GREATER BRISTOL POLLINATOR STRATEGY
2015-2020

GREATER BRISTOL POLLINATOR STRATEGY AIMS
Strategy Partners are organisations and groups that have signed up to implement the Greater Bristol Pollinator Strategy. All partners will work together to:

1. Protect existing habitat and increase the amount of pollinator habitat across the Greater Bristol urban area.
2. Raise awareness of the importance of insect pollinators among the public, business and private landowners.

WHY DO WE NEED TO PROTECT POLLINATORS?
Insect pollinators play a vital role in the pollination of agricultural crops and wild flowers. At least 1500 species of insects pollinate plants in the UK including bumblebees, honeybees, solitary bees, hoverflies, wasps, flies, beetles, butterflies and moths. Insect pollination is important for the production of many crops, including apples, strawberries and tomatoes, and is therefore vital to the UK economy, providing a natural service for crop production estimated at more than £510m in 2009. However these important insects are under threat from multiple pressures including loss of habitat, intensive farming, pesticides and disease.

Pollinators require food, a nesting site or larval food plant and places to overwinter. They feed on nectar and pollen from flowers at some stage in their life cycle.

DEFRA’S NATIONAL POLLINATOR STRATEGY
Defra launched a National Pollinator Strategy for England in 2014. The National Pollinator Strategy vision is “to see pollinators thrive, so they can carry out their essential service to people of pollinating flowers and crops, while providing other benefits for our native plants, the wider environment, food production and all of us”.

In creating a local strategy for the Greater Bristol urban area our aim is to promote aspects of the National Pollinator Strategy relevant to urban areas and public land to a broad range of stakeholder groups including the public, businesses and local authorities. We will also set specific targets and goals for pollinator conservation.
GREATER BRISTOL POLLINATOR STRATEGY ACTIONS

Strategy Partners will work together to achieve the local Strategy aims through a series of actions that improve understanding of pollinator requirements, build partnerships and create habitat. An annual Implementation Plan will be developed by the Bristol Pollinator Forum to achieve the Strategy Actions. Since information required to develop the Strategy targets will become available later in 2015, the first version of the Strategy contains seven actions for 2015, Bristol’s Green Capital year, and proposals for actions for 2016-2020. A series of targets will be set annually and progress reviewed at the end of each year.

STRATEGY ACTIONS FOR 2015

1. Found a local Pollinator Forum to share knowledge and best practice among organisations and community groups.
2. Establish a joined-up approach to pollinator conservation in the Greater Bristol area by linking projects together through the ‘Get Bristol Buzzing’ initiative.
3. Identify and map locations of good pollinator habitat in the Greater Bristol area.
4. Set up a ‘Get Bristol Buzzing’ website and promote available resources.
5. Engage with the public and encourage pollinator-friendly gardening practices.
6. Workshops to increase knowledge and understanding of land management for pollinators.
7. Review the Greater Bristol Pollinator Strategy at the end of 2015 and revise if necessary.

PROPOSED STRATEGY ACTIONS FOR 2016-2020

1. Support the maintenance of existing pollinator habitat.
2. Map pollinator habitat and identify target sites that allow habitat networks and stepping stones to be created to enable pollinators to move through urban areas. Look for opportunities to link urban pollinator networks to other landscape-scale projects.
3. Using the pollinator habitat maps set an annual target for a total area to be converted to habitat managed for pollinators.
4. Engage the public with pollinating insects in their local area and simple actions they can take.
5. Work with schools to promote pollinator-friendly habitats on school grounds and educate schoolchildren about pollinators.
6. Work with community groups and businesses to create demonstration sites.
7. Protect key populations of S41-listed pollinators’ and habitats through the planning process.
8. Promote and monitor reduction in the use of insecticides on public and private land.
9. Review the local strategy annually and in line with the National Pollinator Strategy as further information and advice becomes available.

TO SIGN UP TO SUPPORT THE GREATER BRISTOL POLLINATOR STRATEGY PLEASE VISIT www.getbristolbuzzing.org

Photography: Nadine Mitschunas, Becky Belfin

Authors and Steering Group:
Katherine Baldock\(^A\), Becky Belfin\(^B\), Teija Ahjokoski\(^B\), Janice Gardiner\(^C\) Lucy Rogers\(^C\), Mark Steer\(^C\), Andrew Whitehouse\(^C\), Sally Pattison\(^C\), Mike Birkiri\(^C\), Tim Barsby\(^C\)
\(^A\) University of Bristol, \(^B\) Bristol City Council, \(^C\) Avon Wildlife Trust, \(^D\) University of the West of England, \(^E\) Buglife, \(^F\) South Gloucestershire Council, \(^G\) Bristol Friends of the Earth

References: