

## Action on biodiversity

### What can you do?

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Think about what you can do to help wildlife and maybe take some inspiration from the action table below:

| Action                                 | Impact  |
|--|---|
| <b>Volunteer</b>                       | Help a local biodiversity group out by volunteering your time to take part in a planting day, litter pick or community group and directly impact your local environment positively!                   |
| <b>Donate</b>                          | Donate to a wildlife charity to support the important work they do – this may be anything from habitat restoration to species support.  |
| <b>Choose certified organic</b>        | This will minimize the impact your food has on habitat by reducing destruction and deforestation.   |
| <b>Plant native trees</b>              | Planting native trees will not only reduce carbon in the atmosphere, but will also give shelter and food for our wildlife. Our bees, birds and bats will thank you!                                   |
| <b>Plant pollinator-friendly bulbs</b> | Planting bulbs such as crocus, grape hyacinth and allium can support our pollinators by providing them food, while also adding a beautiful pop of colour to your garden.                              |
| <b>Reduce mowing</b>                   | Reducing how frequently you mow your lawn allows native wildflowers such as dandelions, buttercups, clover and cuckooflower to emerge – important food sources for a lot of our bees and butterflies. |
| <b>Support wildlife</b>                | Put up bird boxes, bat boxes, hedgehog homes, insect hotels and leave piles of logs, stones and leaves for our creatures to use all year round as shelter and nesting places.                         |

## Where to find more information?

To find more information on what we are doing please visit our website at [www.choice-housing.org](http://www.choice-housing.org)

For more information on what others are doing, and to consider ways to support biodiversity visit:

**Ulster Wildlife** - [www.ulsterwildlife.org](http://www.ulsterwildlife.org)

**RSPB** - [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

**Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful** - [www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org](http://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org)

**Bats** - [www.bats-ni.org.uk](http://www.bats-ni.org.uk)

**USPCA** - [www.uspca.co.uk](http://www.uspca.co.uk)

**Wild Belfast** - [www.wildbelfast.org](http://www.wildbelfast.org)



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## Action on Biodiversity

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## What is biodiversity?

Biodiversity refers to the variety of life on Earth (plants, animals, fungi, and micro-organisms), the communities they form and the habitats in which they live.

## Why is biodiversity important and what is the 'Biodiversity Crisis'?

Biodiversity is important for a range of reasons, including maintaining ecological balance, economic value, cultural significance, and scientific and educational value.

The 'Biodiversity Crisis' refers to the accelerated loss of species and habitats around the world, which is occurring at an unprecedented rate due to human activities. This crisis has profound implications for the health of the planet!

An increasing number of species are facing extinction with others in significant decline. Human activities such as deforestation, agriculture and mining are destroying habitats at an alarming rate. Climate change, pollution, over exploitation of resources, and invasive species can all negatively impact biodiversity.

In Northern Ireland, 1 in 9 of our species are threatened with extinction. And we are the 12th worst country in the world for biodiversity loss.

A loss in biodiversity can lead to reduced agricultural productivity, water shortages, and increased vulnerability to natural disaster.

Many industries also depend on healthy ecosystems and so the biodiversity crisis can lead to economic losses and increased costs for restoration and conservation.

Not to mention the impact biodiversity loss can have on our physical and mental wellbeing too.



## What are Choice doing?

Choice want to understand our impact, keep our negative footprint to a minimum and where possible enhance biodiversity in the spaces we manage. Choice aim to promote native species and support habitats that help stabilise declining populations.

Choice have partnered with Ulster Wildlife to implement a range of suitable biodiversity enhancements for our new and existing homes, and we are working with local community groups on a range of biodiversity projects.

We will review and protect existing biodiversity and introduce additional measures such as bird boxes (and swift bricks), bat boxes, insect hotels, hedgehog homes, and planting of native trees and wildflower.

Our work in this area cannot be effective without the support of a range of stakeholders including local councils and charities, alongside our staff and tenants.

We are collaborating with these groups to enrich our communities.



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