



Cleveland Beekeepers Association (CBKA) Environmental Policy

Principle:

CBKA strives to increase awareness of the vital importance of honey bees by promoting responsible beekeeping.

CBKA Background:

Cleveland Beekeepers Association is an independent area association affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association; a registered charity association representing a group of about 200 local beekeepers around the Tees Valley, North Yorkshire and Hartlepool.

CBKA meets monthly: apiary meetings in spring and summer, and speaker-led meetings through the rest of the year. The meetings are an educational opportunity for beginners to experience beekeeping and for more experienced members to exchange ideas and discuss best beekeeping practise.

CBKA members exhibit honey and bee products at various local agriculture/horticulture shows primarily to educate the public and promote environmental benefits of beekeeping.

Beekeeping practises enhance the natural environment in numerous ways; CBKA aims to educate its members in appropriate activities to minimise possible ecological disturbance.

Action Plan:

- CBKA endeavours to promote responsible beekeeping to our members and through promotional activities at major events in our membership area to educate the public about the lifecycle of bees and their benefit to society and UK food production.
- CBKA endeavours to raise awareness and widespread appreciation for honey, beeswax and other associated products of the hive and also for the critical role that honey bees play in agriculture. By producing local honey and bee products CBKA actively contributes to national demand for healthy alternatives.
- CBKA aims to educate local residents in identifying honey-bees, wasps, hornets, solitary bees and bumblebees; raising the awareness

of these species, and their beneficial contributions to our wider environment.

- CBKA runs a swarm prevention program: this recognises the disruptive effect of swarms on neighbours. Members are encouraged to follow good swarm control practices. Additionally, CBKA liaises with local authorities to deal with swarms.
- CBKA recognises the benefits of having locally bred queens and encourage members to refrain from resorting to external sourcing when they replenish their stocks with new queens. CBKA aims to raise and supply locally produced nuclei for our new beekeepers.
- CBKA endeavours to reduce the carbon footprint of our beekeeping activities in as many ways as practicable:
 - Shared use of manual honey extractors.
 - Car sharing to distant meeting venues.
 - Encouraging the return of the empty honey jars to members from their customers/friends, supplying of replacement lids for association-supplied jars.
- CBKA is fully committed to supporting the National Bee Unit's recommendations towards the Healthier Bees project.
- CBKA endeavours to educate and instruct members to follow DEFRA guidelines applying veterinary medicines to bee colonies.
- CBKA is aware of directives that regulate operating practices and food safety performance. We are fully committed to educate members in producing a high standard of honey, compliant with Food Hygiene Regulations 2005.
- CBKA will continue to be aware of materials used in beekeeping, including polystyrene hives and plastics use in all other areas of our activities.
- CBKA is aware of the issues associated with over-stocking urban areas and its detrimental consequences on other native pollinators. This issue is part of our education programme.
- CBKA promotes the propagation of bee friendly plants to help bees throughout the year.

The Future

CBKA will review this document biennially and consult our members in order to evaluate this strategy and to further improve our environmental impact.

Cleveland Beekeepers Association April 2024.