

From: Aeshah Saad
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2024 11:02 AM
To: PEC <pec@london.ca>; Jennifer Trampleasure
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Green Development Standards

January 8, 2024

Planning and Environment Committee
City of London
300 Dufferin Avenue
London, Ontario
pec@london.ca

RE: Green Development Standards

Dear Councilors,

I am Aeshah Saad, a member of the H3-ELP program, and a concerned citizen. The H3-ELP program is a nature and community leadership program that partners with numerous other environmental programs. It's a program that teaches me all about situations like this one.

As a person growing up in the 21st century, the environment is a large concern of mine. I, as a citizen of our growing city, call for the prioritization of green development, and the inclusion of these green development standards in the Q3 2024 the Site Plan Control Bylaw and/or Zoning Bylaw; 50% native species for landscaping with no invasion species, short-term bicycle parking for townhouse developments, 5% electric vehicle charging ports for buildings over 40 units, and bird-friendly designs for all buildings.

The glass that urban buildings are built with is a major problem for birds. We are in the Mississippi route for bird migrations, which is one of four migrations paths that an incredibly large range of birds fly through each year. In 2019, scientists reported a 29% decrease in birds since 1970. Though this number may look small, it is an incredibly large amount. That is **3 Billion birds**, all lost to Canada alone.

There are simple solutions to both light pollution issues and bird issues in our city, such as adding shielding to the tops of streetlights and installing bird-friendly window measures, including, but not limited to, stickers on windows, colored windows, less reflective windows, and shutters or blinds. These simple things all go a very, very, long way. We **need** these things.

I want these issues to be fixed desperately. I'm terrified of growing up in a world where I can't hear my favorite birds, or see moths flying around at night, or not be able to see the stars anymore. I can barely see any as it is. It's not just scary, it's terrifying. And it's not fair that the decisions of adults who are separated from the next generation can take away all of these simple joys, these incredibly important facets of our world.

Many developers already operate in nearby cities that have green development standards. Prioritizing Green Development Standards and balancing London's standards to be consistent with other Ontario cities will give the London development industry a clear and consistent roadmap and ensure we do not fall behind.

London is rapidly growing, and we need to prioritize these standards now.

Sincerely,

Aeshah Saad.