

Thank you for applying to take part in the Wilder Kent Awards 2025. By entering, you will be showing your ambition to connect people with nature and protect wildlife for the future. Any achievement is a helping hand for wildlife and the scheme allows you to increase your award level year on year so you can help wildlife for as long as possible.

This form will be your submission document. You can use it to track your progress across the year and then submit this form, along with supporting evidence, by **31st January 2026** to the following website:[**kwtg.uk/upload-evidence**](https://form.jotform.com/232963621249359)

We **strongly encourage the use of photographs and videos** to evidence and support your submission. Throughout the year, it may be a good idea to create three folders on your computer to store supporting evidence for each of the three categories listed below. These folders can then be uploaded along with this submission form to the above website in May 2024. Please **do not insert photos into this form** – only use this form to describe the ways you feel you have met the criteria.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of Business:** |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Have you applied for the Wilder Kent Awards before?** | No – this is our first time! | Yes – please state the year you applied and level of award achieved |
|  |  |

We have broken the awards down into three categories: **1.** Protecting Wildlife, **2.** Sustainability and Carbon Reduction and **3.** Engage with Nature. Use the below table to detail and record your work towards each of the criteria. You do not have to have completed everything in each category, but the more you do the more you will be helping to protect nature and create a wilder Kent.

1. Protecting Wildlife – Lead by Example

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Please identify which criteria you have met and describe how you have met them: | Score |
| Creating space for nature: |
| Map out areas for nature’s recovery (e.g., identify areas that can form designated green spaces to protect habitat and wildlife). |  |  |
| Explain how you will enhance habitats for nature in your business space (e.g., a tree planting, bug houses). |  |  |
| Explain how you will protect nature in spaces your customers use. |  |  |
| Protect and enhance wildlife when expanding your business: |
| If you need to develop your business space, or expand your footprint, how are you doing this with nature in mind? |  |  |
| Explain how you will incorporate Biodiversity Net Gain into your development. |  |  |
| As your business grows, explain how you could retrospectively add enhancements for wildlife and nature. |  |  |
| Create a Biodiversity Strategy for your business and set out and implement priorities for nature’s recovery. |
| Commit to manage your land and buildings to support wildlife (e.g., install solar panels, create a wildlife friendly management plan, install bird and bat boxes to all owned or managed buildings and suitable trees, create hedgehog highways and install hedgehog houses). |  |  |
| Promote “No mow May” (e.g., include promotional information in your newsletters, website or social media). |   |  |
| Raise awareness of the value of your local Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) (e.g., include promotional information in your newsletters, website or social media).Your business could join the Roadside Nature Reserve Project in partnership with KCC and Kent Wildlife Trust. |  |  |
| Ensure that your work plans fit with yourBiodiversity Strategy (e.g., by creating a habitat management plan which has clear goals such as creating wildflower areas that will not be cut until late in the year, leaving deadwood in place or forming log piles and not using pesticides). |  |  |
| Form a Climate and Biodiversity Committee to guide action (the committee could look at creating and implementing a Climate Action Plan and developing / promoting multifunctional green infrastructure to deliver climate mitigation and enhance biodiversity). |  |  |
| Implement a Pesticide Free Action Plan and set a date to become pesticide free (this could include encouraging employees to be pesticide free by providing information on the impacts of slug repellent on hedgehogs. Or installing bat boxes to encourage bats as they are natures natural pest control (one pipistrelle bat can consume up to 3000 mosquitos in a single night)). |  |  |
| If your business has its own allotment, make sure it’s nature friendly (e.g. look at installing bug boxes, reptile hibernacula, and bird and bat boxes. Compost and do not take part in bonfires and pesticides/chemical use. Reduce hosepipe use and instead to harvest rainwater). |  |  |
| Develop local wilding projects (Your business could work with Kent Wildlife Trust to implement a wilding project. These types of projects could be developed through a habitat management plan). |  |  |

1. Sustainability and Carbon Reduction

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Please identify which criteria you have met and describe how you have met them: | Score |
| Set out clear policies on becoming a carbon neutral business, aspiring to reduce carbon emissions from primary business activity with a clear timeline to reaching neutrality.  |  |  |
| Install electric charging points to encourage the use of electric vehicles. |  |  |
| Encourage green transport to reduce carbon emissions (e.g., provide more cycle parking, incorporate a reward policy for cycle / walking to work scheme, or a reward system for customers that cycle or walk to site). |  |  |
| Develop and implement an Action Plan to work towards becoming carbon neutral (the Action Plan could include a timeframe to set out measurable targets). |  |  |
| Set up a Business Climate Panel to engage and work with employees to help to shape the business decisions (this could include giving talks about climate change and what your business is doing or what individuals can do to reduce their climate footprint). |  |  |
| Create recycling stations for staff and customers to use.  |  |  |
| Reduce single-use items such as take-away cups, cutlery and straws. Encourage reusable items only. (This could be done by initiating a rewards system for customers or buying travel coffee cups for all your employees). |  |  |
| Run campaigns to inform and educate employees around food sustainability (e.g., creating guides or running workshops to detail the benefits of eating locally grown food which has been produced in ways that protect and regenerate the natural environment). |  |  |
| You could work with KWT to invest in nature to lock-up carbon for the long term (Restoring native habitats can capture caron and provide substantial benefits including biodiversity recovery and abundance. Find out more here - <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-carbon>). |  |  |

1. Engage with Nature

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Criteria | Please identify which criteria you have met and describe how you have met them: | Score |
| Encourage employees to take part in citizen science projects that record habitats and species in the local area. Ensure that data is sent to the Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre (KMBRC) to inform the bigger picture (You could organise events to gather and record information habitats and species, you could arrange a volunteering session with KWT to undertake this exercise or commit to supporting Bugs Matter). |  |  |
| Undertake demonstrable work to protect priority and locally important species (this could include creating, restoring, or enhancing habitats which are specifically uses for priority species within your area such as hedgehogs). |  |  |
| Encourage local people/groups to take part in Wild About Gardens (WAG), (this could be promoted and encouraged through communication channels, or you could host a community WAG session at your work place). |  |  |
| Support schools and community groups to work towards a WilderKent Award (this could be achieved by partnering with a local school to support them with the resources they need to take part in wildlife friendly activities). |  |  |
| Create a mini nature reserve on available unused land (this could be on railway corridors, playing field margins, or roadside land. Information boards could be installed to educate customers about local wildlife). |  |  |
| Support local landowners and regenerative agriculture projects (e.g., work with local farmers to promote food sustainability, and sourcing your produce from these businesses). |  |  |
| Support and promote initiatives which enhance biodiversity in business spaces (talks and workshops could be given on topics in this area such as gardening for wildlife). |  |  |
| Carry out a fundraising day to help Kent Wildlife Trust continue delivering vital conservation work. |  |  |
| Sponsor a Kent Wildlife Trust reserve, by partnering your company with the reserve you could ensure the continued delivery of this vital work. |  |  |

Other

|  |
| --- |
| The Wilder Kent Awards are a chance to showcase what you and your local community have been working on and to evidence your achievements. The lists set out above are not exhaustive and other examples are welcome. Please use this box to detail any additional steps (not mentioned above) which you have taken towards helping make a Wilder Kent: |
|  |