



## PROGRAM ON THE ENVIRONMENT

UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

---

### MAKING FRUITFUL HABITATS: ESTABLISHING BEST PRACTICES FOR FRUIT GLEANING ORGANIZATIONS TO EASE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON POLLINATORS

Session B, Breakout Room #: 2

Rachel Ellingwood, @ellinrac

Program on the Environment, University of Washington

Site Supervisor: Bennett Walkes, City Fruit

Faculty Advisor(s): Eli Wheat, Program on the Environment, University of Washington

Due to global climate change and its negative environmental impacts, pollinators have faced significant losses in population size and health. While there are some established practices for a variety of groups like orchardists and landowners to support pollinators, there are a lack of specific methods for the context of gleaning, which is the practice of collecting resources and then redistributing those resources to the community. The aim of this study was to explore the intersection between the act of gleaning and the support of pollinators, specifically by examining what methods are currently being taken and what gaps exist in those efforts. I interned with City Fruit where I assisted in gleaning, distribution of fruit, and outreach events. I conducted a survey aimed at relevant groups that interact with pollinators, such as farmers, volunteers, tree stewards, and others. The questions gauged their interest and motivation towards assisting pollinators and determined their various pro-pollinator methods. Based on the survey results, guidelines for supporting pollinators were found to fall under four main categories: providing nesting resources, providing foraging resources, intentional management of the land, and spreading awareness about the issue. By creating these clear guidelines for gleaners, vital support is provided for local pollinators and food security is strengthened in the face of climate change, especially if these pro-pollinator suggestions are widespread and universal. Above all, these findings are representative of the idea that supporting at-risk species and populations due to climate change can take place in many different settings and niches.