

Sustainable Sharing Series

Wildlife on Campus

There is plenty of wildlife on our campuses, and the ways we choose to protect them and engage staff, students and local communities can vary. Ultimately communication is key to enhance and protect the wildlife we have and encourage more wildlife onto our campuses.



Communication is Key

Recruit individuals to get involved in initiatives, give them jobs to do. Use whatever communication strategies and channels as you can to engage others with wildlife and wildlife initiatives. Engagement is key!

Try some of the following ideas:

- Launch events to staff, students and local community.
- Litter picks
- Hashtags
- Bake sales
- Surveys
- Link into other local initiatives looking at sustainability.
- Discussion groups
- Leaflets for distribution
- Social Media, Hedgehog first aid etc.

Work with your Internal comms team, staff news; student news, stalls, posters, twitter is useful. Website, college links, all staff emails, intranet.

Greening the campus

Habitats, bees, trees. Find green spaces and maximise them where you can...

Look for overlooked scrub and unkept spaces, these are an important habitat. Leave some areas in 'natural state' and use signage to explain why meadows have been left untouched.

Engage groups, get people out and appreciating the spaces. Do tours / walks, put up signage. Activities based around wildlife (pond dipping for adults).

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Buildings

Birds find buildings useful for nesting. There may be conflict in how to live alongside wildlife e.g. gulls.

More modern buildings can have missed opportunities. The 'clean' new look can sometimes compete with needs of local wildlife. Pressure like more car parking and new buildings can override leaving areas for wildlife. Find compromises work with gardeners to give a hybrid. Try to get protocols in place which require buildings to consider and apply certain standards for wildlife space. Things you might consider:

- Tie in the original purpose of the site within the plans for new buildings.
- Allow time for sites to develop it sometimes takes time to establish habitats
- Consider light pollution, and work with estates to minimise this. Look for areas people don't use at night.
- Retrofitting is substantially more expensive than considering wildlife in design e.g. swift bricks.

Keep a look out for external grants to fund these projects.

Hedgehog Friendly Campus Initiative

Nationwide, over 30 Universities are participating in this initiative, born of a huge decline in hedgehogs, as milder weather means a rise in mortality with early births.

This is a 3 stage Award – it helps to include as many partners as possible for example, SU leaders, environment manager, estates and sustainability as well as your leadership team. You can find out more about the scheme [here](#)

Getting involved in the Award is free of charge.

Resources and Guides

- EAUC Biodiversity Community of Practice group. There are also lots of resources on the [Sustainability Exchange](#) on Biodiversity
- [Here](#) are some examples of information sheets they have produced at Swansea.