



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – October 4, 2017 Agenda Item 6

Worksession

Potential amendment to Safe Grow Ordinance to add pesticides containing neonicotinoid chemicals to the register of restricted pesticides.

Recommended Council Action

Consider proposed Code amendment.

Context with Key Issues

The City's Safe Grow Ordinance prohibits the use of pesticides containing chemicals that are harmful to human health, pets, and the environment for lawn care purposes. Under the Ordinance, such pesticides must be identified in a register of restricted pesticides.

Neonicotinoid pesticides are harmful to non-target organisms, including bees, birds, butterflies, and other pollinators, and the environment. There has been a significant decline in the population of pollinators over the past several decades, and pollinators are necessary for the pollination of food crops. The Maryland General Assembly passed legislation effective January 1, 2018, prohibiting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides by anyone other than certified pesticide applicators. The proposed amendment to the Safe Grow Ordinance would extend the restriction to certified applicators in Takoma Park.

Council Priority

Environmentally Sustainable Community

Environmental Impact of Action

The proposed amendment would protect pollinators and other organisms by preventing the use of neonicotinoids for lawn care purposes.

Fiscal Impact of Action

None.

Racial Equity Impact of Action

The ordinance would affect all residents of the City equally.

Attachments and Links

- Proposed amendment text

**Proposed Text of Code Amendment to Add Neonicotinoids to
Takoma Park's Register of Restricted Pesticides**

September 27, 2017

14.28.040 Register of restricted pesticides.

A. The City Manager shall create and issue, by March 1, 2014, a register of restricted pesticides.

1. The register shall identify restricted pesticides.
2. Persons applying pesticide products are responsible for determining whether the product contains a restricted pesticide.

B. The register of restricted pesticides shall include the following pesticides:

1. Any pesticide classified as "Carcinogenic to Humans" or "Likely to Be Carcinogenic to Humans" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency;
2. Any pesticide classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a "Restricted Use Product";
3. Any pesticide classified as a "Class 9" pesticide by the Ontario, Canada, Ministry of the Environment; and
4. Any pesticide classified as a "Category 1 Endocrine Disruptor" by the European Commission.

[5. Any pesticide containing a chemical designated by the Maryland Department of Agriculture as belonging to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals.](#)

C. The City Manager shall publish an updated version of the register of restricted pesticides that reflects any changes to the classifications in subsection (B) of this section on or before March 1st of each year that will remain in effect for one year.