

Bat friendly communities/enterprises/businesses in BC

Developed by the Northeast Community Bat Program with support of the BC Community Bat Programs
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Goal: The 'Bat-friendly Communities' Program is meant to be an easy-to-achieve program to encourage stewardship and increase knowledge of bats

Criteria:

1. Protect, create or enhance habitat:

- a) Identify bat habitat within City Limits with your local community bat coordinator and work to protect and improve the habitat. This activity may overlap with the protection of one existing colony (see 1b below) or the additional activities ideas (see 1c)
- b) Build, install, and agree to monitor at least 1 approved bat house or protect 1 existing colony. Communities and businesses are encouraged to review the information and bat house plans on www.bcbats.ca and call the regional Community Bat Program line for support during the planning phase. Photos of the installed bat house will be required as confirmation of installation. Bat houses will be registered with bcbats.ca and monitored with an Annual Bat Count (<https://bcbats.ca/get-involved/counting-bats/>). At the bat house/colony, post a small sign about bats and White Nose Syndrome. The template can be supplied by your BC Community Bat Project Regional Coordinator.
- c) Additional activities beyond bat houses could include bat-friendly gardens, wetland protection, planting cottonwoods, etc. Please see the [Bat-friendly Communities Guidance Document](#) for further ideas.

2. Provide information:

- a) Literature about bats must be available in City Hall. The BC Community Bat Project handouts for builders, roofers, realtors, pest control companies and homeowners (including the Happy Cat brochure from the BC Stewardship Society) must be displayed and provided when relevant permits and licences are awarded (e.g. house demolitions, business licence renewals, etc. For example, a realtor will receive the two-page handout for their business; and pest-control companies will receive the 7-steps booklet).
- b) BC Community Bat Programs will supply the electronic files and the City will agree to print and distribute the documents.

3. Promote learning:

- a) Adopt Bat Week as promoted by Bat Conservation International (www.batweek.org)
- b) Encourage bat-related activities at schools, daycares, and the library and sponsor at least 1 bat-related event – (e.g. a community presentation, bat-house building workshop, art contest, etc.) Submit photos and press coverage to your Regional Coordinator.

Congratulations! Receive your 'Bat-friendly community' certificate and acknowledgement on our website and facebook page. Each year, confirm activities with the Regional or Provincial Coordinator to keep your status.