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Good practice 4

Adopt a bee



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Bees ask for help - a campaign to protect the living environment of bees and other pollinators financed within the framework of the Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014.





Adopt a bee

Thanks to the Greenpeace campaign everyone has an impact on improving the situation of wild bees in Poland. The campaign „Adopt a Bee” is a response to the sharp decline in pollinator populations. The worst problem in this situation is the difficulty in finding the specific causes of the mass disappearance of bees. It is believed that the main reasons are pesticides used in agriculture, pathogenic mites *Varroa destructor* attacking bees and loss of natural habitats for the development of human farms.

Pesticides included in the insecticides used in agriculture, weaken the immune system of bees, making them more vulnerable to viruses and parasites, impair natural navigation skills, causing confusion and making it impossible for bees to find a way back into the nest. The mites *Varroa destructor* carry many viruses that cause paralysis in insects which largely affects mass dying of bees. The development of intensive agriculture, reduction of green areas for the expansion of settlements and infrastructure results in the loss of valuable natural habitats and nesting sites for bees. This causes difficulty in movements of wild bees and gaining valuable food.

Thanks to the Greenpeace action individuals become part of a larger group that takes care of the place that will be friendly to pollinators. These established hotels sheltering bees, bumblebees and other beneficial insects. Hotels are made from natural, readily available and inexpensive materials. There is even instruction on how to build a different hotel models, so that anyone can build them in own garden or even on the balcony, for schools there was developed lesson education plans about the importance of bees.

As you can see, you do not need to be quite passive on the fate of bees, you can take responsibility for the environment. Hotels for pollinating insects can become a symbol of gratitude for bees for their work in pollination of flowers, thanks to which we have on our tables fruit and vegetables and wild animals have feed throughout the year. Such a life in symbiosis can be fruitful for bees and humans, as Greenpeace argues in his campaign “Adopt a Bee”.



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Fundacja Ekologiczna „Zielona Akcja”, ul. Orła Białego 2, 59-220 Legnica
tel. (76) 862 94 30, (76) 723 81 01; fax (76) 721 24 96
<http://www.zielonaakcja.pl>



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