



Town of Antigonish Pesticide Policy

Purpose

To support reduction and eventual elimination of non-essential cosmetic pesticide use.

Background

Increasingly, research shows pesticides are linked to negative health and environmental effects; however, objective scientific evidence of long-term and low-level exposure risks is unclear. This issue results in a national questioning of pesticide use for lawn and garden care. Based upon a precautionary principal, municipalities are increasingly taking action to eliminate cosmetic pesticide use. Furthermore, a recent public visioning process entitled *Antigonish 2020 Foresight*, identified cosmetic pesticide use as a community concern. In response, research was conducted on the issue to identify an appropriate course of action. Nova Scotia's legislation, however, currently limits municipal authority to regulate and the House is currently moving forward to broaden regulatory powers. Under legislative changes for greater municipal discretion, now is the time to prepare our community's plans for regulation of pesticide use.

Definitions

- "non-essential cosmetic pesticide use" is the application of pesticides on outdoor trees, shrubs, flowers or other ornamental plants and turf to eliminate weeds, insects, rodents, and fungi.
- "pesticide" means synthetic pesticides, including herbicides, insecticides and fungicides, as well as any product in which they are present whether or not the product has been given a Pest Control Number (PCP#) in Canada.

Statement

1. Through education and advocacy, work towards immediate reduction of cosmetic pesticide use.
2. Develop and implement a policy to ban pesticide use on municipal property.
3. Develop and implement a cosmetic pesticide use notification and registration by-law.
4. In preparation for legislation changes to broaden municipal regulation, consult with the community for consideration of designing and implementing a by-law to ban the use of cosmetic pesticide products.
5. The Town of Antigonish shall work with the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities and the Province of Nova Scotia to clear any legal obstacles that may limit the ability of a municipality in Nova Scotia to regulate the use of pesticides within its boundaries.

CAO's Annotation for Official Policy Book

Date of Notice to Council Members of Intent

To Consider (Minimum 7 Days): October 20, 2008

Date of Passage of Current Policy: November 24, 2008

I certify that this Policy was adopted by Council as indicated above.

D. Kampen
Chief Administrative Officer

November 27, 2008
Date