

*The University of Victoria Sustainability Project presents the*



UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA

**B E E**

**C A M P U S**

**C A M P A I G N**



University of Victoria  
Sustainability Project

**The University of Victoria Sustainability Project (UVSP) is committed to ensuring that the University of Victoria (UVic) campus becomes a sanctuary for pollinators amid a changing climate and within an increasingly urbanized and ever-expanding cityscape. The UVSP is currently lobbying UVic to implement institutional changes and support student-led changes (while also helping to lay the groundwork for these changes) that help to affirm UVic as a post-secondary leader for pollinator health.**

The University of Victoria Sustainability Project (UVSP) strives to re-conceptualize sustainability by uniting environmental initiatives, promoting environmental choices, and formulating and implementing sustainable systems on campus. We believe in pursuing ecological and social health on both local and global scales for the benefit of all organisms and future generations. Our vision as an organization is a socially, ecologically, and economically viable campus community at the University of Victoria.

The UVSP is governed by our Board, led by our Board Chair and Communications Officer. The UVSP Board leads and participates in sustainable events and initiatives such as Earthfest, *Ripples*, Good Food Box, Pacific Mobile Depot, and Food Revolution Everybody Eats.



## **What is a Bee City Campus Designation?**

Bee Campus designations are given to colleges, universities, and institutions for higher education that are committed to helping pollinators.

## **Who is Bee City Canada?**

Bee City Canada is an organization with the mission of inspiring cities, towns, First Nations, schools, businesses, and other organizations to take action to protect pollinators. They offer programs which provide recognition to communities and organizations who are making commitments and taking action to help pollinators. A school or a First Nation that is engaged in this process can apply for a free Bee School or Bee City designation. Similarly, cities, campuses, businesses, and other organizations can apply for designations through the Bee City, Bee City Campus and Bee City Partner programs and must pay annual fees — and continue to promote pollinator health — in order to retain their designations.

All program participants must commit to: creating, maintaining and improving pollinator habitat; educating their communities about the importance of pollinators; and celebrating pollinators during National Pollinator Week, World Bee Day and throughout the year.

Bee City Canada originated in 2015, when the organization's founder, Shelly Candel, first learned about the work undertaken by Bee City USA while visiting the state of Oregon. Inspired by the success of Bee City USA and the idea that cities can become champions for pollinators, Shelly returned home determined to find a way to engage Canadian cities, towns and other communities in critical conversations regarding pollinator conservation and health. Bee City Canada found immediate success with Toronto City Council voting unanimously to make Toronto the first Bee City in Canada in March of 2016. Since then, over 150 cities, schools, campuses and businesses have received designations, underscoring that Bee City's message has resonated with Canadians and that communities across the country are ready to take action to protect our pollinators.

**The UVSP believes that UVic becoming a Bee Campus would showcase a steadfast commitment to ecological stewardship and conservation on the part of the university. In addition, the designation will serve as an effective and meaningful way to engage students through a multitude of mediums (i.e., workshops, signage, tabling, restoration and plant nursery projects, pollinator-focused art builds, etc.). It would also help to build awareness and community around how critical it is to create, maintain, and improve pollinator habitat. Since Bee Campus designations must be annually renewed, our campaign to get UVic designated as a Bee Campus will create a sense of accountability. This will ensure that the university and the student body are committed to pollinator conservation in the long run, and that work must be ongoing for the designation to be successfully renewed.**

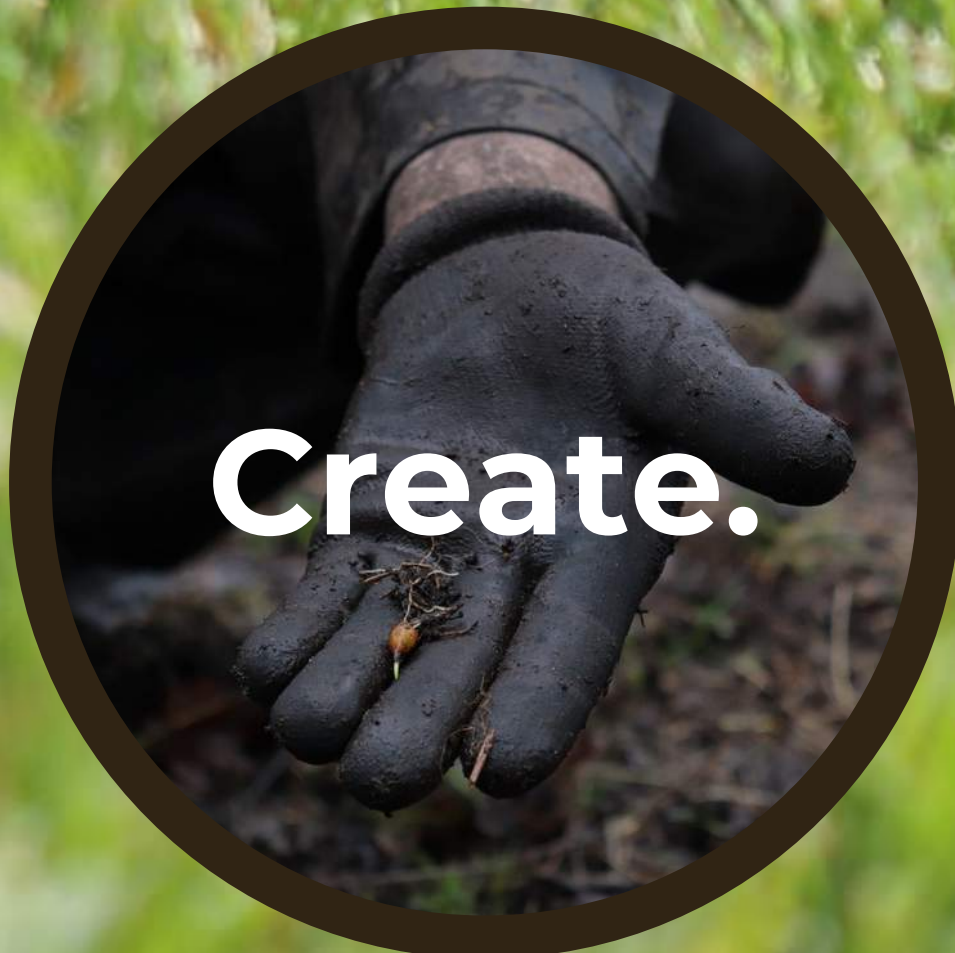
**The protection of pollinators — particularly bees — and the conservation and creation of pollinator habitat are critical because of the invaluable and irreplaceable ecological services that bees and other pollinators provide to ecosystems. Pollinators not only aid in the growth of the foods we eat, but they also support ecosystems that increase air quality, stabilize the soil, and aid in the health of other wildlife.**

**If UVic were to receive a Bee Campus designation, our university would join 16 other post-secondary campuses in Canada, including the University of Calgary, Western University, and McMaster University. UVic would also join Vancouver Island University in being the only two post-secondary institutions in B.C. to receive Bee Campus designations and would assert UVic as a leader in pollinator advocacy.**

**The Bee Campus Program would also give UVic an opportunity to join a network of other Bee Campuses from across the United States and Canada to collaborate on efforts to protect pollinators. Through the designation and participation in the program, students and staff would be educated on the importance of pollinators, and opportunities to form interdepartmental partnerships between those who directly or indirectly study or teach aspects of biodiversity or pollination would arise. These departments could include biology, environmental studies, horticulture, entomology, and agriculture. Participation in the Bee Campus Program would also help to create beautiful and healthful pollinator habits on campus to increase biodiversity and start conversations with staff and faculty.**



**Celebrate.**



**Create.**



**Educate.**

The UVSP plans to get UVic designated as a Bee Campus by campaigning UVic to take leadership as a university well-known for its environmental commitments, and prioritize pollinator health. The UVSP plans to do this by demonstrating three different points to UVic Administration. Firstly, that infrastructure to support a Bee Campus designation already exists at UVic. Secondly, that the UVic student body — including those belonging to Affiliated and Advocacy groups, Student Unions, and Clubs — is very much in support of a Bee Campus designation and undertaking the work to support this designation. Thirdly, that taking the steps to achieve this designation affirms UVic's environmental commitments and will be beneficial to the university and the image it wishes to project.

In order to make these points and to meet the criteria for a Bee Campus designation, we are creating an action plan to protect, celebrate, and educate about pollinators as a part of our Bee Campus Campaign.

We think it's key to collaborate with students and staff to make UVic a designated Bee Campus. This campaign will unite students from all areas of study and create community around our shared love of pollinators and concern over pollinator health.

# Some examples of collaborations we are keen to include in our campaign are:

**1.** Creating pollinator gardens with help from students who are knowledgeable about gardening in the Pacific Northwest and native pollinator plants. These groups may include gardening clubs, Indigenous knowledge keepers, sustainability groups, ethnobotanists & naturalists, or garden-lovers. This collaboration will be undertaken with help from the UVic Ecological Restoration Club through their new native plant nursery.

**2.** Presenting educational workshops and seminars about the importance of pollinators, and native pollinator plants from around the country, with the help of students, staff, and community members who are knowledgeable about pollinators and native plants. These workshops would be aimed at building a pollinator-loving community at UVic through shared passions and learning experiences.

**3.** Helping with the creation of a pollinator mural, with the help from art students and other students who love art. This mural might depict various bee species (i.e. honey bees, solitary bees, or bumblebees) and other species of pollinator (including but not limited to hummingbirds, butterflies, wasps and flies), as well as native pollinator plants.

**4.** Hosting a Beekeeping workshop (or workshop series) for students and staff, and providing an opportunity for participants to learn about the different kinds of bees (i.e. honey bees, solitary bees, and bumblebees) and the other species pollinators that provide the integral service of pollination within our ecological systems.





The UVSP is looking to partner with other UVSS Affiliated and Advocacy groups, Student Unions, and Clubs to support the success of our UVic Bee Campus Campaign. We are looking for partners to commit to pollinator-centric collaborations in the long- and short-term, support lobbying, and help to educate the student body and faculty about the importance of creating, preserving, and improving pollinator habitat.

If you or your organization is interested in partnering with the UVSP on the UVic Bee Campus Campaign, contact us via email at [sustainability@uvic.ca](mailto:sustainability@uvic.ca). We also encourage individuals who are interested in supporting this campaign to email to inquire about volunteer opportunities.



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