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## **Getting Stockholm Buzzing**

Stockholm Loves Pollinators is the brainchild of a vicar, an ambassador's wife and a local bee and ecosystems expert. With pollinator numbers in drastic decline, they decided to think globally and act locally, to get Stockholm buzzing.

So back in October they put a beehive in the grounds of the English Church in Diplomatstaden.

But the big vision is to have the whole of Stockholm's Royal National City Park - from Djurgården in the south to Ulriksdal in the north - declared a bee and pollinator friendly zone.

And then to transform the city itself through a joined-up approach to pollinator conservation.

“Pollinators require food, a nesting site, places to overwinter, and an environment free from harmful chemicals,” says Nick Howe, Chaplain of the English Church, “and together we can provide them with what they need, right across Stockholm.”

SR, SVT and Scandic Hasselbacken are putting beehives on their land. Östermalm city park management will be turning the lawns along Gärdesgatan into a pollinator-friendly area with wild flowers and places for solitary bees to nest.

And on International Biodiversity Day, 22 May, diplomats from the Association of Diplomats in Stockholm will take part in a wildflower planting of the roundabout at Kruthusplan in Diplomatstaden, to show what can be done.

“The British Embassy is behind this initiative” says British Ambassador David Cairns, “and wants to contribute to the spread of Good Pollinator Practice in Sweden. As diplomats we represent the global scope of the problem facing pollinators. Together we can help make positive change.”

Despite its green credentials, Stockholm doesn't have a formal pollinator policy. But it wouldn't take much to build a pollinator perspective into every part of the city's land management, says Göran Wiklund, consultant at U&We sustainability bureau and founder of Bin i Stan.

“Insect pollinators play a vital role in pollination, with huge environmental and economic benefits,” he says, “but they are under threat from multiple pressures including loss of habitat, intensive farming, pesticides and disease.”

And everyone can help, insists Sharon Cairns, because pollinators need a large network of ‘food corridors’ which offer a wide range of forage across the city.

“We want to encourage green-space managers and city authorities to create ‘connectivity corridors’ and ‘buffer zones’ in areas in the city which are particularly built-up and where pollinator habitat is sparse, and we want to encourage the public to plant a wide range of pollinator-friendly plants in their window boxes and gardens and put up insect hotels too.”

Stockholm Loves Pollinators is there to help, with advice, and offers workshops for green-space managers and park engineers on the how to become ‘pollinator-friendly by design’.

You can meet our experts at their stand at Hagadagen <https://haga-brunnsviken.org/hagadagen-20-maj/> on Sunday 20 May (International Bee Day). Or get in touch at [www.binistan.nu](http://www.binistan.nu).

A steering group made up of the U&We Sustainability agency, the British Embassy in Stockholm and the Association of Swedish Beekeepers has been set up to raise implement this vision.

Our partners include the Association of Ekoparken, Association of Diplomats Stockholm, Diplomatic Spouses Club of Stockholm, Djurgårdens Real Estate agency, the English Church, GA Design International, Friends of Haga Brunnsviken, HSB, Kungliga Djurgårdens Interessenter, (KDF), Östermalm Association, the Natural History Museum, Stockholms Department of Environment, Swedish British Society, Swedish Radio and Swedish Television, Vetenskapshus and White Arkitekter,

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