# BIRD-SAFE PROGRAM Service Vancouver USA

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The concept of bird-safe buildings is based on the alarming results of studies linking a high number of bird deaths to avian building strikes. One study estimated that up to five percent of migratory birds are killed annually due to building collisions. Your organization can help reduce such collisions through careful building planning, design and operation.

# WINDOWS AND LIGHT: COLLISION CULPRITS

- Window Glass properties of reflectivity and transparency can cause glass to appear to be a safe flight path. Collisions usually occur at or near ground level.
- Artificial light interior or exterior light can lure birds into lit areas, causing birds to become disoriented and entrapped while circling in the illuminated zone. As a result, they can succumb to exhaustion, predation or collision.



Tree reflection on building



# WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Design well-articulated buildings where structures are easily distinguishable from the natural environment
- Incorporate features that reduce or break-up reflections or transparency of glass: overhangs, louvers, window treatments, awnings, external screens, lattice or grill-work
- Apply to glass: fritting, etching, film or frosting
- Use patterned UV glass where the patterns are visible to birds, but invisible to humans ("bird-safe glass")
- Plant lush landscape immediately adjacent to windows
- Avoid "up lighting" (lights pointing upward)
- Install motion sensors or timers on interior lights
- Avoid exterior decorative lighting and flood lighting
- change to "Use lowest light lumens possible (< 3,000K)</li>



## PORT SOLUTIONS

The port's location along the Pacific Flyway, a north-south migratory flight path, coupled with its proximity to the Columbia River and Vancouver Lake Lowlands, makes the area ideal habitat for many types of migratory and resident birds. It also increases the importance of bird-safe buildings, a concept based on the link between avian injuries and building strikes.

Efforts to reduce the potential for avian building strikes at select port buildings include installation of non-reflective coverings on the exterior of high-risk windows. The coverings allow staff working inside the building to see out but present a visible and physical barrier to our passing avian friends. In addition to reducing building strikes, the port is working to include bird safe lighting where appropriate. At Terminal 1, the port installed lower lumen, downward directional lighting at Vancouver Landing to avoid interfering with natural avian activity.



Left: Workers apply CollidEscape bird safe film on port building windows Top Right: Example of SOLYX SX-BSFV bird safe film used in industrial park Bottom Right: Example of SOLYX SX-BSFD bird safe film used in industrial park

## **INFORMATION SOURCES**

- <u>Bird Alliance of Oregon</u> (formerly Portland Audubon Society) birdallianceoregon.org
- Dark Sky International darksky.org
- City of Portland, Oregon Bird-Safe Development Guide portland.gov
- American Bird Conservancy
  abcbirds.org

## **BIRD FILM/GLASS AT THE PORT**

- <u>CollidEscape</u> collidescape.org
- <u>SOLYX Bird Safe Film</u> decorativefilm.com
- GlasPro Bird Safe Glass glas-pro.com