

Template Letter to University Leadership

Dear [University Leadership Title],

We write to you as a group of concerned students/faculty members with a deep commitment to environmental sustainability and biodiversity on our campus. We appreciate the efforts our university has made towards creating a greener, more sustainable environment. It has come to our attention that our campus buildings pose a threat to bird populations due to collisions with windows and glass facades, a problem that is both preventable and urgent.

Each year, more than a BILLION birds are fatally impacted by building collisions in the U.S. alone, with glass windows at low-rise structures being a primary culprit. These incidents occur because birds cannot perceive glass as a barrier like we do, leading to tragic collisions. Furthermore, many birds migrate at night and become disoriented by artificial lights at night, which can cause them to fly off course as they're drawn into lit structures, become disoriented and even fly towards windows with light leaks.

Birds play a crucial role in our campus ecosystem. Their presence is not only beneficial for ecological balance, but also enhances the mental and emotional well-being of the university community overall with their therapeutic, stress relieving effect. It is important to address these preventable threats not only because the increasing loss of birds is a biodiversity issue playing a part in the global biodiversity crisis, but also because fewer birds in our community diminishes the quality of life on campus and our connection to the natural world.

We propose the initiation of a Bird-Friendly Campus Initiative, aimed at making our university a leader in bird conservation. This initiative could include:

- A Bird-Strike Monitoring Program to survey campus and identify high-risk areas for birds.
- Implementing bird-safe window designs and treatments.
- Reducing or eliminating night-time lighting, especially during peak bird migration seasons.
- Promoting awareness and education on bird conservation among the university community.

We respectfully urge you, university leadership, to consider supporting this initiative by allocating resources, adopting bird-friendly design and lighting practices and enhancing the university's sustainability goals. By doing so, our university can not only protect our feathered friends but also position itself as a pioneering institution among other universities who have already taken steps towards proactive and meaningful environmental stewardship.

We are optimistic that with your support, we can significantly reduce the impact of our campus on bird populations and further enhance our university's commitment to sustainability. We are eager to discuss this initiative further and are available for a meeting at your earliest convenience.

Thank you for considering our proposal. We look forward to your positive response and to working together towards a more bird-friendly campus.

With gratitude,

[Your Name(s)]
[Your Position(s)]
[Contact Information]