



HABITAT HERO



Habitat Hero

When we do things to change our environment, like build houses and roads, it gets harder and harder for animals to find the habitat they need to survive. Will you help them by being a Habitat Hero?

A Habitat Hero is someone who helps animals by giving them shelter, food, water, or a safe place to nest. For decades, Ontario Power Generation (OPG) has been a Habitat Hero that protects and nurtures biodiversity. OPG continues to work to restore and create homes for a wide variety of animals, whether that's woodland, wetland, or grassland.

For OPG, this means more than giving plants and animals a place to live. As plants grow, they pull carbon out of the atmosphere, helping to fight climate change.

In this Mission Brief, you'll find out how to make a *toad*-ally awesome toad house, help a bird build a nest, and learn how to make six other mini habitats that animals will go wild for!

Your Mission: Be a Habitat Hero for animals in your neighbourhood!

To complete this Mission, you must:

- Read this Mission Brief and decide which mini habitat(s) you want to build.
- Set up your mini habitat outside and take a picture.
- Keep an eye on your mini habitat to see which animals use it.

To help with this mission, **Climate Guardian heroes Tammy and Fiona** will be providing some tips and facts. These two climate heroes love to protect wildlife, plants, and the precious habitats animals depend on for their survival.



ONTARIO **POWER**
GENERATION





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○ An ecosystem in your neighbourhood

As our population grows, we need more and more space for people to live. Almost 75,000 new houses were built in Ontario in 2018 and we're still building more!¹

With all of these new houses, plus the roads and buildings that go along with them, there's less land for animals to live on.

Fiona says: As cities and urban areas expand, living species big and small like birds, insects and amphibians are being pushed into ever-shrinking green spaces. While some species can adapt to these changes, it makes it really hard for many of my animal friends to find enough food to eat, and safe places to sleep or nest. That's why we all need to become Habitat Heroes and use our outdoor spaces to create homes for animals!

Whether it's some simple flowers on a balcony, a shared courtyard or a huge garden full of plants, your outdoor space can make a world of difference for animals in your neighbourhood.

That's because it's just one piece of a larger ecosystem "puzzle", along with all the other yards, parks and green spaces in your community. The more connected green spaces are to each other, the easier it is for animals to move around their territories, find mates, and forage for food.

¹ <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=3410013501>

Tammy says: Be a habitat hero by building these habitats to invite wildlife into your backyard.

With these habitats, your outdoor space will be buzzing with animal activity. Try to do as much of the activity outside as you can!





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Start by visiting your closest park, woods, or other green space. See what kinds of animals live there to help you decide what habitat to build in your backyard!

☐ Bee's Knees Bumblebee Nest

Bumblebees nest in the ground. It's up to you to help a queen bee find the perfect spot!

☐ Bird Nest Supply Shop

Provide some nest building materials in an easy-to-access spot!

☐ Bird-tastic Bird Bath

Give birds in your yard a place to drink and bathe. They'll be raven about this bird bath in no time!

☐ Creepy Crawler Cottage

Help tiny creatures by giving them shelter, food and water with this bug-friendly nature reserve!

☐ Ladybug Lair

Invite more ladybugs to your garden with this ladybug lair. They're nature's best pest control!





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☐ Pile Up for Nature

Set up a log pile and you'll be surprised how many critters choose to call it home!

☐ The Best Butterfly Snack Bar in Town

Feed butterflies that visit your yard by providing them with a tray of butterfly treats!

☐ Toad-ally Awesome Toad House

Protect toads from predators and the sun. They'll thank you by eating pests in your garden!

Download the instruction sheet and start your mission today!

When you've completed this Mission, be sure to take on the next one in the Climate Guardians series.

Visit the next mission by visiting <https://www.opg.com/climateguardians>

