

Persuading others to take action

Action for Insects Session 6 — Resource 1

Who to persuade

Suggestions of people, institutions and organisations that students could write to persuade them to make changes for insects.

- Changing school grounds — Headteachers and Governors
- Changing local parks, verges, amenity green spaces — elected local authority members and non-elected staff
- Changing gardens — parents
- Changing consumer habits and businesses — local and national/multi-national companies who sell/use/sell products which are produced using insect harming chemicals AND/OR parents/Headteachers and Governors/elected local authority members and non-elected staff who make decisions that can affect insects
- Changing decision makers — Local MPs/UK Government for bigger issues around climate change, habitat and species loss.

Things to ask for

Suggestions of some things you can ask for — “STOP/START messages” are a good place to begin...

- **STOP** — using chemicals that harm insects
- **STOP** — destroying the places where they live
- **START** — making more wild places where insects can live and eat and move around
- **START** — being kind to the planet
- **START** — committing to protecting our insects by passing a motion about action for insects (see below for suggested motion text) and publish that commitment.

Suggested motion text

Change this to allow students to use their own words!

[Name of School, Authority or Council] acknowledges that insect populations are in serious decline locally and across the UK, and that everyone has a part to play to help them recover. We all depend on insects for a healthy and functioning natural world.

Therefore *[Name of School, Authority or Council]* pledges to take action to help reverse the decline of insects, and will work with *[our students and teachers, communities, organisations and land managers — delete as appropriate]* to better understand how our activities can affect insects.

We will reduce the routine and unnecessary use of pesticides across *[Name of School, Authority or Council]*'s estate and will support the creation and restoration of habitats in order to ensure pollinators and other beneficial insects can thrive.

We encourage *[parents, staff, all parts of society – delete as appropriate]* to do the same.



Put your address here

Put the date here

Dear <NAME OF PERSON>

RE: *[Put a title for your letter (like "Help for Insects")]*

I am writing to you about _____

I think that it is important because _____

I think that you should *[see some of the suggestions above]* _____

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please let me know what you are going to do to help our insects.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely
[Your Name goes here]