



PSZCZOŁY  
PROSZĄ O POMOC



Fundacja Ekologiczna  
ZIELONA AKCJA

# Good practice 8



## Houses for insects



Legnica 2015



Bees ask for help - a campaign to protect the living environment of bees and other pollinators financed within the framework of the Financial Mechanism 2009-2014 EEA and Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009-2014..

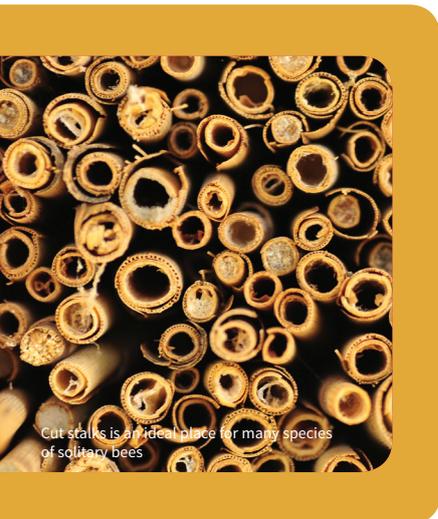




Cottages for insects can be a part of educational paths



The net serves to protect the insects from birds, the cottage should be set in a sunny place



Cut stalks is an ideal place for many species of solitary bees

## Houses for insects

Hung on the trees nesting boxes are almost an integral part of the equipment of many parks and gardens. Thanks to them we can enjoy the presence of tree sparrows, chickadees and starlings and other birds, where more and more difficult to find a suitable place to build their nests. In the modern world with similar problems faced by other animals, including useful species of bees. Therefore, thinking of them are created houses (small hotels) for insects.

Cottages for insects are increasingly willing to set by gardeners and growers. In 2015, in the gardens "Pod Pajakiem" ("Under the Spider") in Legnica deployed dozens of such shelters. Hotels for insects were also created in nectariferous zones, thanks to the work of residents and Ecological Foundation „Zielona Akcja”. They can be found in many private gardens and urban parks.

Houses for insects can safely be set in places frequented by people. Solitary bees that live there are not aggressive. Shelters may take different form and shape. The simplest insect house - is cut into 30 cm lengths of bamboo or reed stems, which should be tied with string in bundles. As the location of the house choose sheltered from the wind and sunny spot. Shelter should be protected from rain.

Many hotel projects can be found online. The limitation is only our imagination. With a little effort it will become a decoration of our garden. How insects use prepared by us shelter can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yLUGk7SlcDY>.

### To prepare the house we can use:

**Blocks of clay** – in blocks of clay and straw live less and less common now Anthophora bees. Traditionally they lived in earthen walls of country houses but with the disappearance of this type of building more and more difficult for them is to find adequate shelter. The blocks can be made at home, e.g., fill a wooden frame with clay mixed with straw (in the ratio 3: 1) and dried whole in the sun. In the meantime, when the block congeals, you should do in it the holes having a diameter of 10-12 mm and a depth of about 10 cm.

**Straw** – the straw alone gives shelter to lacewings.

**Reed and bamboo stalks** – settled willingly by useful red mason bees, mason bees, Chelostoma or mixers or Heriades.

**Drilled trunks** – they give shelter to many useful pollinator such as solitary wasps and bees.

**Hollow bricks** – a habitat for solitary bees (slots can not be wider than 10-12 mm, otherwise the bees will not be able to stick them with clay to create small rooms for their offspring.

**Dry leaves** – a habitat for many beneficial insects such as ladybugs.



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