

What can I do to HELP?



Solvay has set out to reduce its pressure on biodiversity by **30% before 2030.**

But it'll take more than industry and political commitment to safeguard biodiversity. **You** can make a difference too.

1

Citizen science

Citizen science is the new buzzword among biodiversity experts. Thanks to this participative approach to research, every citizen can gather data and feed it to national or international databases. The precious photos, recordings and observations are then used to help shape better preservation measures. Here are some types of projects you could consider:

Sample Collection

One of the best ways to learn about the state of biodiversity is to take samples – say, specific specimens or water from a nearby river. Some programs enable citizens to take such samples and send them to research centers.

Bioblitz

Once in a while, scientists organize massive biological surveying events. The goal is to record all living species within a designated area and a defined time period. Citizens can register for these events and get to work alongside experts.

Observations and recordings

Do you live not too far from woods, forests, wetlands or bodies of water? Then why not take a walk there and record your observations as you spot interesting plant or animal species? Online platforms like iNaturalist will allow you to upload your findings for the benefit of conservation science.

Community mapping

The observation and conservation of specific species can sometimes benefit from a little citizen help. Projects like Penguin Watch can help gather precious statistics on population changes.

DID YOU KNOW?

Citizen Science can be defined as “the involvement of the non-academic public in the process of scientific research – whether community-driven research or global investigations.” (www.citizenscience.org)

Sustainable habits for stronger ecosystems

You don't necessarily need hiking boots to protect ecosystems! Small changes to your daily habits can already do wonders.

Buy local, organic and ecosystem-safe products. This will reduce carbon emissions, pollution and pressure on biodiversity.

Save water. If you enjoy long showers a little too much, know that less freshwater for you means more for ecosystems to thrive.

Respect local habitat. Enjoy nature to the fullest but stay on track and keep your garbage in a bag.

Reduce the amount of waste you produce. This means not buying stuff you don't really need and composting to reduce your impact on landfill space.

Mind your carbon emissions. Decrease your energy consumption and think twice before using your car. Maybe there is a suitable, CO2-free alternative for this specific trip!

3

Gardens of Eden: it all starts in your backyard

Those of us who have a garden may be pleased to know that they can make it a haven for biodiversity. Here are a few examples of things you can do to attract and protect valuable species.

Ban pesticide use in lawn care. These often run off lawns into adjacent lakes and streams, causing adverse effects on valuable ecosystems.

Create a pond. Besides bringing a touch of zen-ness to your backyard, ponds will attract thirsty birds and a whole new ecosystem with the likes of frogs, dragonflies and fish.

Go for native plants instead of exotic ones. The latter may look nice, but they don't feed local wildlife.

Plant nectar flowers to attract bees, butterflies and other pollinators. Lists of pollinator-friendly plants can easily be found online.

Pile up logs or rocks to provide viable habitats for insects, lizards, or even chipmunks!



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