



Building Homes for Bats: Free bat-house materials!

Have you wanted to build a bat-house for your property to help move a colony out of your attic, or to attract bats to eat mosquitoes? Take advantage of this opportunity to get the materials paid for!

The Kootenay Community Bat Project is encouraging the installation of bat-houses by paying for the cost of materials. *In return, the participant builds, installs and monitors the bat-houses.* The goal of this project is to provide more roosting habitat for bats, learn about the best bat-house designs and placements in the Kootenays, and encourage the monitoring of bat populations.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE? Residents or stewardship groups in the Columbia Basin and Boundary are eligible for this program.

WHERE SHOULD I PUT MY BAT-HOUSE? Bat-houses should be placed as high as possible (at least 12'), in an open area that gets plenty of sun, south or south-east facing, and without clutter of trees, buildings, or other objects nearby (more than 6 m away is ideal). They can be mounted on the sides of buildings such as houses, barns, sheds, or garages, or on a metal pole or wooden post.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A BUILDING TO ATTACH THEM TO? Bat-houses are very successful when they are mounted on poles or posts in an open area. Posts should be at least 20' long (so with 4' buried in the ground, that would be 16' high). Metal poles can be used or wooden posts with the bottoms treated and/or in cement. Once bat-houses are installed on a post, they are very heavy so installation can be challenging. A work party or small machinery may be required.

WHAT COSTS ARE COVERED? The Kootenay Community Bat Project, with funding from the Public Conservation Assistance Fund, will pay for bat-house materials and posts, including plywood, strapping, screws, caulking, screen, wooden or metal poles, and brackets. We also have limited funds available for the cost of equipment rental such as fence-post auger but these costs need to be approved in advance. *The funds will not cover the cost of labour for building or installation.*

WHAT TYPES OF BAT-HOUSES CAN I BUILD? The Kootenay Community Bat Project promotes bat-houses designs that have been tested for decades as well as new innovative approaches. Bat-house designs may include a nursery box, a two-chambered rocket box, a wedge rocket box, or an "Uncle George" design. All bat-house designs can be found at www.bcbats.ca under the 'Bat Houses' tab. **Since the goal of the project is to test bat-house designs and placements, you must build and install at least two bat-houses to be eligible.**

Examples of options for building and installing two bat-houses:

Options	Bat-house #1	Bat-house #2	Comments
If you have a large, high, south or east facing wall large enough for two bat-houses (e.g. barn, house, shed)	Nursery bat box stained brown	Nursery bat box unstained	Testing bat-house colour
If you have two large, high, south or east facing walls	Nursery bat box facing south	Nursery bat box facing south-east or east	Testing aspect
If you have a large, high, south or east facing wall large enough for one bat house and the ability to install and post/pole	Nursery bat box on wall	Rocket box on post	Testing bat house design
If you have an open area and the ability to install posts/poles	Two chambered rocket box	Wedge rocket box	Testing rocket box design
If you have an open area and the ability to install posts/poles	Nursery bat box on post	Two-chambered rocket box on post	Testing bat house design
If you have an open area and the ability to install posts/poles	Two-chambered brown rocket box on post	Two-chambered unstained rocket box on post	Testing bat house colour
If you have an open area and the ability to install posts/poles	Two chambered rocket box	Uncle George design (need to modify plans)	Testing bat-house design

Note that community groups are eligible to build more than two bat-houses.

Examples of bat-house designs:



Left: Nursery box laying down - would actually be installed upright. Center: Two-chambered rocket box. Right: Wedge rocket box (inside showing – would actually have outer wall all around it). Photo from Larry Leonard.

HOW DO I SIGN UP? The funds are available on a first-come, first serve basis. Funds will be reserved for people who indicate they would like to join this program. Take the following steps:

1. Look around your property to see what would be the most suitable locations for a bat-house. Generally, bat-house sites need to be south-facing, in the open (uncluttered), and as high as possible. They should not be placed in dense forests or on trees (unless there are no branches below or directly above the bat house). Feel free to send photos of your site and contact the Kootenay Community Bat Project for advice.
2. Consider your ability to install posts. These are very heavy once bat-houses are on top of them and may require a large work party or small machinery to install. *The Kootenay Community Bat Project is not able to assist with installation.*
3. Price out the cost of your materials.
4. Contact the Kootenay Community Bat Project to express your interest and include the types of bat-houses you will build, the estimated cost, and the location.
5. Wait for approval before you buy materials so we can ensure there are funds for you.

HOW DO I RECEIVE MY MONEY BACK? In order to have the costs of materials reimbursed, you must provide the Kootenay Community Bat Project with the following:

- Original receipts for all building materials mailed to: 915 Vernon St., Nelson, BC, V1L 4G7
- A completed “Expense Claim” form (attached)
- Photos of two installed bat-houses (digital preferred) to kootenaybats@bcbats.ca
- A commitment to monitoring the bat-houses the following summer

Once these items are received, you will be sent a cheque to cover your expenses.

For more information:

Kootenay Community Bat Project
359 Oughtred St. Kimberley, BC V1A 1J3
1-855-9BC-BATS ext. 14
www.bcbats.ca
kootenay@bcbats.ca

Special thanks to the Public Conservation Assistance Fund:



Expense Claim for Building Homes for Bats – please submit this page only

Name (who cheque should be made out to): _____

Mailing address: _____

Phone number: _____ Email address: _____

Expenses: (Please attach copies of receipts to this expense form).

Date of purchase	Place of purchase (e.g. name of store)	Total amount:	Items on that receipt
	TOTAL (sum of all receipts):		

How many volunteer hours were spent on this project? (e.g. 2 people at 8 hours to build and install bat houses = 16 volunteer hours): _____ volunteer hours.

How many bat-houses were built? _____

Commitment to Monitoring

I, _____ (name), hereby commit to monitoring my bat-houses **for four evenings during next summer** as part of the Annual Bat Count and submitting the information to the Kootenay Community Bat Project.

(signature)

(date)

Please select one option for submitting photos

() I am attaching print photos of my installed bat-houses

() I have emailed digital photos of my installed bat-houses

Thank you so much for participating in this project. It is wonderful that you have been part of building homes for bats!

Mail to: Kootenay Community Bat Project, 915 Vernon Street, Nelson, BC, V1L 4G7

kootenay@bcbats.ca

1-855-9BC-BATS x. 14