

Introduction

Gardens are good for our health, happiness and wellbeing. Your garden can also play a key role in reducing the impact of climate change and creating sustainable living landscapes for people and wildlife. As the climate changes, our gardens can help wildlife by being part of a network of green spaces that allow wildlife to move and adapt to changing conditions.

This leaflet will...

Suggest changes you can make to the way you garden that will help wildlife and the environment and slow climate change.

Let you review your gardening to check how sustainable it is.



Orange-tip

Did you know...?

- Seven out of ten gardeners have noticed flowers are blooming earlier and that grass is growing more in wintertime showing that climate change is already affecting our gardens.



Robins

- Nearly thirty million people in the UK count gardening as a hobby! If we all make small changes we can help slow down the impact of climate change.
- Trees, shrubs and hedges in our gardens help create our local climate. They provide shade in summer, reduce wind speeds, remove air pollution, release water vapour into the air and help capture CO₂ from the air around us.

Make your garden work for wildlife and help create a living landscape...

Eco tips:

Sustainable gardening is about working with nature to create beautiful productive gardens that don't damage the environment:

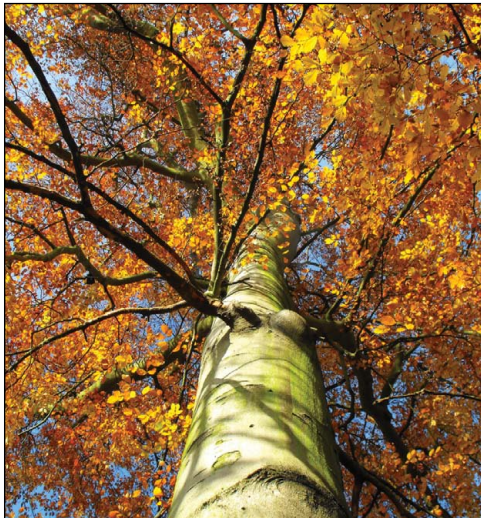
- Use substitutes for peat and sphagnum moss. Commercial extraction of peat is damaging wildlife habitats at home and abroad and destroying wonderful wetlands which are natural 'carbon sinks' and help slow climate change.



Compost bins

- Reduce your waste – a compost heap will take all your green waste, be great for wildlife and helps the environment by cutting transport and energy costs of disposal elsewhere.
- Avoid hard surfacing large areas with paving and decking. Climate change is bringing more sudden storms. Letting heavy rainfall sink into the ground rather than running off into drains and sewers prevents flooding elsewhere.

- Reduce your garden carbon footprint. Modern tools such as powered mowers, strimmers and hedge-trimmers add to energy demand. For small tasks it may be just as quick and much healthier for you and the environment to use high quality hand tools.
- Growing fruit and vegetables in your garden cuts food miles. By reducing food transport and energy costs you can save money and help the environment.



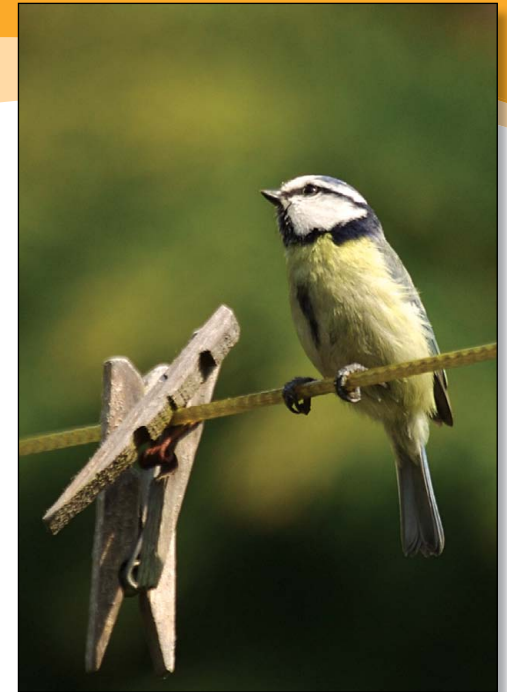
Beech tree

- Make your garden a 'carbon sink'. By planting long-lived woody species such as trees, shrubs and hedges you can do your bit to restore the balance of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

Few of us can answer 'always' to every question below but by making small and inexpensive changes to just some of the ways we garden, we can all make our gardens better for wildlife and better for our environment, while keeping them just as beautiful and productive as before.



Fox cubs



Blue tit

Food for thought: check out how environmentally friendly your garden is with our green garden questionnaire:

always a sometimes s never n

- Does the water you use to water your garden come from rainwater?
- Do you compost garden waste and leaves?
- Do you avoid using herbicides, pesticides and artificial fertilizers?
- Do you avoid using tropical hardwoods unless they are certificated as coming from sustainable sources?
- Do you use hand tools for small jobs around the garden rather than immediately getting out your powered tools?
- Do you use solar power for lighting in your garden?
- Do you try to manage your garden with wildlife and the environment in mind?

Frequently asked questions

How can my garden help wildlife affected by climate change?

As the climate changes, wildlife populations need to be able to move to new locations. By forming a network of green spaces containing a rich tapestry of different habitats, gardens can help enable these movements to take place. Each wildlife friendly garden is a stepping stone for wildlife linking dispersed populations and helping wildlife adapt to changed conditions.

How can I use less tap water in my garden?

A typical house roof sheds 45,000 litres of rainwater each year. Use water butts connected to your guttering to capture some of this supply. Plants prefer natural rainwater to treated mains water.



Water butt

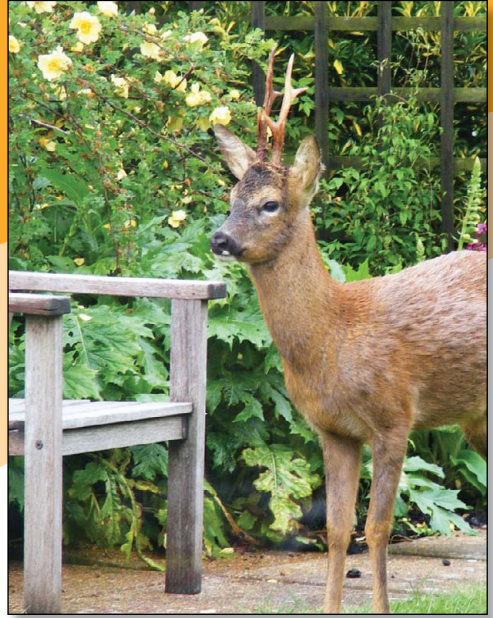
Images by © Thea Nicholls, Neville Yardy, Sandra Lockwood, Robert Powell, Barry Madden, John Ridler, Mrs V. Pritchard.
Illustration and layout by Artworks Design

Supported by
 **The National Lottery**®
through the Heritage Lottery Fund

 heritage
lottery fund

 EUROPEAN UNION
European Social Fund

Norfolk Wildlife Trust: registered as The Norfolk Naturalists Trust, Registered Charity No. 208734.



Roe deer

To find out more about Norfolk's wildlife visit www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/naturalconnections

Alternatively call Norfolk's free wildlife information service on **01603 598333**

Norfolk Wildlife Trust,
Bewick House,
22 Thorpe Road,
Norwich,
NR1 1RY

Tel: 01603 625540

wild@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

Protecting **Norfolk's Wildlife** for the Future