

Policy No.: 21-05

Introduced: 6/14/2021

Adopted: 6/14/2021

Effective Date: 6/14/2021

Policy on Glen Echo Sustainable Land and Building Management Practices

Section 1. Purpose.

The Glen Echo Town Council hereby finds and declares that it shall be the policy of the Town of Glen Echo to eliminate toxic pesticide use, except in the case of an emergency public health situation (an unpredictable outbreak of a poisonous, stinging, or biting insect, or poisonous or stinging plant that threatens public health), invasive species control, or State mandate, in and on Town-owned property in order to promote a healthy environment and protect the public and Town employees from the risks of pesticides; for the Town and for Town contractors to implement sustainable land and building management practices at all Town-owned properties; and for the Town to endeavor to educate the public on the benefits of adopting sustainable practices. The Town follows the Montgomery County Law that Only organic or minimum-risk pesticides are allowed for use on lawns, playgrounds, mulched recreation areas, and childcare facilities.

Section 2. Findings.

WHEREAS, scientific studies associate exposure to pesticides with asthma, cancer, developmental and learning disabilities, nerve and immune system damage, liver or kidney damage, reproductive impairment, birth defects, and disruption of the endocrine system;

WHEREAS, infants, children, pregnant women, the elderly, people with compromised immune systems and chemical sensitivities are especially vulnerable to pesticide effects and exposure;

WHEREAS, pesticides and chemical weed killers are harmful to pets, wildlife including threatened and endangered species, soil microbiology, plants, and natural ecosystems;

WHEREAS, toxic runoff from chemical fertilizers, weed killers, and pesticides pollute streams and lakes and drinking water sources;

WHEREAS, the use of hazardous pesticides and weed killers is not necessary to create and maintain healthy landscapes given the availability of viable alternatives practices and products;

WHEREAS, people have a right not to be involuntarily exposed to pesticides or weed killers in the air, water or soil that inevitably result from chemical drift and contaminated runoff;

WHEREAS, recognizing that if an emergency public health situation, invasive species control, or State mandate warrants the use of pesticides, which would otherwise not be permitted under this policy, the Town Manager shall have the authority to grant a temporary waiver on a case-by-case basis after an evaluation of all alternative methods and materials.

WHEREAS, the use of a sustainable program that emphasizes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) non-chemical methods of pest prevention and management and the use of the least-toxic pesticide as a last resort, will eliminate the use of and exposure to pesticides while controlling pest populations;

WHEREAS, sustainable practices complement other important goals of Town maintenance and administration such as energy conservation and security;

WHEREAS, educating the public on the benefits of sustainable practices will improve the health of the public and the environment; and

WHEREAS, numerous communities and municipalities are embracing a precautionary approach to the use of toxic pesticides in order to adequately protect people and the environment from pesticides' harmful effects; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Glen Echo encourages residents to adopt sustainable and environmental friendly practices via its Green Glen Echo Initiatives and its establishment of the Glen Echo Environment Committee.

Section 3. Definitions.

Crack and Crevice Treatment—means the application of small quantities of a pesticide into openings in a building such as those commonly found at expansion joints, sidewalk joints and cracks, between levels of construction, and between equipment and floors.

Emergency—means an urgent need to mitigate or eliminate a pest that threatens public health or safety.

Sustainable Land and Building Management Practices—means a managed pest control program that: (A) eliminates or mitigates economic and health damage caused by pests; (B) uses—(i) IPM; (ii) site or pest inspections; (iii) pest population monitoring and prevention strategies; (iv) an evaluation of the need for pest control; and, (v) one or more pest prevention and management methods, such as habitat modifications, sanitation practices, entryway closures, structural repair, mechanical and biological controls, effective mowing, watering and fertilizing practices that provide a healthy soil, other nonchemical methods, and if nontoxic options are unreasonable or have been exhausted, a least-toxic pesticide; and (C) minimizes—(i) the use of pesticides; and (ii) the hazards to human health and the environment associated with pesticide applications.

Town Manager —is designated by the Town of Glen Echo to oversee implementation of the sustainable land and building management practices for the Town.

Integrated Pest Management—is an ecosystem-based strategy that focuses on long-term prevention of pests or their damage through a combination of techniques such as biological control, habitat manipulation, modification of cultural practices, and use of resistant varieties.

Natural Organic Fertilizer—means fertilizers that contain nutrients naturally derived solely from the remains or a by-product of an organism, or from a mineral.

Sec. 4 Sustainable Land and Building Management Practice Components.

(1) In General.—The Town shall implement sustainable land and building management practices, that at a minimum— (A) Applies to Town controlled, managed, or owned buildings and grounds; (B) Follows sustainable land and building management practices for addressing pest problems. (C) Presents to Town of Glen Echo Council an actionable plan developed in collaboration with approved advisory committees and interested local advocacy groups with a purpose of providing measurable goals toward sustainability in all aspects of Town operations.

(2) Town Manager - shall— (A) Oversee the implementation of sustainable land and building management; (B) Act as a contact for inquiries about the sustainable land and building management practices; (C) Maintain and make available to any person upon request material safety data sheets, labels, and fact sheets or other official information related to the pesticides, for all pesticides that may be used in the Town building or grounds; (D) Be informed of Federal and State chemical health and safety information and contact information; (E) Maintain scheduling of all pesticide use; (F) Maintain contact with Federal and State sustainable land and building experts; (G) Obtain periodic updates and training from State sustainable land and building experts; (H) Pre-approve any public health emergency pesticide applications; and (I) Maintain all pesticide use data for each pesticide used at Town Hall and grounds for at least 3 years after the date on which the pesticide is applied.

(3) Use Of Pesticides—The Town of Glen Echo shall only use a least-toxic pesticide as part of the sustainable land and building management practices. The least-toxic pesticide may only be used as a last resort following product label application specifications. Pesticides are only to be applied by certified commercial applicators.

(4) Use Of Fertilizers—The Town of Glen Echo shall only use natural organic fertilizers. The use of a synthetic fertilizer is prohibited on properties Town-owned or -managed properties.

(5) Public Health Emergency—

(A) In General—If the Town Manager in conjunction with the Mayor determines that a pest in a Town building or on Town grounds cannot be controlled after having used sustainable land and building management practices and least-toxic pesticides and it is a public health emergency, invasive species control, or State mandate, the Town may use a pesticide in accordance with this subsection.

(B) Town Manager and Mayor Approval Required—The Town Manager and Mayor shall approve, after identifying the pesticide product ingredients and acute and chronic adverse health effects, the pesticide product before any public health emergency application can be made.

(C) Area Use Limitation—The use of an area or room treated by an emergency pesticide, other than a least-toxic pesticide, shall not be occupied or used at the time of application or during the 24-hour period beginning at the end of the application.

(D) Authorized Applicator—The pesticide application shall only be made by a State certified pesticide applicator.

Section 5. Grounds Management Implementation Guidelines.

It is the policy of the Town of Glen Echo to take the following preventive measures to eliminate pest-conducive conditions:

- (A) To maintain healthy soil, soil sampling and analysis will be conducted to evaluate and assess the level of care needed for the facility's turf and landscape.
- (B) Well-adapted, pest-resistant grass varieties that are more suitable for the Town's climate will be planted.
- (C) Lawn aeration will be scheduled twice a year.
- (D) De-thatching practices must keep the thatch layers less than ½" in order to keep the grass less susceptible to insects, disease and weather stress.
- (E) A proper pH for the soils will be maintained. The soil should be tested in order to adjust the pH if needed.
- (F) Annual fall fertilizer applications will be scheduled and carried out. Only slow release fertilizer formulations will be used.
- (G) Approved soil amendments will be applied as necessitated by soil test results. Following, but not limited to, the recommendations of the Northeast Organic Farmers' Association and/or the Organic Material Review Institute of Eugene, OR.
- (H) Outdoor management practices will be modified to comply with organic horticultural science, including scouting, monitoring, watering, pruning, proper spacing and mulching.
- (I) Practices will include the use of physical controls, including hand-weeding and overseeding.
- (J) Practices will also include the use of biological controls, including the introduction of natural predators, and enhancement of a favorable environment for a pest's natural enemies.

Section 6. City Contracts and Enforcement.

- (1) All applicable Town contracts shall be subject to the Town's sustainable land and building management practices;
- (2) Failure to comply with the provisions of this act as specified in a contract with the Town may, at the discretion of the Town, result in the voiding of said contract.

Section 6. Public Outreach Campaigns.

The Town recognizes the importance of educating the public on benefits of adopting sustainable practices and the potential dangers of toxic pesticide and synthetic fertilizer use. The Town shall engage in a public education campaign aimed at mitigating the use of toxic pesticides, weed killers and synthetic fertilizers. The Town shall identify or prepare, and then periodically disseminate, materials designed to educate the community about the role of pesticides in our local environment, compliance with recommendations set forth in this policy as well as earth-friendly practices and alternatives to the use of harmful pesticides.

- (A) Public awareness and education may take the form of pamphlets and brochures, whether produced and distributed on paper or electronically, and classes and seminars, involving Town staff, non-Town governmental agencies, community and advocacy groups, and other resources.

(B) Materials shall include information about and links to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's list of minimum risk pesticides. The Town shall publish the EPA's list of minimum risk pesticides on or before March 1 of each year and ensure that the publication reflects any changes.

Section 7. And Be It Further Enacted. That this policy shall take effect as of the date of its passage.