

ADVOCACY PACKETS

POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY SCHOOL GROUNDS

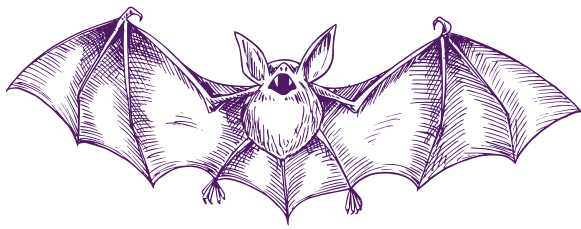
How to create pollinator-friendly locations on your school's campus.

INTRODUCTION

As young individuals, we see environmental issues in our community and on the news and want to take action to protect our future. Often it can be difficult to know where to start or how to enact lasting change as a student. But students around the globe are working to change the world one step at a time - and so can you.

This series of advocacy packets, created by students for students, provides introductory knowledge on these ideas and concepts and walks you through steps on how to begin implementing change in your classroom, home or community. By using our voices and gathering support for these sustainable initiatives, we will change the world.

This specific packet on pollinator friendly school grounds provides you with the information to plan and develop planting areas around your school that will attract a variety of pollinators. This packet will enable you to present your ideas to important stakeholders and explain the importance of pollinator-friendly areas. It will also provide teachers and students with more interactive educational resources and serve as a community learning and wellness tool. Additional resources can be found in [this link](#), which will appear multiple times throughout this advocacy packet.



IMPORTANCE

Nearly all terrestrial life on earth depends upon pollination for survival. The process of pollination itself is the transfer of pollen from one flower to another, and it occurs naturally either through abiotic or biotic processes. Abiotic processes rely on nonliving forces and include the movement of pollen through the wind. Biotic processes rely on living forces and include the assistance of pollinator species to transfer pollen from one flower to another. This transfer of pollen is what allows for plants to reproduce and supports the survival of all other species that rely on plants for food.

Much like there are numerous terrestrial plant species throughout our world, there are numerous species of pollinators assisting in this biotic process. Bees and butterflies are some of the most commonly known pollinators, but various species of bats, mosquitos, birds and small mammals act as pollinators as well. Plants and pollinators have evolved together over time - plants adapting colors and shapes to attract pollinators and pollinators adapting their bodies to best reach the plants nectar. This relationship between plants and pollinators calls requires us to plant species that are best suited for the pollinators native to our area. We must also grow diverse plants to match the diversity of our pollinator species. All of these factors are influenced by growing seasons, location on the earth and migration patterns.

Pollinators around the world are facing dramatic population declines from issues such as climate change and habitat destruction. The creation of pollinator friendly school grounds is a way to help reduce some of the strain that pollinator populations face within your specific community. Implementing these areas around your school, no matter how small in size, is a way to both enhance the beauty of your school and also assist your native pollinators by providing them with access to food and a safe area to reside.

POLLINATORS AROUND THE GLOBE

Pollinators, and the plants they rely on, vary dramatically depending on which part of the world you are in. Conduct your own research to find out what pollinators and plants are native to your region.



INDIA, ASIA

Research has shown that at least 70 species of flies are key pollinators of 60+ different crop plants within the country of India. Medicinal plants, carrots and mustard are among the plants where flies are their top pollinator.

NIGERIA, AFRICA

Ants, though small in size, are large in numbers throughout Nigeria and they love nectar. While these pollinators may not have pollinator-specific adaptations, their colonies are vital to the survival of food crops as they act as fertilizing agents.



UNITED KINGDOM, EUROPE

Of the 4,000 beetle species native to the United Kingdom, almost 1,000 of them are pollinators. These insects were some of the very first pollinators as they've been found in fossils that are older than the dinosaurs.

UNITED STATES, NORTH AMERICA

One of the most widely identified butterfly species is the Monarch butterfly with a migration pattern leading from Canada through the United States down to Mexico. They act as pollinators for a number of wildflower species throughout 3 countries.



STAKEHOLDERS

There are a number of groups you may want to discuss your project plans with; identify important stakeholders and ways to get them involved in your project.

CLUB MEMBERS & ADVOCATES

Environmental clubs and conservation advocates may be one of your strongest advocates in your project. Powerpoint and video presentations are a great way to educate them about your project and its importance.



COMMUNITY & PEER HELPERS

Your school is filled with students and faculty that may be interested in supporting this project, but may not be a part of an environmental organization. Consider spreading awareness by starting a petition like [this example linked here](#).

FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS

These are community members or businesses that would be financially supporting your pollinator project, either by assisting in the costs of the project or potentially donating tools and plants. You can use [this letter outline](#) to share with possible donors.



SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Finally, this group is the most important as they have the ability to approve or decline your proposed project and plans. It's important that you are in contact with administrators early in the process; consider using [this email outline](#) to get in contact with them.

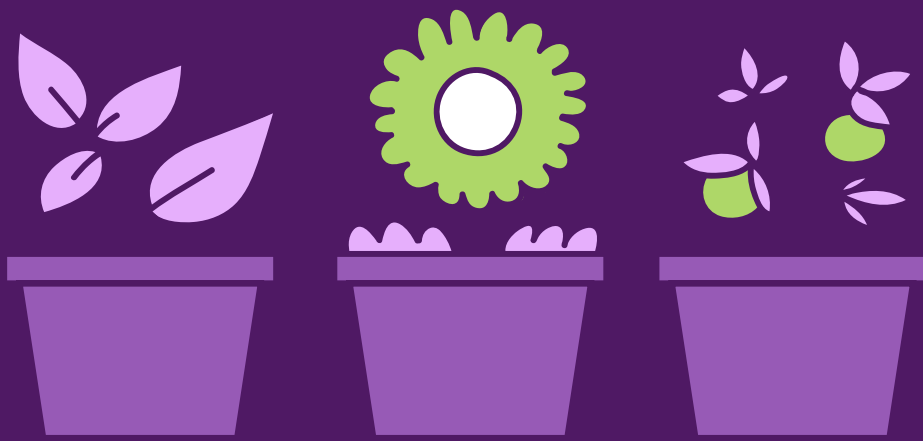
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HOW TO BUILD POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY GROUNDS

While this packet is not designed for the purpose of giving detailed instructions on how to design pollinator-friendly locations around your school, the following gives a brief outline of the necessary steps. Research your specific location to find more detailed information on how to plant a successful pollinator garden.

STEPS

1. Get permission from school administrators and landscaping staff to build your pollinator friendly areas
2. Pick your location(s)
3. Choose what you will be planting - be purposeful and plant native species
4. Collect supplies and tools
5. Gather your community to help
6. Plant your seeds and full grown plants!
7. Continue caring for your grounds
8. Establish an eco-club to keep your pollinator spaces healthy for years to come



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Follow this link](#), under the “Designing Your Grounds” section, provides resources to help aid in your project building process. Start by going through the steps above and narrowing down the necessary tools, proper location, seeds, etc. Remember that no two locations are the same and that your project will be serving a multitude of pollinator types.



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