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National Biodiversity Data Series No. 10

Businesses:
actions to help pollinators

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife

All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020

Implementation coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre

Origin Green IRELAND
An initiative by Bord Bia Irish Food Board

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY IRELAND

www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan
Guidelines 3

Supporting the Pollinator Plan: Framework for Businesses

Ireland, North and south, depends on pollinators and the important service they provide. Unfortunately, our pollinators are in decline. Of the 98 different types of bees on the island of Ireland, nearly one third are threatened with extinction. The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 is a strategy that addresses this problem. It is a shared plan of action supported by more than 68 governmental and non-governmental organisations. By helping our pollinators, we are improving biodiversity across Ireland.

Now we are asking businesses across the island to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. All companies, regardless of their sector, size, or land holdings, can play a role in helping pollinators.

If you would like to sign up as a Business Supporter of the Plan, email or mail[1] us a copy of this page signed by a member of senior management. In doing so, your organisation agrees:

1. to carry out at least one pollinator friendly action suggested in this document within the first year of signing up, and to plan to carry out two additional actions by 2020
2. to update the Pollinator Plan Team on the positive pollinator actions you have planned, implemented or maintained each year when contacted, to help us promote your work
3. that your business supports the ethos of the Pollinator Plan
4. Once you've signed up, please send us a copy of your logo. We will only use your logo to promote your pollinator friendly work in the following three ways: on the Partners Page of our website, on our blog and in our annual report. In return you will receive a copy of the Pollinator Plan's Business Support logo, for use in CSR/sustainability reports and on blogs/case studies[2].

Along with the business benefits that come from supporting the Pollinator Plan (see opposite page), companies that sign up will receive a certificate of participation. You will also receive our support in developing your plans to take pollinator friendly actions within your business[3].

We look forward to working with you to ensure that our pollinators and the critical service of pollination are available for generations to come.

Business Name: _____

Senior Management Signature: _____

Print (name and job title): _____

Point of contact (if different than above) _____ email: _____

1 Email: ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie; postal address: The National Biodiversity Data Centre, Beechfield House, WIT West Campus, Carriganore, Waterford

2 Additional use of the Pollinator Plan business support logo requires written approval

3 Currently our capacity to provide support includes consultations over the phone or email

Business Benefits of Supporting the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Bumblebee on wildflower_Steven Falk

The following pages explain the many opportunities for your business to support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, but why should you get involved?

Support of the Pollinator Plan offers businesses a suite of benefits in addition to biodiversity enhancement, including:

- A demonstration of your sustainability credentials to consumers increasingly concerned with supporting environmentally friendly brands
- A way of differentiating your business to key customers who require strong sustainability commitments in an increasingly competitive market
- Assuring the availability of pollinator dependent crops that impact the sustainability of supply chains that are critical to many Irish and Northern Irish businesses
- A framework to support Corporate Social Responsibility objectives, with the flexibility to choose from a variety of low/no cost actions designed to suit every business type
- Attractive options that can be integrated with Environmental Management Systems, such as ISO 14001:2015
- Coordination with Bord Bía's Origin Green programme- pollinator friendly actions count towards the 'Biodiversity' element of Key Target Area, 'Manufacturing Processes'
- A way to increase employee engagement through relevant training and events and improve employee health and wellbeing
- Actions to support community engagement and strengthen relationships with local groups

"At Country Crest we consider bees to be an essential part of our team in producing food"

-Tony Doyle, Commercial Director, Country Crest

"Our butterfly meadow and insect hotel at Wyeth Nutritionals not only contributes to our overall sustainability strategy but enhances the natural habitat of our local area"

-Brian Shiel, Safety, Health & Environment Lead, Wyeth Nutritionals Ireland Ltd.

Outdoor Spaces:

Opportunities for businesses to take action for pollinators

We know that every business is unique, so this guideline document suggests a range of pollinator friendly actions to choose from. The 15 actions below can be taken to help pollinators in your business's outdoor space. These actions are broken down into 5 categories (A-E).

Use this flow chart to select pollinator friendly actions that are right for your business. For step-by-step instructions and top tips for each action, see our **Technical Appendix** (available on our website). If your outdoor space is managed by a contractor, we also have a **pollinator friendly planting code** on our website for these professionals.

A Protect what you have

Most importantly, identify and protect existing areas in your outdoor space that are already good for pollinators

Action 1 -£

Protect areas that are already providing food and shelter for pollinators

B Reduce mowing

Reducing the frequency of mowing allows wildflowers (food) to flower among the longer grass… without spending money on wildflower seed!

Action 2 -£

Mow 1/3 of all grassy areas under a pollinator friendly regimen

Action 3 -£

Create a long-flowering meadow

C Pollinator friendly planting

Take the actions below to ensure you have flowers blooming that can provide food for pollinators from March all the way through October

Action 4 £ £

Plant a clover lawn

Action 5 £ £

Pollinator friendly containers

Action 6 £ £

Plant pollinator friendly bulbs

Action 7 £ £

Plant pollinator friendly trees and shrubs

Action 8 £ £

Create a pollinator friendly flower bed

Action 9 £ £ £

Plant a native wildflower meadow

FAQ "Should I get a honeybee hive on my site?"

Beekeeping is a long enjoyed tradition, but it is also time consuming and requires expertise. We only recommend that businesses bring honeybee hives onto their properties if they have the assistance of an experienced beekeeper. Badly-kept honeybees can make the situation worse for all pollinators. If you take this action, don't forget to help wild bees too!

Action 5 Pollinator friendly containers in Maynooth

Once you've taken pollinator friendly actions, you can receive recognition for your work by logging your efforts on our publically available mapping system, **'Actions for Pollinators' (www.pollinators.ie)**

Need more information or help deciding which actions are best for you? **Visit our website www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan or email us: ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.**

Action 3 Create a long flowering meadow_Réamaí Mathers

D Provide nesting habitats

In addition to food, pollinators need safe places to live

Action 10 Hedgerows for pollinators

Action 11 Create earth banks for solitary mining bees

Action 12 Drill holes in wood

Action 13 Install a bee hotel

E Reduce use of pesticides

Pesticides include insecticides, fungicides and herbicides, all of which can be harmful to pollinators

Action 14 Eliminate use of herbicides

Action 15 Adopt pollinator friendly pesticide code

Action 9 Meadow at Wyeth Nutritionals Ireland Ltd.

Don't have outdoor space?

There are other ways you can support the Pollinator Plan! Just turn the page...

Key

-Costs of each action range from zero/cost savings -£ to most expensive £ £

-Effort required to carry out each action indicated by the number of spades

-**Our FAVOURITE** actions are marked with a bee

Indoor Spaces:
Opportunities for businesses to take action for pollinators

If your business does not have outdoor space, or if you simply want to do more, there are still plenty of ways you can support the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. The 3 actions below will help by raising awareness. These **indoor space actions** don't require you to have any land holdings.

Use this flow chart to help decide which actions are right for your business. Examples of options for each action are provided below. For more details on each option, including descriptions and approximate costings, see our **Technical Appendix** (available on our website).

Need more information or help deciding which actions are best for you? **Visit our website www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan or email us: ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie**

F Raise awareness: Communication actions

To help spread the word about pollinators and the actions we can take to help them, we've published guidelines for a number of different sectors including local communities, schools, gardeners, farmers and more. You can support the Pollinator Plan by raising awareness in these sectors. The communication-based actions below will help your business contribute to the conservation of pollinators and biodiversity beyond your own property.

Action 16 -£

Raise awareness in your Supply Chain

Option 16.1: If sourcing Irish-grown ingredients, ask farmers if they are supporting the Pollinator Plan

Option 16.2: Promote these Business Guidelines to relevant suppliers and contractors. Ask them to sign up to the Pollinator Plan

Action 17 £ to £ £ £

Raise awareness in the Local Community

Option 17.1: Fund printing of our pollinator friendly guidelines for community groups

Option 17.2: Fund printing of our Junior Pollinator Plan for local schools

Option 17.3: Sponsor signage for community groups- see our website for a **signage template**

Option 17.4: Sponsor pollinator friendly planting in local communities

Option 17.5: Fund construction or purchase of bee hotels for local community groups

Option 17.6: Sponsor a pollinator friendly award

Option 17.7: Purchase wildflower seed for a community group

Option 17.8: Sponsor an expert to do a school visit

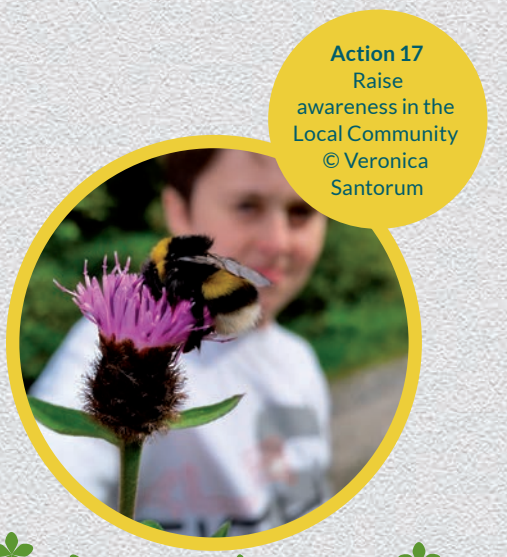
Option 17.9: National sponsorship: contact ufitzpatrick@biodiversityireland.ie to inquire about supporting national Pollinator Plan projects

Action 18 £ to £ £ £

Raise awareness in the Workplace

Option 18.1: Hold a training session/workshop on pollinators for your staff

Option 18.2: Fund printing of our pollinator friendly Garden Guidelines for your staff



Action 17 Raise awareness in the Local Community © Veronica Santorum

Key facts about our pollinators

Bumblebee on flower_Paul Spain

WHO are our pollinators?

While other insects play a role, most pollination on the island of Ireland is carried out by bees. We have one type (species) of managed honeybee and 97 different wild bees. That includes 20 bumblebees and 77 solitary bees. Unlike honeybees and bumblebees, solitary bees live on their own instead of in a big colony.

Honeybee

Bumblebee

Solitary bee

WHAT do our pollinators need to survive?

Just like us, pollinators need food and a place to live. Bees feed on pollen and nectar from flowers, and need the right kinds of flowers the whole time they are active, from MARCH all the way through SEPTEMBER. They also need plenty of safe nesting habitats: long grass, bare earth and crevices in dry stone walls or wood, all of which should be free from pesticides.

Food

Shelter, solitary bee nest

WHY do we need to help our pollinators?

Pollinators are important to our farmers who grow pollinator dependent crops, to our gardeners who want to grow their own fruits and vegetables and for the health of our environment. The annual value of pollinators is at least €53 million in the Republic of Ireland and £603 million in the UK. Furthermore, 78% of our wild plants require insect pollination. Without pollinators, these plants would disappear, and our countryside would be a less beautiful and colourful place. This would impact tourism and the way we market our food products worldwide.

1 Food production

2 Gardening

3 Healthy wildlife_Ecoseeds

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife

About the National Biodiversity Data Centre
The National Biodiversity Data Centre is a national organisation that collects and manages data to document Ireland's wildlife resource, and to track how it is changing.

Find out what biodiversity has already been recorded in your local area:
maps.biodiversityireland.ie

Help us to build up the knowledge of biodiversity in your local area by submitting sightings to
records.biodviersityireland.ie

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Supported by Business in the Community Ireland
and Business in the Community Northern Ireland

www.biodiversityireland.ie/pollinator-plan