



· The Beds for Bees Project ·

Beds for Bees is an initiative by RePollinate that **provides funding for, and supports community groups, schools and other organisations** to produce **attractive and pollinator-friendly planting schemes with year-round interest**, using a careful selection of cultivated, perennial non-native and native plants (peat and chemical-free, where possible). These schemes offer communities a tidier alternative to a wildflower meadow, but with all the pollen and nectar **benefits for a diversity of pollinators**. Creating one of these beds involves community groups converting a small area of grassland (e.g. a park edge or on school grounds) or using existing community beds or planters to plant up using plants provided by the Charity. RePollinate then supports groups with a maintenance plan and blogs on the progress of the beds with photos and quotes from the groups.

In line with RePollinate's objectives, Beds for Bees will help to mitigate the dramatic declines in pollinators documented in the UK over recent decades by **contributing to a wider network of feeding 'stop-off points' for pollinators**, thus helping to address the critical issue of habitat fragmentation. The project will **also rejuvenate neglected community spaces** with highly attractive floral displays that provide an uplifting focal point for local residents, and will **raise public awareness** of the importance of moving away from old practices i.e. neat and tidy bedding with chemical control to a more nature-friendly, relaxed approach.

Who are RePollinate?

RePollinate is a Scotland-based charity founded in 2018 whose purpose is **to conserve and enhance the UK's threatened pollinator populations**. Our work primarily focuses on facilitating a cultural change over our relation, interaction and understanding of nature, in particular pollinators and their vital role in our daily lives. We aim to achieve these objectives by improving education on the importance of pollinators and how to protect them, supporting scientific research on pollinators, working with policymakers from local to national levels, and working with communities to create valuable pollinator habitats.

Why Pollinators?

Animal pollination is essential for reproduction in 90% of the world's flowering plants, and is vital for around 20% of the UK's agricultural crops. Therefore, insects like bees, moths and butterflies are crucial for conserving and supporting Britain's natural heritage and food system. Yet, alarmingly, between 1980 to 2020, bee and hoverfly species declined by an average of 25% across Britain. Moreover, current trends predict a continuous and accelerated decline in upcoming decades.

· Would you like to participate? ·

If so, the following commitments would form our agreement:

RePollinate would...

- ...provide a **Bee bed planting design**, which incorporates a mix of pollinator plants that provide variety in flower morphology for different pollinator groups; harmonious/attractive colour arrangements; extended/sequential flowering; low maintenance; and plant suitability for the conditions of your site.
- ... **supply the plants**, organizing for them to be sent to the community group's designated receiver as near to planting time as possible.
- ...cover **the cost of peat free compost** for the first year (if required).
- ...provide a **sign** for the project. This sign includes some pollinator artwork and a QR code linked to RePollinate's website to access further information.
- ...provide **guidance for the ongoing maintenance of the beds**.

Your community group would agree to...

- ... **identify a suitable site**. You should consult with local residents, and contact the landowner to obtain permission for the establishment of the bed.
- ... **organise the preparation of the bed**, including digging it out if necessary, removing any pre-existing vegetation.
- ... **source the peat-free compost** locally and incorporate it in to the bed, as required.
- ... **designate a member of the group to receive the plants** and look after them until planting time.
- ... **plant out the bed** at the agreed time (usually late May/ early June).
- ... have **enough active volunteers** willingly to commit to weekly maintenance sessions of the bed, as required (we recommend three to five volunteers).
- ...**agree to maintain the bed for a minimum of a five-year period**.
- ... **keep us posted**. Send us photos/videos of the site at roughly the same time each month. These would be used to promote the project. It would be good to include members of the community group (as long as everybody gives permission for the photos to be used by RePollinate).

Any questions, please contact:

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· How would your Bee Bed look? ·

Below are two of the Bee Beds we created with community groups in 2022 – just a few months after planting!

Oak Gardens, Raploch, Stirling

Before



After



St Joseph's RC Primary School, Bonnybridge

Before



After



www.repollinate.org.uk

