

To: The University Senate
From: University Resources Policy Committee and Purdue Student Government
Subject: Resolution to adopt a Bee Campus Certification, Increase the Presence of Native Plants, and Reduce to Presence of Invasive Species on Purdue's Campus
Reference: PSG Resolution 22-71
Disposition: University Senate for Discussion and Adoption
Rationale: According to [Bee Campus USA Commitments - Bee City USA](#), a Bee Campus Certification is “a framework for university and college campus communities to work together to conserve native pollinators by increasing the abundance of native plants, providing nest sites, and reducing the use of pesticide.” [1] This certification “earns two Grounds Certification [exemplary practice credit points](#) in the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)’s Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS) system.

The STARS system is a transparent, self-reporting framework for colleges and universities to measure their sustainability performance.

Requirements of the Bee Campus Certification includes the following: [2]

- Establishing a standing Bee Campus USA committee to advocate for pollinators.
- Creating and enhancing pollinator habitat on campus by increasing the abundance of native plants and providing nest sites.
- Reducing the use of pesticides.
- Offering course or continuing education opportunities that incorporate pollinator conservation.
- Offering service-learning projects to enhance pollinator habitat.
- Display signage focused on pollinator conservation.
- Maintaining an online presence for your Bee Campus USA activities.
- Paying an initial application fee and annual renewal fee.
- Annually applying for renewal and report on the previous year's activities.

Bee Campus USA has 164 Campus Affiliates including but not limited to: Butler University, Indiana State University, IUPUI, Michigan State University, University of Iowa, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, University of Maryland, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, Pennsylvania State University, University of Wisconsin-Madison. [3]

Invasive plant species are any plants that are not native to the landscape and often reproduce and spread rapidly, and they lack natural predators. According to the USDA, “A native plant is a plant that is a part of the balance of nature that has developed over hundreds or thousands of years in a particular region or ecosystem.” [4] Native plant species offer a multitude of benefits including contributing to biodiversity, being relatively low maintenance as they are adapted to the landscape, and are beautiful additions to landscaping.

According to the Purdue Arboretum, “There are serious consequences when native species are removed from an area. This reduces biodiversity and leaves the area especially susceptible to the encroachment of invasive species. This can further reduce the number of natives, turning a once thriving ecosystem into a sterile wasteland. But, with knowledge of the situation and careful consideration to planting practices, hope is not lost.” [6]

Proposal Purdue University should endeavor to obtain their Bee Campus USA Certification. The Bee Campus USA Certification venture will be undertaken by the [Bee Campus Purdue Chapter](#) with support from other entities on campus, including other student organizations and Purdue Grounds and Maintenance.⁶ Purdue University ought to plant more native plants while maintaining these existing spaces; and working to remove invasive plant species. Boiler Green Initiative in collaboration with Purdue Student Government will be planting additional native species and removing invasive species in front of Hicks Undergraduate Library and Purdue LGBTQ Center in the spirit of this effort.

[1] <https://beecityusa.org/bee-campus-usa-commitments/>

[2] <https://stars.aashe.org/resources-support/technical-manual/>

[3] https://beecityusa.org/current-bee-campus-usa-affiliates/?filter_state_9358e=NJ||WI&filter_affiliate_type_city_9358e=College%20or%20University

[4] [Why Native Species Matter | USDA](#)

[5] [Let's Grow Native! - Purdue Arboretum](#)

[6] [Making a beeline | Campus | purdueexponent.org](#)

Committee Votes: URPC

For:

Faculty

Jonathan Bauchat
Min Chen
Yingjie Chen
Lori Hoagland (chair)
Juan Sesmero
John Sundquist
Ann Weil
Howard Zelensky

Students

Michael Zimmerman

Advisors

Carl Kreiger

Against:

N/A

Abstained:

N/A

Absent:

Faculty

Benjamin Dunford
Julio Ramirez
Brian Richert
Yuan Yao

Advisors

Michael Cline