

**Piti Théâtre Company**  
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## **Bee Friendly Certification**

### **Encourage Your Community or Organization to Become a Bee-Friendly Place**

As you may know, pollinators around the world are threatened. Piti Theatre Company is hoping to start a grassroots movement of communities, organizations and individuals across New England, and perhaps the country, to help these wonderful insects that insure our gardens, orchards and farms thrive. To attain this goal, we want to get as many municipalities, schools and organizations as we can to earn a Bee Friendly Certificate and proudly share that fact with the media.

A Bee Friendly Certificate is a great honor for any group or institution to garner and is a thoroughly fun way to organize a community, motivate volunteers and care for our farms and the environment. All you and they have to do is earn 100 points on our "Bee Meter." Once an individual, community or organizations has done that, Piti Theatre Company will send you (them) a certificate, appropriate logos and a sample press release that you can proudly display and talk about with people and in the media.

The "point" is to promote actions that benefit pollinators in a particular community, since to coin Senator Tip O'Neil's quip "all conservation is local."

To be certified as a Bee Friendly place, you simply have to earn 100 points on the "Bee Meter" by carrying out many or all of our "Bee Meter" tasks.

### **Awareness & Education**

- Bee Friendly Documentary Screening: 10 points
- Art or Performance Event devoted to fundraising for local pollinator-friendly project or with Bee Friendly subject matter: 10 points
- Scientific panel or public talk by pollinator expert: 10 points
- Workshop (how to plant a bee garden, bee-keeping, native bee nest making, etc.): 10 points
- Holding a Bee Week (putting a series of activities together and promoting it under the same Bee Week umbrella): 10 points in addition to the points earned for individual activities or actions

### Activism

- Inventory of local nurseries pesticide/herbicide use and publication of results (online and/or print): 15 points
- Inventory of local government application of pesticide and herbicide and publication of results (online and/or in print): 15 points
- Inventory and publication of local landscaping company practices: 15 points
- Open letter sent in response to findings above to nursery, government officials or landscaping company: 5 points
- Letter to the editor / opinion or news feature based on findings of above surveys submitted to local newspapers: 5 points
- Public announcement of change in policy towards bee-friendlier practices by government or local business as a result of new information presented by local citizens: 10 points

### Gardening & Habitat Creation

- Building a native bee house/shelter: 2 points per house
- Homeowner declaration of intent to let a part of their lawn "go" (mowing less than 3x a year): 5 points per declaration
- Planting of sustainably grown bee garden: 10 points per 100 square feet
- Planting of sustainably grown bee friendly flower starts or seeds: .1 points per flower (just take your best guess!)

### Electromagnetic Pollution (some of the above actions also apply, ie, documentary screening, etc.. Studies and resources re: bees/humans and EMF at [www.ptco.org/emf](http://www.ptco.org/emf))

- replace DECT/cordless phone with corded phone: 2 points per phone
- turning off wi-fi at night: 2 points per home
- replacing wi-fi with cables: 5 points per home, 10 points per school/business
- Reaching out to school administrators/PTO re: wi-fi in the classroom or local beekeepers re: effect of EMF on bees: 7 points
- "smart meter" opt out: 2 points per home
- Letter to the Editor/Opinion column on the subject: 10 points

We want people to encourage their town or city to become Bee Friendly places. You can start small by making your own yard bee friendly and getting your neighbors and friends to do the same thing. Pretty soon you will have a group of people who care about pollinators. Once the group has grown sufficiently, you can ask your municipality, school or local environmental organization to join the effort to promote a bee friendly environment.

In order to keep their Certification "current" towns and organizations have to earn at least an additional 25 points per year. Ideas for actions/activities, press release templates, images, etc. can be found at <http://www.beeweek.org>.