact to birds and other wildlife and will save the state money.

Increased use of glass  
Increased Heating/Cooling Cost  
Effects of Climate Change  
Unsustainable Loss of Birdlife  
    Rising  
    Artificial Selection / Healthiest  
    Cumulative Effects  
Increased Costs Across all Areas  
    Cost-neutral design phase versus  
    increased cost passed on to  
    operation of building / lifecycle  
Increase Pest Population  
    Insect  
    Rodent  
    Scavenger/Predator



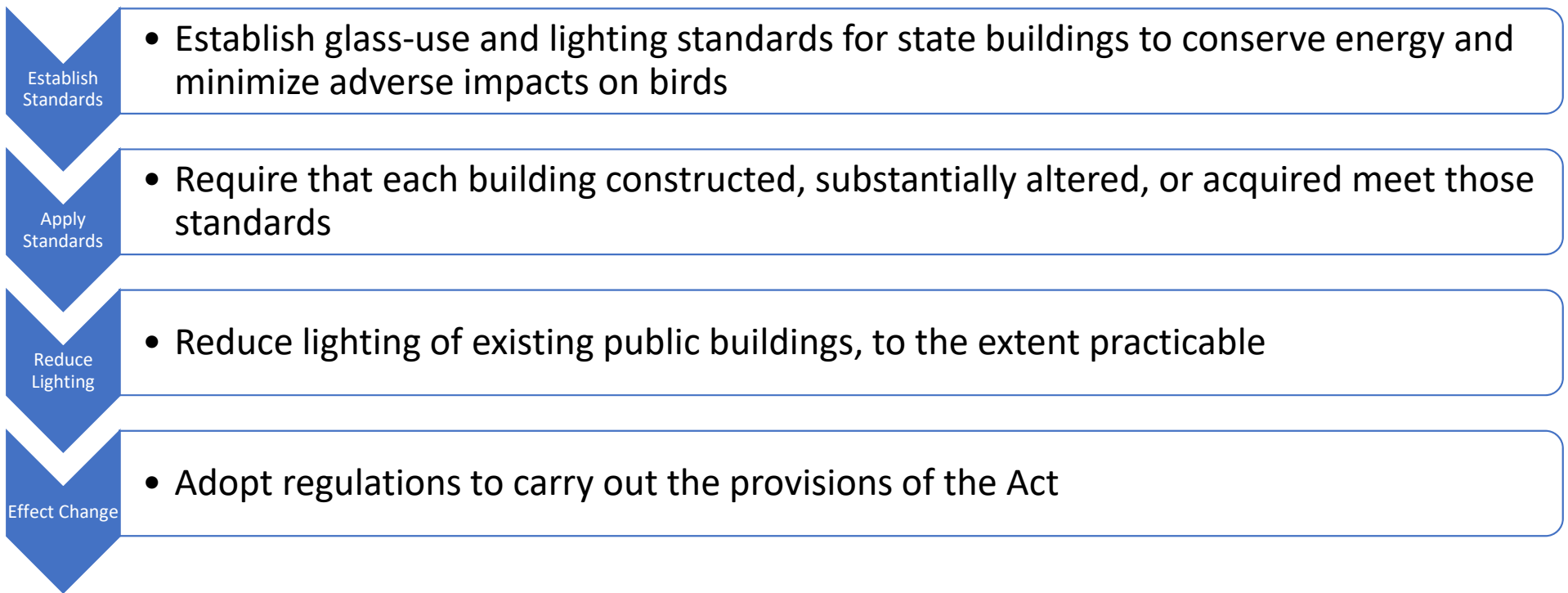
Decrease Energy Efficiency  
Loss of Biodiversity  
    Migratory  
    Resident  
    All members Food Web  
Loss of Ecological Services  
    Pollination  
    Seed Dispersal  
    Consumption Pest Species  
Harm to Watershed Balance  
Loss of Economic Strength  
    Retail, Travel, Tourism  
    Farming, Fishing  
    Mitigation



# Sustainable, Energy-Conserving, Bird-Safe Buildings

#ESBbreakfast1

VOTE for the Maryland Sustainable Buildings Act of 2019

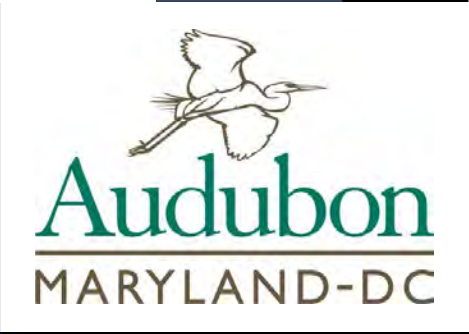


# *You can help birds and your voice matters!*

- Call your Representatives to ask them to support HB 136, SB\_\_\_\_
- Write your Representatives a personalized letter
- Join us at The Environmental Summit February 6<sup>th</sup>, 4-6 PM  
Annapolis Maryland
- Join us on Lobby Day – TBD in late February
- Follow/Like us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Visit the Legislation page on [www.safeskiesmaryland.org](http://www.safeskiesmaryland.org)
- Sign up for Audubon Action Alerts
- Share the information on social media
- Attend I Bird, I Vote at Patuxent on March 2<sup>nd</sup>







Thank You!

