



# Guide to pass a policy in your community to protect pollinators

## WHO IS THIS TOOLKIT FOR?

Members of Friends of the Earth and anyone across the U.S. who wants to institute stronger protections for bees and other pollinators in cities and towns around the country.

## WHY?

Because chemicals commonly used on lawns and gardens are often toxic and hazardous and pose long-term implications for the health of pollinators, people, and the planet. As a resident in your community, you're most likely exposed to pesticides every day through your neighborhood's green spaces: lawns, gardens, and playing fields. You could be exposed through direct exposure, drift, and runoff. Many of these chemicals impact our health — they're linked to reproductive and developmental harm, kidney damage or cancer. And they're also harmful to wildlife, plants, pollinators, and natural ecosystems.

## HOW TO USE THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit walks you through all of the steps to pass a local policy to eliminate pollinator-toxic pesticides and increase pollinator habitat to protect bees, butterflies and other pollinators.

## IN THE TOOLKIT YOU'LL FIND

- Background information on pollinators and their decline
- A step-by-step guide on how to get your community to pass a pollinator-friendly policy
- Activities and resources for community engagement
- Information to inspire neighbors, groundskeepers, landscapers, and city staff to transition to chemical, toxic, and pesticide-free lawn and garden management on city land

## Contact us for more support!

We are thrilled that you have decided to be a pollinator champion and want to be there for you every step of the way. Please contact us for questions, advice, guidance or materials such as factsheets, petitions, or other resources.

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## About Pollinators and Pesticides

### BACKGROUND

Bees across the country are dying off at an alarming rate. If this continues, it will impact our entire food system and the delicate ecosystems on which our world depends. The bees need your help.

Federal regulators and policymakers have been slow in taking action to protect bees. But you can take action in your community and be part of the solution to the bee crisis now. You can create safe places for bees, help garden retailers commit to bee-friendly plants and products, and educate your friends, families and communities about this important issue and how they can take action. We are already seeing some progress on this issue, from the local to the national level. Now, we need your help to keep this momentum going.

Bees are essential for growing food. One in every three bites of food we eat, from almonds and soybeans to strawberries, is pollinated by bees — but they're in big trouble. Over the past decade, pollinators have experienced dramatic declines. Beekeepers have lost an average of 30 percent of their hives annually (normal rates are 5-10 percent), with some beekeepers losing all of their hives and many leaving the industry entirely. Almond farmers, berry farmers and others in the United States are facing shortages of the bees they need to pollinate their crops, and the cost to farmers of renting bees for pollination services has increased by up to 20 percent.

Bees are not the only pollinators in trouble! In the last 20 years, monarch butterfly populations have decreased by 90%. This decline is due largely to habitat loss. Across the Midwest, millions of acres of "Roundup® Ready" GMO crops — crops engineered to withstand massive amounts of Monsanto's Roundup® — have been planted along the monarch's migration route. This has virtually wiped out milkweed, the only thing young monarchs eat.

There are many contributing factors to this crisis (such as habitat loss, diseases, and parasites). But scientists increasingly attribute poor pollinator health and bee die-offs to pesticide use. A growing body of science points to the most widely used insecticides on the planet — neonicotinoids (neonics) — as a leading driver of global bee declines and glyphosate as a key factor in monarch decline.

While most insecticides are toxic to pollinators, the neonicotinoid family of insecticides stands apart from the rest. These pesticides can kill bees outright. Even low levels of exposure can impair foraging abilities and navigation; disrupt learning, communication and memory; and suppress the immune systems of bees, making them more vulnerable to disease and other stressors. Research has also shown that neonics are harming other beneficial organisms like wild bees, birds, bats, butterflies, dragonflies, lacewings, ladybugs, earthworms, small mammals, amphibians, and aquatic insects—putting food production and the environment in jeopardy.

In addition to contributing to monarch decline, glyphosate is linked to adverse health impacts. In 2015, the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) declared glyphosate a probable carcinogen.

Some places have taken action. More than 100 cities, businesses, states and federal agencies across the U.S. have taken steps to restrict neonicotinoids and other systemic insecticides. And countries around the world, including France, the Netherlands, Brazil, Colombia and Sri Lanka, are all taking steps to ban glyphosate.

With the EPA and Congress dragging their feet, we need to raise our voices to keep these toxic pesticides out of our own backyards and beyond to protect our food system and environment. Together we can have a huge impact. With your help, we will convince communities across the country not purchase or use pollinator-toxic pesticides. This will decrease the use of toxic pesticides, protecting bees, butterflies and other pollinators, creating a safer food system, and help pressure the EPA and Congress to take action.





## FAST FACTS ABOUT POLLINATOR DECLINE

### ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

- Pollinators provide \$20-30 billion to the agricultural economy and honey bees alone account for roughly \$15 billion of that amount.
- The portion of our food supply dependent on pollinators has grown by 300 percent in the last 50 years. \$577 billion of annual global food production relies on direct contributions by pollinators.
- Wild and native pollinators (such as bumblebees, mason bees, and squash bees) contribute over \$3 billion in pollination services to the U.S. agricultural economy. They are estimated to produce between \$937 million and \$2.4 billion to the California economy alone.

### DECLINE

- The number of managed honey bee colonies in the U.S. has dropped from roughly 6 million in 1947 to less than 2.5 million today.
- 4 different bumblebee species have declined by 96% in the last 20 years.
- Over the past several years, documented incidents of pollinator declines were at a record high, with some beekeepers repeatedly losing 100% of their operations.
- In the last 20 years, the number of monarchs has declined by 90 percent. They've dropped from a recorded high of 1 billion butterflies in the mid-1990s to less than 35 million last winter. For this year, early reports suggest a 50 percent decline in their numbers from last year.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists nearly 40 pollinator species as threatened or endangered, and several more are currently being considered for endangered status.

### DAMAGE FROM BEE-TOXIC NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES

- Neonicotinoids are the most widely used insecticides in the world. They are systemic insecticides — unlike contact insecticides that only treat the area sprayed, they spread throughout the entire vascular system of the plant. This renders the whole plant toxic.
- Neonicotinoids are up to 10,000 times more toxic to bees than other insecticides and their use can have immediate and long-term effects.

- While acute exposure can lead to outright killing, long-term chronic exposure to neonicotinoids causes sub-lethal effects. These include impaired foraging and feeding behavior, disorientation, delayed larval development, paralysis, and increased susceptibility to viruses, diseases, and parasites.
- Due to neonicotinoids' systemic nature, bees and other pollinators visiting treated plants cannot avoid exposure and bring back contaminated pollen and nectar to their hive/nest.

### DAMAGE FROM BUTTERFLY-TOXIC GLYPHOSATE

- Glyphosate is commonly found in products like Roundup®. Use has increased dramatically in recent years — from 17 million pounds in 1992 to 286 million pounds in 2012.
- Not only is it toxic to monarchs, it is linked to health effects like non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, nausea, headaches and chest pain.
- The World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer classified it as "probably carcinogenic to humans."

### PESTICIDES HARMING POLLINATORS AND THE PLANET

Neonicotinoid pesticides are acutely toxic to bees, but other pesticides are contributing to pollinator decline and are toxic to the environment and people. Here's a snapshot of other high risk pesticides.

#### Systemic Insecticides

- Neonicotinoids' systemic nature is what makes them particularly harmful to bees. In the last few years other new non-neonicotinoid systemic insecticides such as flupyradifurone have been registered for a variety of uses. These systemic insecticides are also toxic to pollinators and harm the environment.

#### Synthetic Pyrethroids

- This chemical family of pesticides is often labeled as a safer alternative despite being very harmful to bees and non-target insects.

#### 2,4-D

- This chemical was a key component in the Vietnam War defoliant Agent orange. 2,4-D is terrible news for the planet and people. All 2,4-D products are required to carry the DANGER signal word on product labels because it receives the highest toxicity rating possibly by the EPA. It has been linked to serious health issues including cancer, Parkinson's disease, and reproductive harm.

#### Organophosphate

- Organophosphates are a group of chemicals used in domestic and industrial settings. Examples of organophosphates include Chlorpyrifos and Acephate.

# FAQ's on why we need to move away from pesticides

## WHY SHOULD WE TRANSFORM THE WAY OUR CITY GROUNDS ARE MANAGED?

- Millions of pounds of pesticides are applied on lawns and landscapes every year and use is steadily increasing. These chemicals are toxic for people, animals, and the environment. The best way we can reduce pests and balance our ecosystem is to green the land management systems in our communities and transition to sustainable integrated pest management or organic management practices.

## WHAT IS INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT?

- Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is a program of prevention, monitoring, and control that offers the opportunity to eliminate or drastically reduce the use of pesticides, and to minimize the toxicity of and exposure to any products which are used. IPM does this by utilizing a variety of methods and techniques, including cultural, biological, and structural strategies to control a multitude of pest problems. IPM is a term that is used loosely with many different definitions and methods of implementation. IPM can mean virtually anything the practitioner wants it to mean. Beware of chemical-dependent programs masquerading as IPM.

## WHY IS ORGANIC MANAGEMENT BETTER?

- Organic management of your city or town gardens and grounds is the best way to manage land and eliminate exposure to pesticides. This management technique is safer for humans and wildlife like bees, butterflies, birds, worms, and soil microbes. Through this technique we are able to improve the quality of soil, making it better equipped to retain nutrients and water, reduce erosion, and absorb air pollution like dust and soot. With this management technique, grass is even better at converting carbon dioxide to oxygen, which creates clean air for the planet. The use of chemical fertilizers and toxic pesticides on landscapes may initially make them look healthy and green, but in reality this chemical-intensive path requires more and more toxic chemicals over time. Instead, organic management techniques eliminate these toxic chemicals and the damage to animals, humans, and the environment.

## HOW IS WILDLIFE IMPACTED?

- The primary purpose of pesticides is to kill pests and unwanted insects. Once they are in our environment, they not only kill unwanted pests, but continue to harm wildlife — even threatened and endangered species.

## WHAT ABOUT WATER?

- Studies show that pesticides used on gardens and grounds are moving into our drinking water and polluting our streams from toxic runoff and drift. There are 30 lawn pesticides that are commonly used. Of these 30, 19 are detected in groundwater, 20 have the ability to leach into drinking water sources, all 30 are toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms vital to our ecosystem, 29 are toxic to bees, and 22 are toxic to birds.

## WHAT ARE THE HEALTH RISKS?

- A growing body of science demonstrates that these chemicals are linked to adverse health effects. When combined, their toxicity can increase by as much as 1,000 times. Because nearly 1,000 active pesticide ingredients are registered for use, testing for these synergistic effects is nearly impossible. However, the National Academy of Sciences shows that one out of seven people are negatively impacted by lawn pesticide exposure because it is linked to asthma, allergies, cancer, kidney damage, birth defects, and other long-term diseases. Children are especially at risk and considered a “frontline community” to exposure because their brains and bodies are developing and vulnerable to exposure and effects.

## HOW ARE YOU EXPOSED IN YOUR COMMUNITY?

- You're likely exposed to pesticides every day via your community lawns, gardens, sports fields, and parks. Pesticides can drift and settle on desks, books, counters, and walls. Pesticides persist in dust and air. In the city environment, everyone is susceptible to breathing contaminated air and touching contaminated surfaces. Pesticides can concentrate indoors to levels ten times higher than pre-application levels! Of the 30 commonly used lawn pesticides, 16 are linked with cancer, 12 are linked with birth defects, 21 with reproductive effects, 25 with liver or kidney damage, 14 with neurotoxicity, and 17 with disruption of the endocrine (hormonal) system. The most popular and widely used chemical, 2, 4-D, kills weeds, but is also linked to human health impacts like reproductive harm, thyroid problems, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. If your community is in a rural area, pesticides are probably drifting into your community from agricultural fields. If your community has any turf, you are also being exposed to pesticides there. Synthetic grass fields are made of materials including nylon and polyethylene, which can lead to exposure of many toxins





### **WILL THIS COST THE CITY MORE?**

- While synthetic pesticide and fertilizer products produce instant results, frequent reapplication is required to obtain the desired effects. Organic and IPM management techniques require less money over a longer period of time and provide a longer-term payoff as you're safeguarding the health of people and the planet. Nothing can outweigh this cost.

### **PESTICIDES ARE ON THE MARKET, AREN'T THEY SAFE?**

- The vast majority of pesticide products registered for use by the Environmental Protection Agency and our state governments have not been fully tested for the full range of human health effects. In other countries they utilize the precautionary principle, which does not allow chemicals on the market if there are any data gaps or inadequate scientific evidence to determine a chemical's safety. But in the U.S. pesticides can be registered even if there is evidence that they cause health and environmental risks.

### **DO OTHER PLACES IN THE COUNTRY USE IPM OR ORGANIC MANAGEMENT PRACTICES?**

- There are many cities, states and universities in the U.S. that are using the precautionary principle to cut down on the use of toxic pesticides. Currently, there are 17 state laws that recommend or require schools to adopt an IPM program. In addition, 315 school districts and 5 individual universities have voluntarily adopted an IPM policy where no law mandates one. More than 30 towns and universities across the country have passed pollinator protection policies.

### **ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES?**

- Absolutely; cities, states, and universities that have adopted organic and IPM management practices demonstrate that it is possible, and that it is not necessary to care for gardens and grounds with large amounts of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. There are safe, healthy, and viable alternatives, products and practices.

# STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE: How to pass a pollinator protection policy in your community

## 1. GET THE FACTS

The first goal is to create pollinator-friendly habitat free from pollinator-toxic pesticides. Systemic insecticides, including neonicotinoids and glyphosate, are used for ornamental purposes on lawns, fields, and gardens. Not only do these products pose a great risk to bees and butterflies, they also can leach into soil and ground water and contaminate surrounding areas and water bodies. As a resident of your city, you have a right to know what chemicals you may or may not be exposed to. Follow these steps to find out what your community is using:

- Find out if your city has a current Integrated Pest Management (IPM) policy, toxic reduction policy, green purchasing policy and/or a grounds management policy and who administers it — a certain department, a contractor, or another entity.
  - Who makes the purchasing decisions? Does the provider have a history of giving a preference to certain products? Who is involved with the decisions?
  - Find out if the city has its own grounds management department or has service contracts with other landscaping and grounds management services.
- Ask for a list of any products used on city property, copies of current contracts for all relevant products, and a list of what problems these products are used to address.
  - Make sure that the list is year-round as the product list may change depending on the season.
  - It is important to find out what the targeted pest is so that alternatives can be properly identified.
  - Check with the City Clerk, the City Grounds Department, the City Planning Department, or any other relevant entity to find who can give you access to contracts and request copies of the contracts.
- Learn as much as you can about your city and its grounds management practices.

## 2. ASSESS THE ISSUE AND EVALUATE THE PROGRAM

- Look at all pesticides in use in your community. Is your city using highly toxic pesticides such as neonicotinoids, Pyrethroids, glyphosate, or 2,4-D? All of these pesticides are harmful to pollinators, people, and the environment. It's important for you assess what chemicals are currently being used.
- Review the list of products given to you by the grounds crew. If imidacloprid, clothianidin, thiamethoxam, acetamiprid, dinotefuran, or thiacloprid are listed as an active ingredient, it's a neonicotinoid and should be phased out! If glyphosate is listed, also phase out this chemical! You can also check the label of the product used (all labels are available [online](#)) and check the active ingredients.

## 3. CONSIDER BEST ALTERNATIVES

- Learn about the hazards of pesticide exposure and the benefits of drastically reducing or eliminating pesticide use and incorporating organic management practices for pest control. Check out the resources guide in this toolkit to get started.
- The first milestone to becoming a pollinator-friendly community is to get rid of certain high-risk, pollinator-toxic pesticides such as neonicotinoids or glyphosate by amending your current IPM, toxic reduction, green purchasing, or city grounds management policy. Your city can also adopt a specific pollinator protection policy. Be sure the commitment includes that commercial pest service providers or city employees provide landscape services that encourage pollinator populations and support pollinator services. This includes a guarantee that all habitat space is built using only native, drought tolerant, pollinator friendly plants that are free of pollinator-toxic pesticides.

## 4. ESTABLISH YOUR GOAL, TARGET AND TIMELINE

- By passing a local pollinator protection resolution, you will help build support and pressure for the EPA and Congress to act to ban hazardous pesticides. Focus on passing a resolution that bans pollinator-toxic pesticides in your community and recommends that the EPA, USDA and Congress follow.
- Identify who has the power to give you what you want and pass a pollinator protection policy. This person will be your target. For example, is a member of your city council, town council or select board able to pass the resolution? Identify who will be most likely to support the policy as well as who will be less likely to support it and who may be on the fence, but can be swayed. Identify who these targets (decision-makers) are and begin establishing a plan for how you will reach out and get them on your side to pass a policy.
- Create a timeline for you and your partners working on passing the policy. This will help to hold you and your entire group accountable and give you clear goals and next steps along the way.

## 5. SET UP A MEETING

- Meet with the head of grounds, city planning, or whoever is responsible for the upkeep of the city's landscaping.
- Present your proposal about which pesticides you'd like the city or town to eliminate, what policy you'd like them to adopt, and what alternatives you'd like them to use. Be prepared to discuss with the city department what the best option is for your community.
- It is best to bring along other members of your community, including local farmers, gardeners and beekeepers, in order to directly represent the interests of individuals who are the most directly harmed by pollinator loss.

## 6. ORGANIZE YOUR COMMUNITY

- An idea may not be enough to sway your city council, but people power will be! Start building a large coalition of community members such as small business owners, farmers, gardeners, beekeepers and students to push your city to adopt a pollinator-friendly, sustainable, and environmentally sound garden and grounds management policy.

## 7. BUILD SUPPORT

- Contact community groups who may be interested in pollinator protection or who are directly affected by the city's use of pesticides. Begin forming a coalition of allied groups and have them contact the appropriate city officials to request that the city adopt a pollinator protection policy.
- Write a letter and encourage all groups in support of the policy to write letters to your city's decision-maker(s) requesting that the city adopt a pollinator protection commitment, IPM or organic management policy.
- Organize a letter delivery with all of the signers to the decision-maker in your city. Try to have a brief conversation with the decision-maker and try to set-up a meeting with them and your allies.

## 8. MAKE YOUR CASE: ORGANIZE A MEETING

- Request a meeting to discuss the issue further with your key target. Provide examples of other cities and explain why it makes sense for the health of your community, pollinators, and environment for your community to adopt a pollinator protection policy.
- After meeting with grounds or the landscaping department, you'll most likely need to get City Hall officials and any sustainability-minded offices to agree to support and adopt the policy. Once city officials agree to meet with you, bring at least two to four people from allied organizations, relevant departments, business owners, or any other parties who have influence on the decision-maker from your community.
- At the meetings, present a draft of the pollinator protection policy you'd like passed, IPM or organic management policy, copies of signed letters from their constituents in support of the policy and any other supporting materials. Talk about how you would like to see the policy passed and implemented. Listen to any questions or concerns and work to develop a mutually acceptable policy.
- Don't forget that elected officials are accountable to YOU—their constituents. If they feel enough pressure from their constituents, they'll be moved to act.

## 9. CONTINUE TO ORGANIZE AND MOBILIZE

- If your city official(s) agreed to adopt a pollinator protection policy, then you are on the road to victory! However, you probably need to gather extra support and spread the word as much as you can. The following are some options that you can use to continuously apply pressure on decision-makers:

- Start a city-wide petition urging the city to adopt a pollinator protection commitment or an IPM or organic management policy. Organize a petition delivery to city hall once you have a large number of signatures and ask local media to cover the story.
- Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper and try to speak on local radio shows about why pollinator protection is important.
- Email, call and meet with other elected officials and decision-makers and urge them to support and vote in favor of the policy.
- Organize a film screening, concert, or other educational event to show your community why city officials need to adopt the policy. Make sure to ask attendees to volunteer and join the campaign!
- Hold a hearing to present testimony and pack the room so that the city council sees the broad support for pollinator health.
- Hold a rally or demonstration in front of the decision-maker's office.

## 10. SIGN THE POLICY

- Once all relevant decision-makers have agreed and a timeline is set for implementation, get it signed!

## 11. CELEBRATE!

- Make sure your wonderful partners feel appreciated for all of their hard work by celebrating your victory together!

## 12. SHARE THE NEWS

- Send a copy of your signed resolution to the EPA, USDA and your Member of Congress. The EPA, USDA and Congress are considering a number of policies to restrict the use of these dangerous chemicals. They need to know that their constituents do not support the use of these pesticides.
- Send a copy to us at Friends of the Earth! We're tracking policies passed across the country. We'll share the news with press, decision-makers and other activists to continue the momentum to protect bees, butterflies and other pollinators from pesticides as quickly as possible.

## 13. IMPLEMENT

- Your city council and relevant departments are responsible for implementing the policy that they just approved, but you will need to stay engaged and make sure the policy is being implemented properly.
  - Monitor contracts, research any possible violations, and make sure your community is holding contractors accountable to the policy.
  - Talk to your allies about creating a group to help oversee the policy. It could be made up of representatives from all allied groups and you could ideally invite members of the city council and/or grounds department to join meetings and give updates.

# Ideas for Community Involvement

## DOCUMENTARIES

The following documentaries are all terrific ways to start the conversation about the importance of pollinators in your city and your neighborhood. Talk to local film clubs or find outdoor movie showings in your community and ask them to feature a documentary about pollinators and/or pesticides. You can also rent out space and hold the screening yourself. Hold a discussion after the screening, and try contacting your local beekeepers' association for a possible demonstration!

Please visit the websites for the following films to get more information and learn about screening rights:

### Documentaries About Bees

- [Vanishing of the Bees](#)
- [Queen of the Sun](#)
- [More Than Honey](#)
- [Nicotine Bees](#)

### Documentaries About Pesticide Use

- [Silent Spring](#)
- [Food Beware](#)
- [Bananas!](#)
- [The World According to Monsanto](#)
- [Fooling with Nature](#)
- [Unacceptable Levels](#)
- [The Human Experiment](#)

### Don't have time for a screening but want something that you can show to your neighbors and community groups?

- [Neonicotinoids: The New DDT?](#)
- [Full Episode: Flight of the Bees \(Encore\)](#)
- [Earth Focus Episode 44 - Killing Bees: Are Government and Industry Responsible?](#)
- [A Beekeeper and an Industry Under Threat](#)
- [Dan Rather Reports: Buzzkill](#)
- [Who's to Blame for Honeybee Holocaust?](#)
- [Beekeeper Jim Doan](#)
- [Earth Focus: Hidden Bee Killers?](#)
- [How Pesticides Affect Pollinating Bees](#)
- [Saving the Bees, Which Are Dying at an Alarming Rate](#)
- [Santa Barbara Creeks Division - Neonicotinoid Detections](#)
- [Why Butterflies Are at the Brink of Extinction](#)

## POLLINATOR PLANTING DAY

- A great way to get your community involved in transforming a part of your community into a pollinator-friendly habitat is to host a pollinator planting day. Talk to local community gardens to see if there are available plots of land that you and your allies can use. You can also talk to the city's landscaping department to see if your coalition can volunteer to plant pollinator-friendly plants in public spaces. At your event, invite as many people as possible and feel free to hand out copies of any Friends of the Earth reports and/or fact sheets to educate your fellow community members about pollinator protection. Contact us for resources. We're happy to send you materials!
- Here are some great guides to pollinator-friendly plants and products to help get you started:
  - [List of wholesale nurseries and retailers that have committed to not use or sell neonicotinoids](#)
  - [Plant milkweed for monarchs](#)
  - [Xerces Society of Invertebrate Conservation Milkweed guide](#)
  - [Pollinator friendly plant lists](#)
  - [Bee-friendly gardening resources](#)

# Sample Pollinator Protection Policy

This resolution addresses systemic insecticides, which includes neonicotinoids, but you can adapt the policy to address other chemicals, too. You can also consider amending your city's current IPM policies, toxic reduction policies, or land management policies to address the chemicals.

## **A RESOLUTION ENDORSING POLLINATOR PROTECTION POLICIES AND PRACTICES, PROMOTING A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**

WHEREAS, threats to pollinators harm the entire food system, since pollination provided by honeybees and other essential pollinators account for one in every three bites of food, is responsible for pollination of key crops, including fruits, nuts, berries, melons and many others, contributing over \$20 billion worth of services to U.S. agriculture; and

WHEREAS, pollinators including butterflies, honeybees, bumblebees, native bees and other insect pollinators are under great environmental stress, experiencing die-offs and diminishing populations, and putting major sectors of agriculture and food security at risk due to habitat loss, pesticide use, pathogens, and parasites; and

WHEREAS scientific evidence shows pesticides, especially systemic insecticides, cannot be avoided by pollinators and pesticides have contributed to the decline of pollinators; and

WHEREAS, a large and growing body of independent, peer-reviewed scientific studies demonstrate that neonicotinoids, one of the most widely used classes of insecticides, are systemic, persistent neurotoxins that spread throughout a treated plant including to the pollen that is gathered by pollinators; and

WHEREAS, neonicotinoids adversely impact beneficial soil invertebrates, avian and aquatic organisms, pollute water resources and soils, and contaminate the pollen and nectar that is gathered by pollinators; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that neonicotinoids are endangering pollinators through acute poisonings as well as chronic sub-lethal exposures, which can weaken immune defenses, causing increased susceptibility to natural stressors such as parasites, pathogens, and studies have shown other adverse effects associated with neonicotinoids, including delays in larval development, decreases in queen survival and negative effects on feeding, navigational and reproductive behaviors; and

WHEREAS, municipal, residential and commercial use of neonicotinoids and other systemic pesticides on public parks, school grounds and other local and municipal areas pose unacceptable risks to bees, other pollinators and aquatic invertebrates, and;

WHEREAS, responding to scientific studies finding that neonicotinoids pose unacceptable hazards to pollinators, the European Union in 2013 instituted a two-year moratorium on some uses of neonicotinoids, while several U.S. cities and counties, including Portland and Eugene, OR; Spokane and Seattle, WA, Minneapolis MN, and Boulder, CO, have adopted resolutions and/or bans against municipal use of neonicotinoids, while the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has banned the use of neonicotinoids on all 150 million acres of its National Wildlife Refuge System; and

WHEREAS, we find these actions to be in the public interest and demonstrates our commitment to a healthy community environment for people as well as pollinators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE [jurisdiction or institution]:

Section 1. The [jurisdiction or institution], including its contractors, will not purchase or use any neonicotinoid pesticides for any purpose, including plants or plant seeds that have been pretreated with neonicotinoids and will seek to use only pollinator-friendly methods of weed and pest control on any City owned or operated land.

Section 2. The [jurisdiction or institution] shall undertake its best efforts to purchase insecticides and other types of pesticides that are safe for pollinators as well as landscaping materials, including plants and seeds, that have not been treated with neonicotinoids. It also urges all businesses, homeowners and HOAs operating within the [jurisdiction] to take steps to ensure that no plants, seeds or products containing neonicotinoids are purchased, sold or used within the [jurisdiction], and to clearly and accurately label any pesticides, plants, landscaping materials, or building supplies that contain neonicotinoids.

Section 3. The [jurisdiction or institution] shall make its best efforts to purchase agricultural products that are not treated with neonicotinoids, including, when practical, to choose food and cotton products that have been certified as "organic" by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Section 4. The [jurisdiction or institution] supports a national moratorium on the sale and use of neonicotinoids and hereby urges all related parties, both public and private, at the local, state and federal levels to suspend the use of neonicotinoids in seed treatments, soil applications or foliar treatments on bee-attractive plants in urban and agricultural settings.

Section 5. The [jurisdiction or institution] will support efforts to educate the broader community about the action it has taken, the importance of creating and maintaining pollinator-friendly habitat and encourage residents and businesses to use similar pollinator friendly practices.

Section 6. The [jurisdiction or institution] will transmit copies of the resolution to the State Department of Agriculture, Governor, State Representatives and Senators, U.S. Representatives and Senators, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Agriculture.