

Insect Hotels: A Biological Remedy for the Survivability of Insects and the Human Species



The exponential growth of the human species has negatively impacted different societies, resulting in a reduction of insect species in many different ecosystems, which must be reversed. Insect hotels are one of many ways to incorporate insects into the community, meanwhile sustaining the environment. The project will consist of building one large insect hotel and four smaller ones, distributed throughout Lewis' campus and trails. The insect hotels will be constructed out of wood, with the addition of other materials that can be recycled and sustained including straws, cardboard, sticks, pinecones, leaves, and more! The goal is to encourage and sustain a home for the community's insects.

Construction work on campus has destroyed insect habitats by taking over land. Insect hotels introduce an opportunity for insects to reestablish homes, so that they may thrive on campus. The reduction of insect populations has affected the system due to their roles as primary and secondary decomposers in the environment. The process of decomposition enables nutrients to be transferred to soil from deceased animals and plants, which lately there has not been a lot of on campus. Humankind cannot survive without insects. Without insects, people would not have food to consume. Additionally, insect life contributes billions of dollars to the United States' economy annually in terms of pest control, recreation industry, and in pollination of crops and land grazing. The concept of declining insect populations is extremely worrisome because a primary role they have is to be pollinators. Without pollinators to complement the logarithmic growth trend of the human species, there will be no growth or production of fruits, seeds, and young plants. This project will promote sustainability by introducing different species back into the environment. It will help increase natural biodiversity, as well as provide for plant and tree growth.

Building insect hotels will tremendously impact Lewis University through many factors. The project promotes community engagement because it has both an educational impact and an ecological impact that can motivate members to build their own insect hotels. Building insect hotels on campus will create an environment for students to learn about the importance of insects and how they contribute to society. Students will be able to physically see the structures of what an insect hotel looks like, as well as watch their interactions within it. Moreover, students will be able to read about how these insect hotels work and how they promote genetic diversity within the environment. This project should be chosen because it allows insects to participate in pest control as part of the ecosystem and offers a solution to the growing loss of natural habitats, promoting biodiversity and ecological homeostasis in Lewis' screen spaces. Building insect

hotels will not only result in a healthier environment, but also provide the opportunity for students to become more aware of insects and their importance. The students at Lewis University will be more educated about insects, as well as learn to embrace their presence in all communities.