Green Impact Excellence Scheme Case Study

Biodiversity and Bees

Background

Institution: SEACAMS, Swansea University Team Name: BeeCAMS No. of years participating in Green Impact: 3 years 2013-14 Award Level: Excellence

Highlights

- Introduction of honey bees and hives onto the Swansea University campus.
- Designation of a site for a wildflower meadow on campus.
- Raising awareness through web page and honey bee event.

Description

Through the sustainability team at Swansea University, 'BeeCAMS' (a Green Impact team made up of Anouska Mendzil, Christine Gray, Ian Dodkins, and Chiara Bertelli), we we're put in contact with a local beekeeper Lynne Berezanski, keen to find space for two beehives, thus introducing honey bees to the University campus. The first beehives were introduced in January 2014, and growing interest has led to six beehives in total being relocated to the campus. Some of the hives are owned by staff working at the University and the others are owned by individuals outside of the University, part of local beekeeping societies, whom still tend to and look after the bees. The BeeCAMS team helped to coordinate the relocation of the hives, the access for off-site owners to the hives and the safety precautions needed to protect the hives.

One of the most important things honey bees and other pollinating insects need is a supply of flowers for food. Anyone can help encourage bees to their gardens by planting 'bee-friendly' plants, but it is vital to know what to plant. BeeCAMS wanted to provide a wildflower meadow that would be suitable for the honey bees to use a source of pollen and nectar, also essential for honey production. By liaising with the grounds team of Swansea University, a site has been designated for a wildflower meadow, found behind the Penmaen building. The next task was to find out what to plant and to find a supplier. Advice was sought from Dr Dan Forman, an ecologist within the Biosciences department at the University who is also involved in the Welsh government's Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales. The seed mix chosen for the wildflower meadow contains species such as poppies (*Papayer rhoes*), borage (*Borago officinalis*), cornflowers (*Centaurea cyanis*) and goatsbeard (*Aruncus dioicus*), also recognised on the RHS 'Perfect for Pollinators' list. The seed mix contains about 26 species of wildflowers that flower from May to October and will be a potential food source for bees and other insect species which will also help to boost the biodiversity of the Swansea University campus.



To inform staff and students about the bees on campus, a new webpage on the Swansea University website has been created as part of the BeeCAMS Green Impact Excellence Scheme (http://www.swansea.ac.uk/sustainability/biodiversity/). It was important to include details about the location of the bee hives as well as health and safety implications, but also educational information about honey bees and useful contacts for local beekeeping organisations. The BeeCAMS Green Impact Excellence scheme was rounded off with a honey bee awareness day to inform people about the project and future plans for the University to purchase and look after more bee hives that would be housed in other sites around the campus. The event was well attended with members of staff and bee keepers from local associations attending. The day consisted of a few talks about bees and pollinators, bee keeping and an informal question and answer session for the people attending that were interested in keeping their own bees. There was a fantastic array of displays including a display case with live honey bees showing a cross-section of a typical beehive, and honey for sale from local beekeepers. The day was rounded off with a tour of the beehives on campus.

Photograph



Above, one of the first hives to be relocated to Swansea University, owned by Lynne Berezanski from the West Glamorgan Bee-Keepers Association

(#38)	Current Bajdarka	Staff - Español - 477	Funding * Student Switch Off	Beehives	Native UK wildflower meadow	Sustainability
Swansea University Prifysgol Abertawe	THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH UNDERGRADUATE POSTGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL	second second second second	Sustainability Award Sustainability Award Sustain Campus Nature Trail WaRths	Initially two beekines were introduced to campus in January 2014, since then the	A native wildbowr meadow is boing planted on campus as a potential poten	Contact sustainability sustainability@ewansea
			* Contact Us	hives have grown to four	source for the bees	and the second
	 The University () Sustainability () Biodiversity 		* BayCodes	and now to six and are still growing. The fives	whilst also improving and encouraging more	Your local
	Biodiversity		* EMS	are located behind the Wallace building which	insect diversity on campus. The seed mix plantad is specific for bees	beekeeping
	2.104.110.101.J		Swell - Termly	provide a quiet and secluded area where the bees can be left in peace to make their honey. The bees	and butterfiles and contains species recognised as RHS Perfect for Polinators such as poppies	association
			Férwsießer	and twes are owned by individuls on and off	(Papaver monti Barage (Rorago Officinata)	Sugmon and District
A world class University	Hope	v bees	* ORACLE	campus and are cordened off from staff and students by protective netting due to safety	Comflower (Centaurea cyanua) and Goatsbeard (Anuncus diocual. The mix contains around 26	Beeksepers' Society
Generally		luced on	* Love Food Hate Waste Week	precautions, however they are still visible. If you are heading down to see the bees or to the botanical	fowening species that vary in height with an fowening season extending from May to October. A	http://swanseabeekeen
Where is Swarsea			* Blackoud Fund	gardens please make sure you familiarise yourself	designated site has been set-axide for the	http://swanseapeejoed
University?	camp	us	* Gumdrop	with the health and safety procautions on this webpage before visiting.	wildfower meadow, behind the Perimaen building and can be enjoyed by staff and students alike in	
Virtual tour			* Biodiversity		the future.	Quick link to
Virtual tour						the health an
Media centre			Welsh at Work	Bee-day: Honey bee	Description	safety guide
	A State A State			workshop	Bee society	Surety guide
Public services and	A STATE OF THE STA		Information for staff	On Wednesday August	As an outcome of the	Bee Health and Salety
facilities				20th the BeeCAMS	new bees on campus and the bee-day, we	Information
Academic Colleges	Improving biodiversity on campus		Contact us	Green Impact team hosted a great honey	hope to develop a new Swamaea University bee	
Academic Goleges	1 0 1 1	Find out more		bee awareness and information day for staff and	society. The positive	
Sport	With a little help from 2014's Green impact Excellence Team BeeCAMS', made up of individuals from science ordect staff SEACAMS, a number of new and exciting biodiversity led initiatives have been	about Green Impact	Healthy University	students on campus. The day was packed with an informal series of informative talks and	response and interest to the introduction of	
	introduced to campus. The Green Impact Excellence Award is a framework which allows previous successful Green impact teems to develop and tackle larger sustainability projects in a year-out scheme.	empace		presentations by experienced beekeepers and societies and a practical session consisting of	bees on campus has been greater than we	
Working at	away from the workbook.			demonstration and observation hives and a tour of	expected, we hope to continue this enthusiasm and	
Swansea	BeeCAMS have created a sustainability project which aims to improve biodiversity on campus through the	the second se		the university beenves. The event aimed to raise awareness and educate staff on the introduction of	interest by greating a working group where beekeepers and those interested in bees can come	
	introduction of honey bees and hises on campus and the planting of a native wildflower meadow as a potential nectar source for the bees and to increase flots and fauna diversity. A second phase of the project			bees on campus, bees in general and their decline, oreen impact and biodiversity issues.	together, exchange ideas, hints and tips, take awareness and maintain the bees on campus in the	
Sustainability	is amed at communicating, engaging and raising awareness of these new bodyersity initiatives amongst stall and to encourse stall to use the biological gardens on carroou where these initiatives have been	The British Beekeepers		Supervision and the second second second	awareness and maintain the bees on campus in the fature.	
* E509C	introduced. This will be achieved through a bee-event' workshop in the university consisting of a series of	Beekeepers Association		Click here to view images of the event.	and the	
Sustainability Policy	talks and practical demonstration sessions, creating this webplage and establishing a new bee society and working group.				For more information about joining the bee society, get in touch: sustainability@swansea.ac.uk	
*Fairtade						
* Green Impact	To find out more about the Green Impact Excellence project and how to get implied, wat, http://www.green- impact.org.uk/green.impact.org/wersities.apd.colleges.excellence.award/					
* Dirighter Fatures		Contact		Find out more		

Above, screen shots of the Swansea University web pages created about the BeeCams project.





Above left, Julian Caruana giving a talk about honey bees and beekeeping. Above right, some of the display material and honey for sale provided by local beekeepers.



Above, the BeeCAMS team with two guest beekeepers, from right to left - Julian Caruana, Ian Dodkins, Christine Gray, Anouska Mendzil, James Davies and Chiara Bertelli.

