MAKE YOUR CITY POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY!

Pollinators matter ... and are at risk!

75%

85%

- They are essential to the functioning of ecosystems and for our health and well-being;
- 75% of the world's leading food crops and over 85% of wild plants rely on pollinating insects;
- This equates to EUR 153 billion annually.

153,000,000,000 EUR

... cities can help by providing:

- A variety of foraging and nesting sites, larval food plants and nectar;
- A refuge for many insect pollinators under threat in rural areas;
- Testing grounds for innovative solutions for pollinator protection.

What policy makers can do:

Spur local action through a formal commitment to protecting and restoring pollinator habitats for instance to the Coalition of the Willing on Pollinators; this can help translate international declarations and European policies (such as the Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive) into local ambitions and programs;

Develop a pollinator-friendly city vision and policy programme to raise awareness and mobilize support which should include all relevant stakeholders;

Set concrete actions to integrate pollinator concerns into urban plans and sectoral policies (i.e. infrastructure and housing, land-use management) to steer supportive sectoral procedures and broaden engagement;

Avoid working in silos, find partners and build networks with other sectors such as large-scale landowners, developers, facility and utility managers, transport business managers, farmers and schools.

What practitioners can do:

Identify high-value and high-potential pollinator landscapes in private gardens, church yards, wetlands, transport corridors, etc. Look for patchworks of heterogeneous landscapes, diverse ground conditions and diverse plant community.

Option 1: Preserve existing pollinator habitats by letting nature take its course.

Image: ZIPS

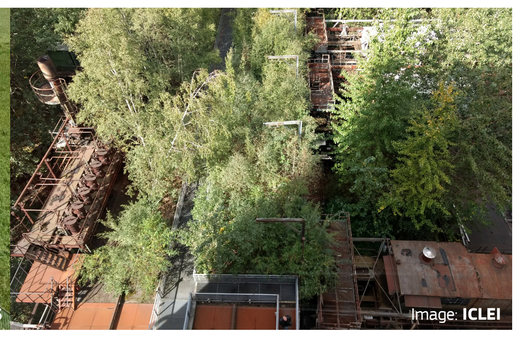
Image: ICLEI

Option 2: Restore, connect and upgrade pollinator habitats such as brownfields and unused urban areas, green corridors, green roofs, SuDS, road verges:

- Create nesting and hibernating habitats for wild pollinators by leaving as many areas wild as possible, or creating insect hotels;
- Use low-risk pesticides, biological control measures and non-chemical pest control techniques;
- Grow pollinator-friendly native plant mixes for continuous supply of nectar-rich flowers and herb-rich areas to feed.

Images: City of Barcelona

Raise awareness of the importance of pollinators for citizens and the urban environment through environmental education (i.e. signage in the city, campaigns), and citizen engagement: collaborate with local schools and nurseries, citizen science for monitoring pollinators.

Edinburgh

Edinburgh's Living Landscape is a multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral effort to create, reinforce and connect green areas for pollinators. It is a municipal initiative and partnership of the City of Edinburgh, the Scottish Wildlife Trust, the Royal Botanic Garden, the Greenspace Trust, the University, Butterfly Conservation Scotland and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds seeking to:

- Implement land management measures;
- Deliver environmental education campaigns;
- Initiate evaluation and monitoring services.

Image: City of Edinburgh Council

Genk

Genk counts on dedicated, voluntary ambassadors for it's Bee Plan: the B-Team. In a collaborative process, they raise awareness of the importance of pollinators and disseminate some of the actions stated in Genk's B-Plan, participating in a variety of events. Their support has been invaluable to the municipality in amplifying dissemination activities.

Image: Ami Vitale

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This work was done in support of the EU Pollinators Initiative which sets strategic objectives and a set of actions to be taken by the EU and its Member States to address the decline of pollinators in the EU and contribute to global conservation efforts.

This document has been drafted by ICLEI Europe within the framework of the contract No 07.0202/2018/795538/SER/ENV.D.2 "Technical support related to the implementation of the EU Pollinators Initiative". The informationand views set out in this document may not be comprehensive and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission, or ICLEI Europe. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this document. Neither the Commission nor ICLEI Europe or any person acting on the Commission's behalf, including any authors or contributors of the notes themselves, may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein. Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.