

THE BEE CENTRE, CHORLEY

MEMBERS OF EAST LANCASHIRE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



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CHAMBER BUSINESS AWARDS CELEBRATING BUSINESSES ONE STORY AT A TIME

The Bee Centre, member of East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and Industry, is a unique self-funded business, founded through a passion for bees and the environment.

Their mission is to demonstrate that sustainability businesses can be economically viable and need not rely on external funding. They believe that the environment is not a charity, and they are passionate in delivering a genuinely sustainable business model.

Sustainability is at the heart of this business. They breed locally adapted, native honeybees, which makes them unusual, even in the beekeeping world. This is because their bees are better suited to the local climate and seasonality than the imported honey bee breeds, which comprise the majority of stocks in the UK.

Whilst their 'headline act' is their honeybees, they are really a biodiversity organisation, actively working to support all 273 species of bee in the UK. In doing so, they enhance biodiversity and habitats to maintain healthy and robust ecosystems. This, in turn, supports the function of diverse natural cycles, including those involved in controlling atmospheric carbon.

Established by recognised sustainability professionals, they operate a 'Small Footprint – Big Impact' ethos. They minimise their negative sustainability impacts whilst maximising the positive value they deliver, by inspiring others to act in support of the environment.

They strategically and extensively engage with a diverse range of individuals and public and private sector organisations to deliver positive environmental and sustainability action.

Their passion for bees and the environment enables them to enthuse and educate those that they encounter, creating eco-ambassadors who take action themselves and encourage others to do the same.

Their agility enables them to respond to opportunities, and their breadth of expertise and experience allows them to meaningfully engage with stakeholders from many sectors, cultures and fields of interest.

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They actively and successfully create environmental value by leveraging the support of those they encounter, whilst managing to minimise their negative, environmental impacts.

They have been working with South Ribble Borough Council since 2016 to create pollinator corridors and are currently working on a broader public engagement programme with them.

Alongside this, they run beekeeper training, which educates between 60 and 110 beekeepers every year, and deliver support to schools and home learning groups, providing bee experience days.

They also work with businesses to deliver biodiversity and economic value and provide unusual, memorable and inspirational team days for organisations across the UK.

