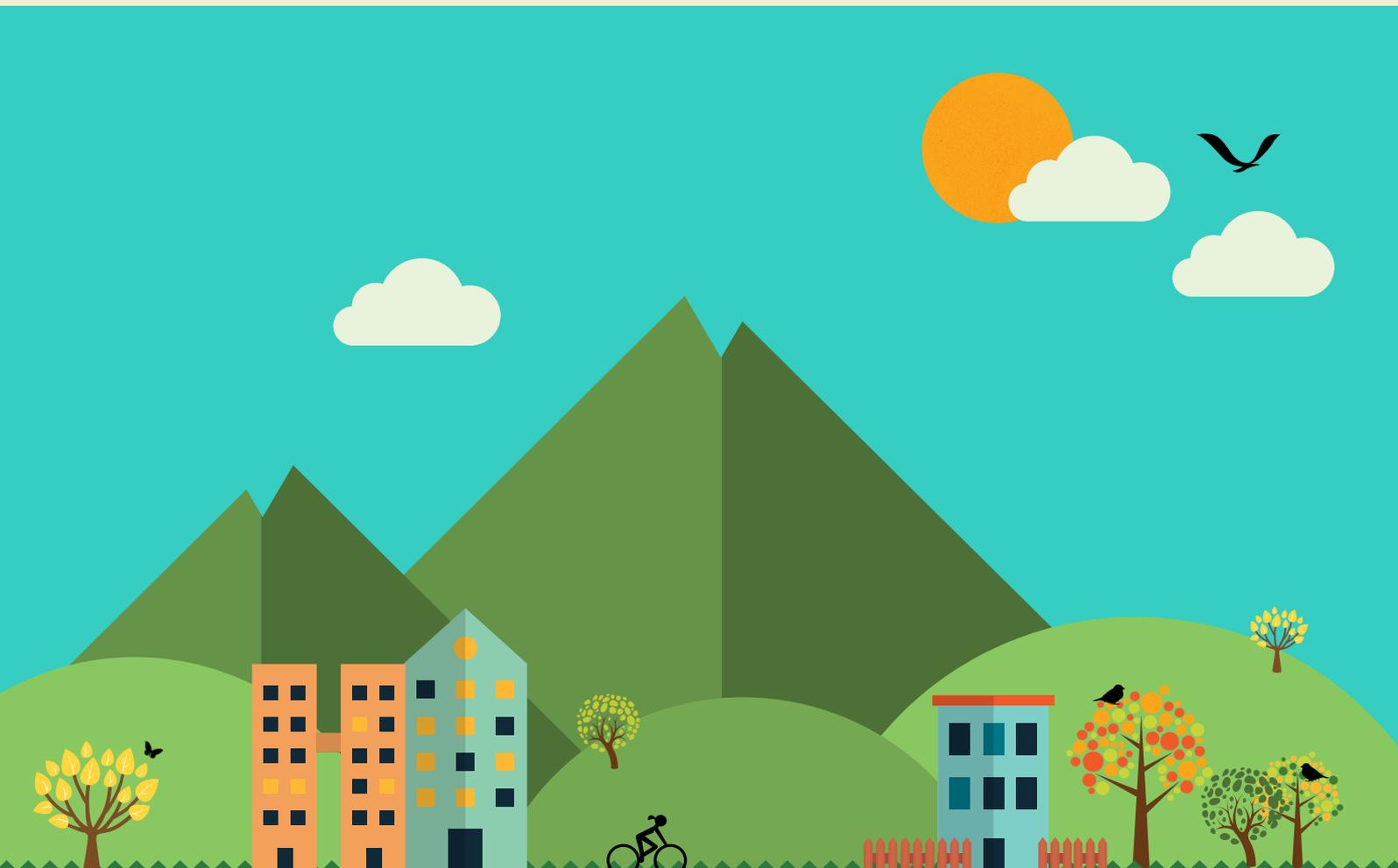




# Investing In Nature

IN YOUR HOME, WORK PLACE, AND POLICIES



# Investing In Nature

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**Funders want you to do something for nature but the purpose of your group is to help people or animals and you are already delivering many other things. Does this really apply to you?**

**In short - yes it does! But don't worry...**



The suggestions here are simple to apply and can:

- Save you money, meeting trustees' responsibilities
- Save you time, more time to do the important things
- Improve staff and volunteer work experience and well-being
- Increase opportunities to have a wider influence on society
- Meet the group's obligations to meet the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015



# WHY HAVE A POLICY THAT SUPPORTS AND HELPS NATURE?



Nature needs us to allow it space to live. We get a great deal of benefit from nature; it feeds us, clothes us, cleans our air and water and makes us feel happy and relaxed. If we want to keep getting those benefits and we want our children and grandchildren to experience nature then we need to give it a hand because nature is in decline – at local and global levels.

This is recognised in the **Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** which sets out 7 goals for Wales to work towards. One of these goals is about healthy, functioning ecosystems – nature – which can provide us with a resilient natural environment that can cope with future changes. It is likely that contributions towards this (alongside the other goals) will become a future requirement of public funding.

We can help nature by thinking about whether what we are doing is going to be harmful, maybe miles away and weeks or years later and what the alternatives are. When we know what we are doing and understand some of the implications, we can make informed decisions and do things differently.



**For information and inspiration about what nature does and why it needs our help, you can watch Wales's own wildlife expert, Iolo Williams, [here...](#)**

**...or read about the wonders of nature and why we need more contact with it [here](#).**



## 1. First Steps

Sometimes the first steps towards doing positive things for nature may simply be to stop doing negative things. Even slight changes can have very real impacts. Using peat-free compost, putting scraps out for the birds, leaving nooks and crannies for insects will benefit nature as well as you and your volunteers – as the following guide shows.

## 2. Finding Opportunities to Do More

As well as stopping the negative things, there are many positive things that we can do for nature that almost invariably benefit us as well. The guide below shows simple, effective actions that can be taken from the kitchen to the garden to the wider countryside and explains why these are important and the impacts they can have.

## 3. Writing and Implementing a Policy

If you decide that you can do more for nature then embedding your chosen actions into an environmental policy will help ensure that they are followed consistently across your group or organisation. It will also demonstrate to funders, and to people who may want to procure your services, that you have a rounded understanding of sustainability and Wales' well-being goals.

Third sector organisations have often led the way on key environmental issues such as recycling, energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emissions and we mustn't allow nature to be left behind. We can all make space for nature, and we need to, for our own health and well being, now and into the future.

The suggestions below show how you can bring nature into your existing environmental policies and the accompanying guide shows the simple steps you can take in your home or workplace to stop actions that harm nature and increase actions that will help nature and wildlife to thrive.



# Easy Tips to Help Wildlife Thrive!



## Indoors

### Spiders, flies and other creepy crawlies

#### **Nature's Way**

Did you know those leggy spiders eat other spiders, even big ones? So if you are not keen on spiders, leggy ones are your friends. Other spiders are really good at eating things like flies and mosquitoes that can carry disease. Mint is an effective fly repellent and a pot by the door is easy to grow. In the building, using citronella or rosemary essential oils can be very effective and makes the room smell wonderful.

#### **Steps in the Right Direction**

If you can't live with our harmless household bugs put them outside and try collecting conkers in the autumn and putting them around the windowsills as they are said to deter spiders.

#### **Think Again!**

Chemical insecticides are something to be used reluctantly, read the instructions and if those don't put you off, follow them with care. Remember you and your colleagues will be breathing those chemicals in too.



# Kitchen

## Left Over's

### **Nature's Way**

Fix a bird table (a small plastic tray / large lid, punctured and hanging from a hook out of the kitchen window), pop the bits on there. Bring it in at the end of the day and wash thoroughly.

If you garden, make space for a compost bin. All vegetable waste, egg shells, salad, veg. leftovers can be popped into here and rot down allowing you to put all that nutrition back into your soil for free as well as providing homes for myriads of mini beasts. See how to make a start composting [here](#). Or you could consider keeping hens; they will eat most of your kitchen scraps and give you eggs.

### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Use a food waste recycling bin or kitchen caddy for council collection

### **Think Again!**

Putting in the bin for landfill, this could land you with a fine from the council.



## Keeping Things Clean

### **Nature's Way**

Clean compost bins, bird tables etc regularly. Clean surfaces and containers discourage flies and vermin; there's nothing there for them. Regular cleaning with basic household cleaners is enough, but most importantly do it!

### **Think Again!**

Don't waste time and money on lots of chemicals.





## Help protect river and sea life by reducing pollution of our watercourses

### Down The Drain

#### **Nature's Way**

Keep an old oil bottle and drain the cool used oils and fats into it. When it's full you can take it to your local authority recycling site, most of which take oil to be made into biodiesel. Check that the glitter in your bath bombs and the exfoliant in your scrub is natural mica, salt, nut shells or other products that will harmlessly rot down

#### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Pour onto paper and bin it or compost it

#### **Think Again!**

Fat and food waste blocks the sink and solidifies in the drains. Fats and oils don't mix with water and any that go down the drain will go through the whole system then out into the river or sea. We all know oil is not good for birds so no one wants to see oiled wildlife.



## Bathroom



### Cleaning

#### **Nature's Way**

Washing soda – cheap environmentally friendly and multi-purpose e.g. cleans the oven, removes tea stains, water softener. **Hemp soap** is amazing. It cleans things you thought were beyond hope! Seems expensive but you use the tiniest amount. Elbow grease – it works wonders!

## Down The Drain

### **Nature's Way**

Although sewage is treated, the system is a bit creaky and many things get through and end up on the beach. Yes that's right, your beach where you go for the day or on holidays. A lot of this stuff is plastic so will stay in the water for hundreds of years and may end up in fish, the same ones that we eat! So if it's not one of the 3 Ps bin it, you could be saving a turtle or a whale every time, and your children from finding something you wish they hadn't when paddling.



Keep loo cleaner use to just what is needed and use low impact brands that break down quickly to harmless products. Use natural air fresheners such as scented leafed plants and essential oils.

### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Keep your cleaner use to just what is needed and use low impact brands that break down quickly to harmless products. Use enough products and elbow grease for hygiene, but don't have it constantly going down the drain. Never flush cotton wool buds, wet wipes or sanitary products, these should all go in the bin.



### **Think Again!**

Does the water need to be blue? Think about where that dye and cleaner goes.



**Remember only 3 things should  
go down the loo:  
poo, pee and paper**

# Outdoors

## We Have Almost No Outside Space / Have Contaminated Land

### **Nature's Way**

A vertical garden? It can be as simple as using an old pallet and fixing it against the wall (either fix some lining material to the base or rest it on the ground or on a row of bricks) stuff it with soil and peat free compost and poke seeds and cuttings into all the holes (you can dip the cuttings into rooting powder first to give them extra help).



Dumpy bags make great raised beds! You can create some edging but it doesn't need to be strong. You can even plant a tree in a dumpy bag. You can sometimes get free compost from your local council's composting site but check it is okay to use for vegetables if you want to use it for that though. How about filling old containers such as sinks, baths, or buckets to use as flowerbeds? (They need a hole, so a leaky one is perfect!) For some other ideas [see here.](#)



### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Even if you only have a wall you could put up nest boxes or construct a bug hotel

### **Think Again!**

Avoid clearing your outside space of every last living thing or covering with non-permeable surfaces. This does no good to wildlife and nothing for surface water run-off to prevent flooding. For more information about the role of planting and flooding, [click here.](#)



**Did you know there are more than 200 types  
of bees in Britain and they need a different  
variety of habitats to survive?**

## We want to introduce something 'arty'

### **Nature's Way**

A bug hotel is a deliberately built structure for a wide range of beetles, bees etc. Bug hotels are a great project for the garden or even in a yard. They can be as simple as some canes pushed into a tin can or they can be real works of architecture or of art. Do you want a structure or a barrier, fence or wall even a seat - include a bug hotel in the design. See some [examples here](#).

If you can incorporate a bug hotel into a structure along with some nest boxes for the birds or bats then you will be giving every bit of help you can to nature. You can see an example of a snazzy bin shelter which is also a bug hotel created by Bron Afon Housing Association [here](#). Or [here](#) is a lovely drystone wall, itself a great place for nature with a bug area built in.

### **Think Again!**

If you use slug pellets, sprays, lawn weed killers and all the other things that are available to make your garden 'perfect', it may delight the eye but it should chill the heart as you will be making your garden a toxic space for nature and killing far more than you ever intended.



#### **Planting for Pollinators:**

**Plant open faced flowers; watch which plants attract bees and butterflies in your neighbour's gardens or at the garden centre.**

**Choose plants to flower throughout the year, e.g. spring - crocuses, late autumn - ivy, when other flowers will not be available. There's lots of advice available on line and here's a [good site](#) to get you started on pollinator planting.**

#### **Pest control:**

**If a product says that it "kills bugs" then that's all bugs including bees, ladybirds and butterflies. Ladybirds eat aphids, such as greenfly and bees can make honey from their sticky honey-dew. If they get too rampant hose the plant to knock them down but leave some for the young ladybirds.**

**Most pests in the garden have useful predators and if we can make the garden attractive for the predators then they will keep the pests down naturally and the garden will at the same time be a haven for pollinators.**

# Mini-Ecosystems



## Compost

### **Nature's Way**

No halfway house here – only use peat free compost if it says 50% peat free it is 50% peat so is not peat free at all.

### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Check that the plants you buy were grown in peat free compost too, preferably locally but certainly in UK.

### **Think Again!**

Peat extraction is destroying rare habitats and releasing CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. Compost with any peat in it is also destroying rare habitats and increasing CO<sub>2</sub> levels. See more [here](#).



## Hedges

### **Nature's Way**

Hedges and trees can add so much more nature to your space because they go up. One Devon hedge was found to contain over 2,000 types of plants and animals, it was 85m long and had a ditch and a bank so perhaps bigger than your project can manage but even a few feet of hedgerow can offer extra space for nature, as well as extra privacy and sound-proofing for your area. Native plants are probably the best choice. Find out more about hedges [here](#).

### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Even a non-native hedge with more exotic plants can offer shelter and food to wildlife.

### **Think Again!**

Don't trim your hedge in autumn when it is laden with berries and before the wintering birds and mammals have had time to make use of them. Trimming garden hedges when birds are nesting may cause the adults to abandon their young which would be an offence. Instead trim your hedges where possible in January or February once the fruit has been eaten and before things nest.



## Ponds

### **Nature's Way**

Even a tiny water feature in the garden will offer birds fresh drinking water and a place to bathe and you don't need any more than a washing up bowl sized pool to add great value to the space.

If your pond has some plants that emerge from the water you may well get dragonflies as well as water beetles, hoverflies and other creatures. Make certain it is easy for hedgehogs to get out; they are strong swimmers but need an escape route. Even in a pond the size of a baby bath you might be lucky enough to get frogs or toads, which will keep the slugs down for you. Find out more [here](#).

### **Steps in the Right Direction**

When removing pondweed use a rake and pull the weed onto the pond side, leave it for a few days so that the creatures can make their way back into the pond and then compost the weed.

### **Think Again!**

Should you decide you have to get rid of a pond choose a time of year when it has as little as possible in it. This is not easy as ponds are of real value to wildlife all year. Try to find another pond very locally that you can move any creatures to but don't take them any distance or you may introduce disease. Better still, relocate it to somewhere else in your garden, dig the new one first and just move the water over.

## Sheds and Shelters

### **Nature's Way**

Your shed is already sheltering many spiders and other insects but all shelters in the outdoors can be made real wildlife havens. When you are building a shed consider putting a green roof on it. This will replace the natural habitat that your shed has covered. Choose a native flower turf or tough plants that can cope with a dry area such as thymes to give as much benefit to nature as possible. Green roofs also slow down water runoff and help to prevent flooding and water-logging, find more [here](#).





**Did you know that it's illegal to dig up any plants from the wild, but with all but the rarest you can take a few seeds?**

## **Suppressing Weeds**

### **Nature's Way**

The nature-friendly weed suppressant is a good mulch, even better if it is compost you have made yourself. Water the ground well before applying a thick layer of mulch. This will not only keep down the weeds but as you add it year on year it will improve the soil as the bugs that will revel in it break it down. If you use bark chippings as a mulch check they are British not imported hardwoods. Find more about mulches [here](#).

### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Mulches that won't rot down such as gravel or crushed glass are not as good for nature, but still better than membranes.

### **Think Again!**

Using a weed suppressing membrane is tempting as it reduces work but it also traps things like earth worms preventing them from finding food and prevents birds from being able to forage for them.

### **Fungi:**

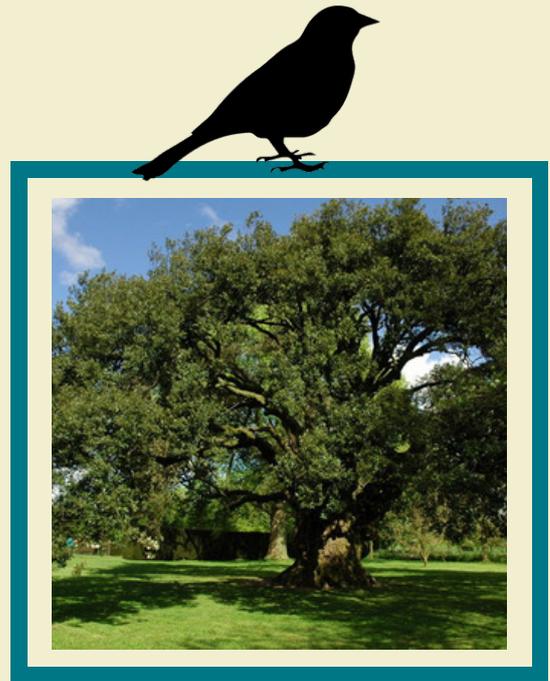
**Fungicides are widely used in gardens and agriculture without thought that they may be having wider impacts but we are now starting to realise that most, possibly all, plants rely on fungi to get many of their nutrients and to really thrive. When we spray fungicides we kill these fungi too. Find out more about this relationship [here](#).**



## Trees

### **Nature's Way**

One large native tree can provide as much food for bees as an acre of wild flower meadow. You might not have room for an acre of wildflower meadow but there is a tree for every space. Oak trees are one of the best for nature but do get very large. But don't despair as even the open canopy of birch trees or the rowan offer beauty and lots of benefits for nature. Find out more [here](#). If you have a food growing area, fruit trees can give you both a crop and additional space for nature.



### **Steps in the Right Direction**

If you can't fit in a tree a flowering shrub such as cotoneaster, which can be trained against a wall and will have flowers for the bees and berries for the birds, can add enormous nature benefit to your space.



### **Think Again!**

Don't put in a tree that will quickly outgrow its space. Their nature benefit grows as they do and will be lost if they have to be cut down. If you are growing fruit trees avoid pesticides.



**Did you know dead wood has more life in it than a living tree?**

### **Silver birch:**

Provides food and habitat for more than 300 insect species. The leaves attract aphids, providing food for ladybirds and other species further up the food chain, and are also a food plant for the caterpillars of many moths, including the angle-shades, buff tip, pebble hook-tip, and Kentish glory.

Birch trees are particularly associated with specific fungi including fly agaric, woolly milk cap, birch milk cap, birch brittlegill, birch knight, chanterelle and the birch polypore (razor strop). Woodpeckers and other hole-nesting birds often nest in the trunk, while the seeds are eaten by siskins, greenfinches and redpolls.



### **Logs and brash:**

Not only do logs and log piles provide places for creatures to hide but also something for them to eat. They are an ideal use for a shady, damp corner. There are two types - stacks of logs or logs sticking up in the ground, find out more [here](#) and [here](#).

If you want something more artistic, how about a stumpery like this one [here](#)? You can also incorporate [mushroom logs](#) into your piles and add to your kitchen garden's productivity.

# Wild Spaces



## **Nature's Way**

Make the most of what you have already, Always look to see what is there already before you do anything to wild areas. Nature is not meant to be tidy – for example brambles are good for lots of creatures - so get advice before starting anything. You can ask your county biodiversity officer who will be with the council or your local **Wildlife Trust**. Remember that a space may not need improving for nature, it may need a bit of maintenance but already be really important for the things that live there as it is. Anything you do will have an impact and things will be lost as well as gained so it's important to know what you may be losing.

If you are going to camp, kayak, enjoy the nature through bush craft or one of the many other ways we can enjoy nature **this site** has some good advice on best practice.

## **Steps in the Right Direction**

Bring the wider countryside into your outdoor space by incorporating wild flowers.

## **Think Again!**

Garden plants do not belong in the wild, not even as memorials or to brighten the place up. You will inevitably harm or take up the space of the things that should be there. Find out about the plants and animals causing problems **here**. Sometimes the species is nearly right but not actually the same as the natives such as Spanish Bluebells or fancy garden daffodils, these can be every bit as harmful as out and out exotics.

Making a site suitable for more types of creatures may not be the best thing if it means you make it less suitable for one special creature that is not common elsewhere.

Never leave any litter, even biodegradable stuff like orange peel, in the countryside, bring it all back with you. See why **here**.



**“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.”  
William Shakespeare**

# Wildlife



- **Encourage Wildlife by offering clean, safe feeding places**
- **Encourage wildlife and increase productivity by putting nutrients back into the soil**
- **Encourage wildlife by creating new spaces for nature to thrive**



## Bats

### **Nature's Way**

Bats are used to living close to humans and have shared our buildings for many years. However modern houses are built without the nooks and crannies of older buildings (and without the drafts) so it's harder for them to make a home. Roost boxes can also be put up on walls and in trees. A single bat can eat 3,000 insects in a night and they can live for 40 years. If you have a bug friendly garden that will help bats too. Find out more [here](#).



### **Steps in the Right Direction**

If you are putting up a new building incorporate special **bat bricks** which give bats a home without actually letting them into the loft space.

### **Think Again!**

Bats have legal protection. If you have bats ask the Bat Conservation Trust or your council's biodiversity officer for advice before doing anything that may disturb them in any way.



## **Birds**

### **Nature's Way**

Our birds are struggling, even once common ones such as sparrows. One of the reasons is fewer places to nest. Even if you don't have a garden you're likely to have space to put up a nest box. You'll be rewarded by seeing all the activity and know you did this, giving a bird family a home. You can find out about nest boxes [here](#), including how to build them to the right size for different birds. Feeding the birds is very rewarding and helps them to survive the winter and feed their young in the summer. Different birds like different foods, find more [here](#).



Remember if you start feeding, the birds do come to rely on you so you should keep it up. Also you must keep everything very clean as, just like us, the birds can pick up bugs from each other when they all come together in one spot. Remember a bird, or other creature, which seems common where you are may be rare in a national or global context so you could be making a real difference. We should be proud of Wales' natural heritage.



### **Steps in the Right Direction**

If you use slug pellets source organic ones as traditional ones are very poisonous to everything and will kill blackbirds, hedgehogs and also the beetles that eat slugs. There are some organic pest control tips [here](#).

### **Think Again!**

Don't discourage the birds; to have swallows nesting in the eaves is considered lucky and any mess from these, or other birds, can be quickly cleared away. Put a board on the ground to catch droppings and mess; remove it once they've fledged – and enjoy watching the flying lessons! Unfortunately many bird species are plummeting, probably because of the loss of insects, which are food for most of our birds, (even seed eaters feed bugs to their babies) and because they are finding less and less places to nest.





**Pollinators are in a bit of a pickle; they are struggling, but did you know that we need them to produce a third of our favourite foods?**

## **Bugs**

### **Nature's Way**

It's not just our bees and butterflies, it's lots of other useful insects that are disappearing due to factors like habitat loss and use of pesticide.

### **Steps in the Right Direction**

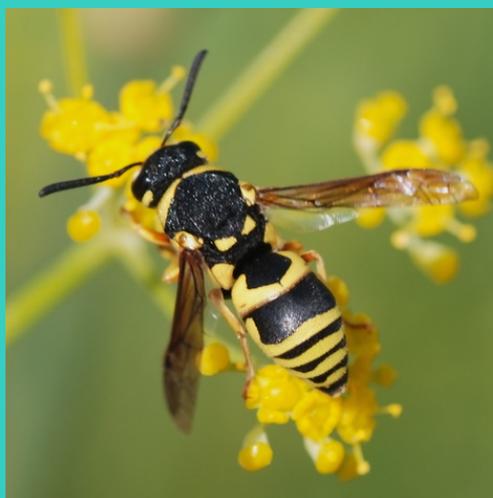
Avoid unnatural double flowers; they have lost their ability to provide pollen and nectar. Leave dead plants over the winter; last year's die-back provides a 'warm duvet' for the plants and insects over the cold winter.

### **Think Again!**

If you cut everything back ruthlessly and remove all cuttings to the green waste bin you will make a very sterile garden, unwelcoming to nature. When purchasing plants ask the nursery/garden centre what insecticides have been used so that you can buy the ones that have been least affected. Asking these questions may help change nurseries and garden centres change their buying behaviours too. Particularly avoid plants where systemic insecticides have been used as they poison the whole plant for weeks.

### **Wasps:**

**Wasps can be a real pain if they are nesting near where you want to be and also in the autumn. But why don't you notice them until then? This is because all summer they are collecting caterpillars to feed their young and are too busy to bother you. Did you know that leaving an old wasp nest where it is can discourage a new queen from setting up home there in the future?**



### **Hoverflies:**

**Do you notice bugs that look like wasps but spend all their time hovering around flowers? These are hoverflies and they are one of our best friends in the garden as they eat aphids and other small pests. They usually start out as wriggly things in water and then turn into the wasp or bee mimics we see. They can't sting at all but they want predators to think they can. They need open faced flowers with really short tubes to the nectar. Find out more [here](#). Killing these hoverflies through using insecticides on your flowers will just make your garden safer for fast breeding pests and will also kill ladybirds and lacewings.**

## **Hedgehogs**

### **Nature's Way**

Hedgehogs are disappearing as fast as tigers! There is not one cause for this but we can help. They need big areas to look for food, at least the size of a football pitch, and one of the reasons for their decline is not being able to get from garden to garden so when building a fence make certain it has spaces for hedgehogs to get through. Also they need safe places to sleep, have their babies and hibernate. Learn more [here](#).



### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Hedgehogs are insect eaters, although they appreciate cat biscuits or dog food left out for them.



### **Think Again!**

Again, an over-tidy garden, every corner strimmed and mown, with immaculate fencing and pesticides is the worst for hedgehogs. Another big danger is power garden tools particularly strimmers so think hedgehog if using one.



**Did you know hedgehogs were roaming the earth long before humans?**



## Nature is a battlefield, sometimes you can use this to help control pests

### Nature's Pesticides

#### **Nature's Way**

Our battle with garden pests has been going on since we started to grow food. A nature friendly way of battling pests when their impacts become too great is to use soft solutions such as nematodes, which will only target specific species. Nematodes can be used on a wide variety of pests including the really difficult ones such as slugs and vine weevil. Of course you will be helping other predators to fight on your behalf by making your garden wildlife friendly and the ladybirds, lacewings, hoverflies and even wasps will be keeping the 'plant munchers' down.



#### **Steps in the Right Direction**

It is possible to buy ladybirds and other predators to put into greenhouses and control things like aphids. You need to have a problem before you introduce them or they will have nothing to eat.

#### **Think Again!**

Don't introduce non-native creatures to your garden. Even seemingly innocuous creatures can have great impacts such as the harlequin ladybird, which has conquered the world having been introduced into America and Europe to eat aphids. Unfortunately it also eats our native ladybirds, see more [here](#).



## Slugs

### **Nature's Way**

Some slugs damage plants but not all! Did you know some slugs eat slugs? So even some slugs are our garden friends. There are many ways to discourage slugs that won't hurt other creatures, find out more [here](#). Another solution is to use nematodes, a tiny worm that eats slugs.

### **Steps in the Right Direction**

There are organic slug pellets but follow the instructions carefully as they also kill earthworms. You can make '[lobster pots](#)' by cutting the neck off a pop bottle, inserting the neck back into the bottle and taping it back on. If you put the organic pellets in there the slugs go in and can't get out so the pellets won't be in contact with the soil and that should protect the worms.

### **Think Again!**

Using metaldehyde or methiocarb based pellets endangers lots of things in nature, as well as dogs and children find out more [here](#).



## **Events**

### **Balloon and Lantern Releases**

#### **Nature's Way**

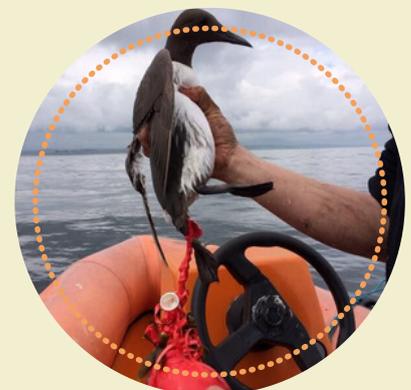
There is no good way to do this, even biodegradable releases are still really harmful.

#### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Don't do it!

#### **Think Again!**

Helium balloons are wind blown, deflated they kill farm animals, wildlife and sea creatures as well as creating litter. Lanterns can be even worse! They have been known to cause major fires. Find out more [here](#).



## **Fire**

### **Nature's Way**

Collect wood for bonfires, but don't build it until the day you want to light it, to be sure there are no hedgehogs or other creatures using it as a log-pile. Position fires well away from hedges and trees. For smaller fires and barbeques use a metal fire wok, metal tray or flat stones to prevent the ground being damaged.



### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Never build a bonfire in advance, it will often have creatures using it as a home. Never build fires under trees or near hedges, it will cause them permanent harm and may kill them.



### **Think Again!**

Don't burn wood with paint on it as it may release toxic smoke.



## **The Site**

### **Nature's Way**

We all love to get outdoors and have fun and it's a great way to thank people for their efforts, celebrate what you have achieved and let new people know about what you are doing. However the temporary arrival of lots of people can have quite an impact.

### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Check the area just before, to make sure that there is no obvious sign of something that may be injured by your activity.

### **Think Again!**

Think about what you might be disturbing, are birds nesting, can you go further away from them or hold the event outside the nesting period? A night-time event may have greater impact for some animals Are you planning to use fireworks? Is this the best site for them?

## Utensils

### **Nature's Way**

The old saying of Lord Baden Powell should apply to us all: *"Leave nothing behind but your thanks."*

Make your job easier by ensuring everything used is either reusable or recyclable or compostable. You can even get **compostable knives and forks**. In an ideal world everyone would take their own waste home.

### **Steps in the Right Direction**

Organise the rubbish and recycling and ensure people know what is expected of them and that you know how you can dispose of everything responsibly. If you put up posters and banners remember to take them back down again.

### **Think Again!**

Don't let people behave like festival goers, everything from the tents to the wellies left behind in the field. **See here.**



**"Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries." - Jimmy Carter**

# Including Nature In Your Environmental Policy

## Why have policies that support and help nature?

- Most importantly as responsible voluntary organisations we often intend to influence others through our principles and behaviour.
- Secondly, we are ideally placed to influence and encourage positive behavioural change through our own actions and methods of overcoming barriers.
- Thirdly, funders or people who may want to procure our services want us to demonstrate we are socially responsible and that we are a well-rounded, sustainable organisation.



## **Below are some examples of how you can bring nature into your existing environmental policies:**

### **1. State an understanding or commitment**

This sets out what your group believes and hopes to achieve.

E.g. **Name of Group** recognises the importance of promoting, protecting and enhancing the environment in meeting its obligations under the Well being of Future Generations Act 2105; in particular Goal 2: *“A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change)”*

To this end **Name of Group** is committed in all its activities to ensuring that it acts to maintain and enhance a biodiverse natural environment:

E.g. **Name of Group** regards making space for nature as an essential component of community development activity. Individuals and communities cannot exercise full and meaningful control over their own lives if they do not also have a measure of responsibility and the capacity to influence their own environment. Name of Group is committed to making its own work an example of best practice for others in the area.



## 2. List the chosen actions that your group intends to take

Your environmental policy may already cover areas such as recycling, resource use, climate change or energy efficiency. If nature is not included, here are some suggestions. Not all of these may apply to your group and there may be many others than you prefer to take. The Investing in Nature guide will give you many ideas to consider.

### **Natural Environment:**

#### **Name of Group** will:

- Encourage wildlife to establish new habitats within its grounds
- Provide feeding opportunities for wildlife.
- Create a new habitat or feeding station each year
- Take nature into account in all its actions.
- Take advice when planning projects on what the impacts might be and how to minimise negative impacts on nature

In addition:

- Wood or timber products will be from local (where possible), sustainably managed woodland
- Cleaning products will be limited, both in amount of usage and quantity of products.
- No use will be made of peat or peat based products.

### **Relationships with Others:**

- **Name of Group** will ensure that its practices comply with all legal protection of habitats and species and will not work with those who flout the law.



The following sections are likely to already be included in your Environmental Policy and are included only for information. If your group does not have an Environmental Policy, WCVA's guide about drafting one is [here](#).



### **Monitoring:**

- **Name of Group** will monitor implementation of this policy annually to ensure that its practices comply with the requirements of the Policy.
- They will report on any major issues arising in relation to the policy in his her regular reports to the Board/steering group.
- All staff and volunteers will seek to implement this policy in all aspects of the business; to this end proposals for improvements will be submitted to **Role Title** for consideration and implementation.

In due course the Board/steering group will consider setting specific targets by which performance against this policy can be more closely monitored and evaluated

### **Responsibilities:**

This commitment affects everyone who works with and for Name of Group, including Board members, staff and volunteers. The responsibility for implementing this policy lies with **Role Title**.

### **Promotion:**

All Board members, staff and volunteers will receive a copy of this policy and will be made aware of its content and requirements

# Going Further

If you would like to do more for nature you can find further ideas and resources at

[www.wcva.org.uk/invest-in-nature-cymru](http://www.wcva.org.uk/invest-in-nature-cymru)



You can also find out how your actions are contributing to a resilient and biodiverse environment at a national level, by reading the [Welsh Government's Nature Recovery Plan](#).



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