



Action on Biodiversity

choice-housing.org

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, with tropical forests particularly affected.

Climate change, pollution, over exploitation of resources, and invasive species can all negatively impact biodiversity.

A loss in biodiversity can lead Biodiversity 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.

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.

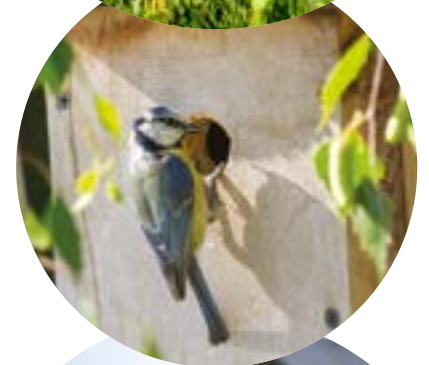
Choice have partnered with Ulster Wildlife to implement a range of suitable biodiversity enhancements for our new and existing homes, and we are working with local community groups on a range of biodiversity projects.

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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What can you do?

Addressing the biodiversity crisis will require all of us to consider the impact we have on the environment and any opportunities to deliver positive change. There are many organisations who support conservation and biodiversity protection and so why not consider donating to these groups or volunteering your time to support a local biodiversity project?

Choosing sustainably sourced products, such as fairtrade or certified organic foods, and products with minimal environmental impact can help lessen deforestation and habitat destruction.

Locally you may be able to plant native species in your garden to support local wildlife, while avoiding the use of pesticides and herbicides that can harm beneficial insects and other organisms. You can also help to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity and the threats it faces and educate others about the steps they can take to protect the environment!

Where to find more information?

To find more information on what we are doing please visit our website at www.choice-housing.org

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

Ulster Wildlife

<https://www.ulsterwildlife.org/>

RSPB

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/>

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

<https://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/>

Bats

<https://www.bats-ni.org.uk/>

USPCA

<https://www.uspca.co.uk/>

Wild Belfast

<https://www.wildbelfast.org/>

