

BPA TECS Questionnaire

1. Do we have a policy re use of pesticides? Can TECS panel see it?

We don't use pesticides at the BPA (we are an environmental centre) and we don't have a policy on pesticide use. However, we have recently been reviewing all of our policies and providing new ones where we don't have one and we will add a policy on pesticides and submit it to TECS when done.

2. Have we done any research into what works to manage vegetation/gardens/green spaces without using pesticides? If so, where and what are they

There are many alternatives to pesticides depending on what pests need controlling, the area to be covered and the impact .

Companion planting is one method, using for example strongly scented Plants eg garlic, lavender, mint planted next to susceptible plants.

You can also use specific insects eg. Ladybirds that eat particular pests

NB Pests aren't just insects or slugs. They can be birds & rodents and physical may be needed eg. Non-lethal traps. So a variety of pest-control methods may be needed

3. What should organisations working under/within PCC do to

a)Reduce total amount of pesticides used including glucosphates?

Over a short space of time eg.3 years, significantly reduce the amount of pesticides used by a given percentage

b) Reduce the dosage used

Over that length of time reduce the strength of the pesticides used by a given percentage

c) Reduce places where used

Do not use on road verges or at the bottom of forecourt walls and in PCC Housing areas

d) Reduce frequency of use

If currently used twice a year, reduce to once/year

e) Use alternative pesticide-free solutions

Steam is used effectively to kill harmful pests

4. What principles should guide any new policy the council might adopt eg.

Using alternative solutions in exceptional circumstances or extending unmanaged greenspaces.

*The need to encourage the growth of `Pollinator Highways` should be at the core of any policy relating to the use of pesticides plus educating both organisations looking after the city`s green spaces, but also businesses/organisations and the general public. But exceptional circumstances where chemical pesticides are considered the only option, need to be clearly identified and restrictions made clear. **Glyphosate use should definitely be severely restricted.***

NB Many local councils already have policies and implementation plans to phase out the use of pesticides eg. Brighton Frome Croydon Lewes Eastbourne Hammersmith & Fulham Cambridge Colchester Sunderland and many more.