

Copenhagen Culture Night at the European Environment Agency

Once again on 14 October, starting from 6.00 o'clock in the evening, we are opening our doors to Copenhagen residents – families, environment enthusiasts, students or anyone who is interested in finding out and learning about our environment. We may play the hosts, but this year's spotlight will be on our buzzing bees and mighty forests.

[Copenhagen Culture Night](#) is the annual event in Copenhagen, when cultural institutions and lots of other organisations offer a wide range of activities in an open-house setting.

It is a unique opportunity for the EEA to welcome Copenhageners and tourists taking part in this event. Last year, we welcomed during the evening 6.000 visitors! This year's programme of activities will focus on forests and bees, in honour of the UN International Year of Forests and the 120 000 friendly fellows that we have been hosting on our roof since May 2011.

18.00–20.30: Learn how to become a bee friend and see the city of bees

Welcome to a fun, crazy and educational arrangement for children. Use all of your senses at our five interactive stands about the honeybees in the city.

Discover a painting made of honey, beautiful bright flowers, an electric train in the city of bees, surprising stories hanging from the ceiling – and join the dancing school of the bees.

You can walk around on your own or follow one of the tours guided by our colourful bee ambassador. The tours start at 18.00, 18.40, 19.20 and 20.00.

18.00–20.30: How about a walk in the woods? - Meet experts on forests and bees in a relaxed atmosphere

Exhibits, fun hands-on activities, quizzes and a warm drink will welcome you into the fascinating world of forests and bees.

Field researchers from [LIFE Copenhagen University](#), beekeepers from [Bybi](#), a local honey production organisation, professionals from the [Danish Museum of Hunting and Forestry](#) and experts from the European Environment Agency and the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) will be present to answer your questions and satisfy your curiosity.

Why bees and forests?

Bees, because they do much more than honey for us. In any given sunny day, hardworking honey bees fly around and collect precious pollen. Believe it or not, they can find the pollen they need inside cities, even in Copenhagen. But they have a much more important role for us. By going from one flower to the next, they pollinate them. This means that they are often the silent and often invisible workers behind delicious Danish apples. Without bees, we would not have so many fruits on our tables.

Like many species, bees are faced with many challenges. They have so far displayed an unbelievable ability to adapt many changes to their environment and habitats over thousands of years. But life is getting even more difficult for bee colonies. In recent years, many bee colonies across the world have 'collapsed'. Agricultural practices focusing on single crop over large areas and the widespread use of pesticides are believed to be main reasons behind colony collapse. At the end, we have come to a point in their long history where honey bees large depend on us for their survival.

But the EEA's Culture Night will not be only about bees. About one third of Europe's land area is covered by forests. Throughout millennia, forests have always been silent defenders of life on our planet and caretakers of humankind. Under their green mantle, forests provide shelter to living creatures of all sizes. They clean our air and water, cool our climate and contribute to the health of our environment. They constitute a vital part of life on our planet, but unfortunately, forests are also facing many threats.

Although Europe's forests have been growing in recent years, they remain fragmented. We cut them into pieces with roads, railroad projects and dams. We clear the land for agriculture or growing cities. We also know that climate change will affect Europe's forests, too. How can we prepare? What do we have to do to make sure that our forests can continue providing their 'services'? It is not only the quantity of forests that we have to pay attention, but also the quality of our forests.

You will discover the wonders of forests and learn how you can contribute to the protection of this extremely vital ecosystem.

The secrets of the African bees will be revealed and you will finally get an answer to why western bees are increasingly enjoying an urban lifestyle.

You will also have a chance to taste the many different flavours of honey 'Made in Copenhagen'.

18.00 – 22.30 Wild Wonders of Europe – photo exhibition

[Wild Wonders of Europe](#) is about sharing the amazing natural wonders of our continent with 700 million Europeans and the World!

A selection of their award-winning photos showing the manifold biodiversity of Europe will be on display at the European Environment Agency. The exhibition will be displayed at EEA premises until spring 2012.

18.30 – 20.30 Snow White – far out in the forest

With quite a bit of 'far out' humour, ten young actors will interpret Snow White as you have never seen it before! Did you know that Snow White is a shallow, narcissistic and shopaholic princess? Or that the seven dwarfs are now only five – because two of them moved into town to keep bees? This is just a couple of examples of the kind of things you will experience in this crazy performance for the whole family.

Ballerup Youth School (www.bask.dk) produces spectacular musical performances with actors aged between 14 and 21. Since 2006, the European Environment Agency and Ballerup Youth School have been collaborating on custom-made performances for Culture Night. This year, they have prepared a special performance that will bring children of all ages on a unique trip to the forest.

The performance will be repeated 4 times at 18.30; 19.00; 19.30; 20.00.

21.00 – 22.30 Polkageist Power Party

Anne Eltard and the band Polkageist is a very vivid, talented and unpredictable feature on the Danish music stage (www.eltard.dk/orkestre_polkageist.php).

All of the members are very experienced musicians and have played in a number of different orchestras. The music is a kind of power polka and is inspired by salsa, calypso, funk, rock and Balkan music.

In the hands of these four outstanding musicians, the cocktail of these genres doesn't sound like anything you have ever heard before!