

Bee Happy



“Bees and other wild pollinators are fascinating, beautiful, and vital to our food production.

They have pollinated our crops for millennia; now it’s time to return the favour.”

Dave Goulson
British biologist and conservationist

Protecting life's little essentials

Bees keep so much of our treasured British landscapes alive: from poppy fields to bluebell woods, bees pollinate wild flowers that support countless other species. They're the very foundation of a thriving natural environment.

Globally, 70% of the 115 most produced crops are animal pollinated; of which bees are the most important insect-pollinators of crops, like tomatoes, peas, apples and strawberries. Honeybees alone are responsible for one in every three mouthfuls of the food we eat.

Bees support not only the variety of the food we eat, but the quality and nutritional value. Their (and other pollinators) contribution to the global economy for providing free pollinator services is estimated at £130 billion; and here in the UK, around £510 million that is 'donated' to the national economy.

But bees are vanishing from Britain's gardens, parks and countryside; 20 species are already extinct and the number of managed honeybee hives have decreased by 54% in recent decades, 70% of bee species in the UK declined between 1980 and 2010.

In the past 60 years we've ripped out 97% of the wildflower meadows, we've caused the climate change impacting their range, and we've applied toxic pesticides across the farming landscape, in our gardens and public spaces.

Neonicotinoid pesticides in particular affect bees' reproduction, resistance to disease, ability to forage and navigate; they can kill our beloved bees. On the basis of the best scientific evidence and following national bans in France, Germany, Italy and Slovenia, in 2013, the EU banned neonics from some farming uses. But the battle for the bees doesn't end there; industry lobbies haven't given up their fight; and the chemicals are still on garden centre shelves and available for other crops.



March of the Beekeepers, Parliament Square, London, 2013. EJF is a founding member and coordinates the UK's Bee Coalition of concerned environmental groups and beekeepers. © EJF

Bee Happy

EJF's campaign to protect bees is simple – through film and inspiring events, we engage with the public, policymakers, food retailers, producers and investors, raising awareness of the impacts of harmful pesticides and advocating bee-friendly farming and gardening. This is our **Bee Happy** campaign.

Life without bees is unimaginable. Help us to give them food and a home, and end the use of harmful pesticides in our gardens and on our farms.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Sign your pledge of **Bee Happy** actions.

Make your garden a pollinator's paradise with wild flower seeds and nectar-rich plants, including trees, fruit and vegetables that provide food for bees through the seasons.

'A bumblebee with a full stomach is only about 40 minutes away from starvation.' *

Let the grass grow under your feet this summer – give bees extra food in the clover and buttercups that grow in lawns and a place to shelter.

Don't spray – never use bee-harming neonicotinoid pesticides on your plants, and let your favourite garden centre know why they shouldn't stock neonics or sell plants that have been treated with neonicotinoid pesticides.

Check the chain – ask your food retailer or producer to check if they have a policy on neonicotinoids in their supply chains – especially for oilseed rape – if they don't have a policy, ask them to develop one.

Support organic producers – the companies that have shown their commitment to protecting Britain's bees and wider environment.

Pollinators in the Polls – ask your MP to support national restrictions on neonicotinoid pesticides, and a time-bound plan to increase bee-friendly habitats and promote organic agriculture.



Become a champion for bees and actively support EJF's campaign, sign up to the newsletter or contact us at: info@ejfoundation.org

Donate to the campaign at www.justgiving.com/ejfoundation to support our work to save bees and other pollinators.

Donate to help fund the Bee Happy movie ejfoundation.org/beefilm

Follow us, share your Bee Happy actions and inspire others:

Facebook www.facebook.com/ejfoundation

Twitter @EJFoundation @StevenTrent

Instagram @EJFoundation

Vimeo www.vimeo.com/ejfoundation

JUST FOR www.just-for.co.uk

100% of the profits from the sale of JUST FOR t-shirts go to support the EJF's international campaigns and projects to protect people and planet.

Thank you for helping us to protect people, wildlife and our shared planet.



Raising awareness of bees' needs - Olivia Colman
© Stephanie Sian Smith for EJF

EJF extends our sincere appreciation to Firmdale Hotels who are generously supporting the evening by donating the venue, drinks and delicious canapés; and to the supporters of our Bee Happy campaign who kindly donated their great products for our gift bags.



Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF)
1 Amwell Street, London, EC1R 1UL, UK
Tel: +44(0) 207 239 3310, www.ejfoundation.org

Registered charity, No. 1088128.

