

March - Ecology

High Tech - Case Study



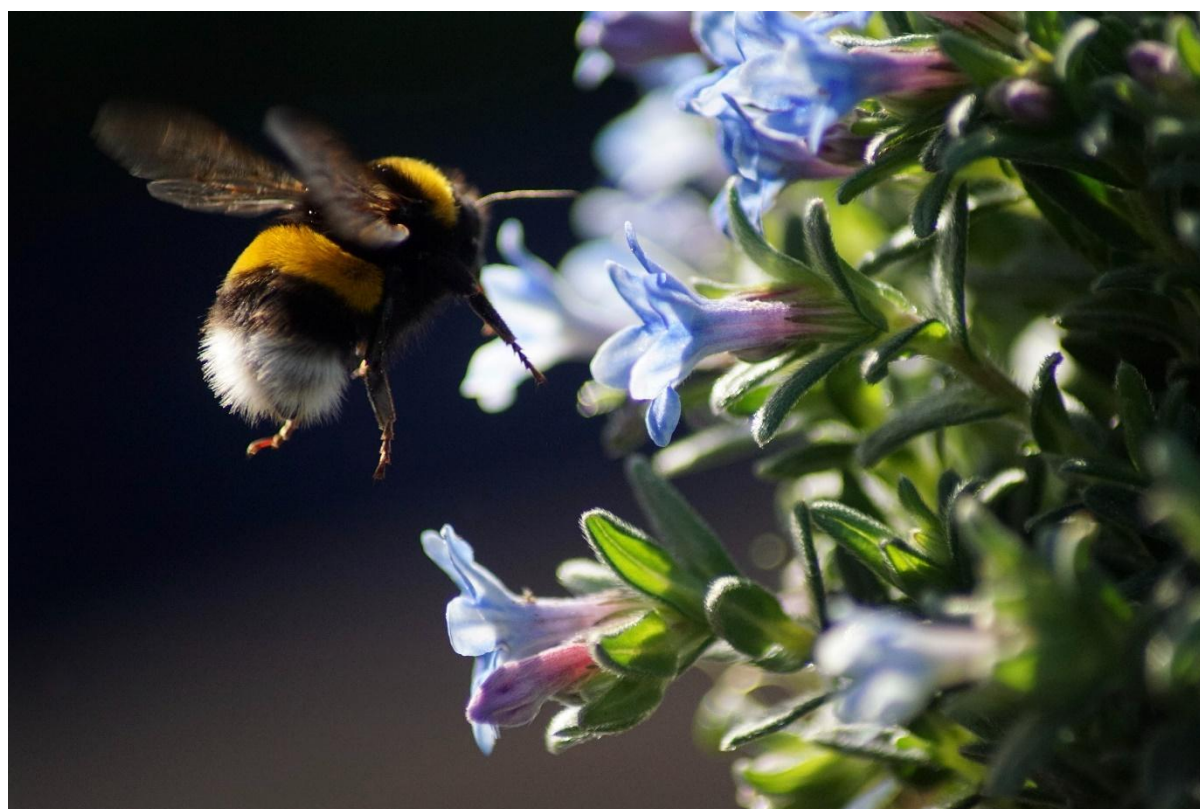
**Calendar for
Climate
Change**

Quid-Pro-Guo - Inter-generational
Education to Ease Global Warmi



Case Study: FIT Count App

Month:	March
Topic:	Ecology
Case Study Title:	FIT Count App



Source: Unsplash, Carolien van Oijen

Name of the Climate or Social Enterprise or Activist Group:	National Biodiversity Data Centre (Ireland) and Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (United Kingdom)
What is their Story?	In more recent years, Ireland has seen a worrying decrease in bee populations. Almost one third of our native bee populations are in danger of extinction. As a result, in 2015, the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) launched their All-Ireland Pollinators Plan 2015-2020 which aimed to combat the steady decline of native pollinator populations across the island of Ireland.



	<p>Since 2020, the NBDC has partnered with the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology to develop and promote the FIT Count app which is used to encourage citizen scientists to examine their local pollinating insect populations to track the changes in national populations across Ireland and the UK. These counts take place across the country between the months of March and October when pollinators are most active.</p>
<p>Link to the Case Study:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apple App: https://apps.apple.com/app/id1540771889 ● Android App: https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.ac.ceh.fit ● Guidelines for FIT Counts: https://www.ceh.ac.uk/sites/default/files/FIT%20Count%20survey%20guidance%20v1_0.pdf ● How to Identify and Record Common Irish Bumblebees: https://biodiversityireland.ie/identifying-irish-bumblebees/lesson.html ● Ireland's Citizen Science Portal: https://records.biodiversityireland.ie/
<p>Why is this a Good Example to Follow?</p>	<p>FIT Counts (Flower-Insect Timed Counts) are a way that you can track the number of pollinators living in your garden and local area. This is very important as it helps us to understand the different types of pollinating insects that support our local biodiversity, as well as the population levels across the country. Consistent FIT Counts undertaken by people across the country allow for regular tracking of any changes to pollinator populations.</p> <p>The FIT Count app is particularly helpful as it allows people to submit their data to the National Database. This can help people understand whether they need to plant more pollinator-friendly plants or increase nesting sites in their gardens. This is all a form of citizen science.</p>
<p>What Impact has this case study example achieved?</p>	<p>The importance of citizen science in biodiversity tracking cannot be understated. Citizen scientists voluntarily tracking wildlife, pollinating insects, plant life, and other ecology in their gardens and local areas, which allows for consistent and accurate tracking of changes in our native wildlife and plant life (National Biodiversity Data Centre, 2022).</p> <p>The important work of citizen scientists has been highlighted by the National Biodiversity Data Centre in the final report of their highly successful All Ireland Pollinators Plan 2015-2020 (National Biodiversity Data Centre, 2020, p. 43).</p> <p>Since May 2022, Dublin Zoo has participated in FIT Counts throughout the zoo to assess how successful their actions towards encouraging pollinator populations have been (Dublin Zoo, 2022).</p>




	<p>Similarly, staff working in the Wild Nephin National Park have been participating in FIT Counts along their 2km route to track bumblebee populations across their park (Wild Nephin National Park, 2021).</p>
References	<p>Dublin Zoo. (2022, May 17). <i>There's a buzz around Dublin Zoo</i>. Retrieved from Dublin Zoo: https://www.dublinozoo.ie/conservation/all-ireland-pollinator-plan/</p> <p>National Biodiversity Data Centre. (2020). <i>Working together for Biodiversity: Tales from the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020</i>. Waterford: National Biodiversity Data Centre.</p> <p>National Biodiversity Data Centre. (2022, August). <i>Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme</i>. Retrieved from National Biodiversity Data Centre: https://biodiversityireland.ie/surveys/bumblebee-monitoring-scheme/</p> <p>Wild Nephin National Park. (2021, May). <i>Pollinators in the Park</i>. Retrieved from Wild Nephin National Park: https://www.wildnephinnationalpark.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Pollinators_WNNP.pdf</p>



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Calendar for Climate Change

Quid-Pro-Quo – Inter-generational
Education to Ease Global Warming

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