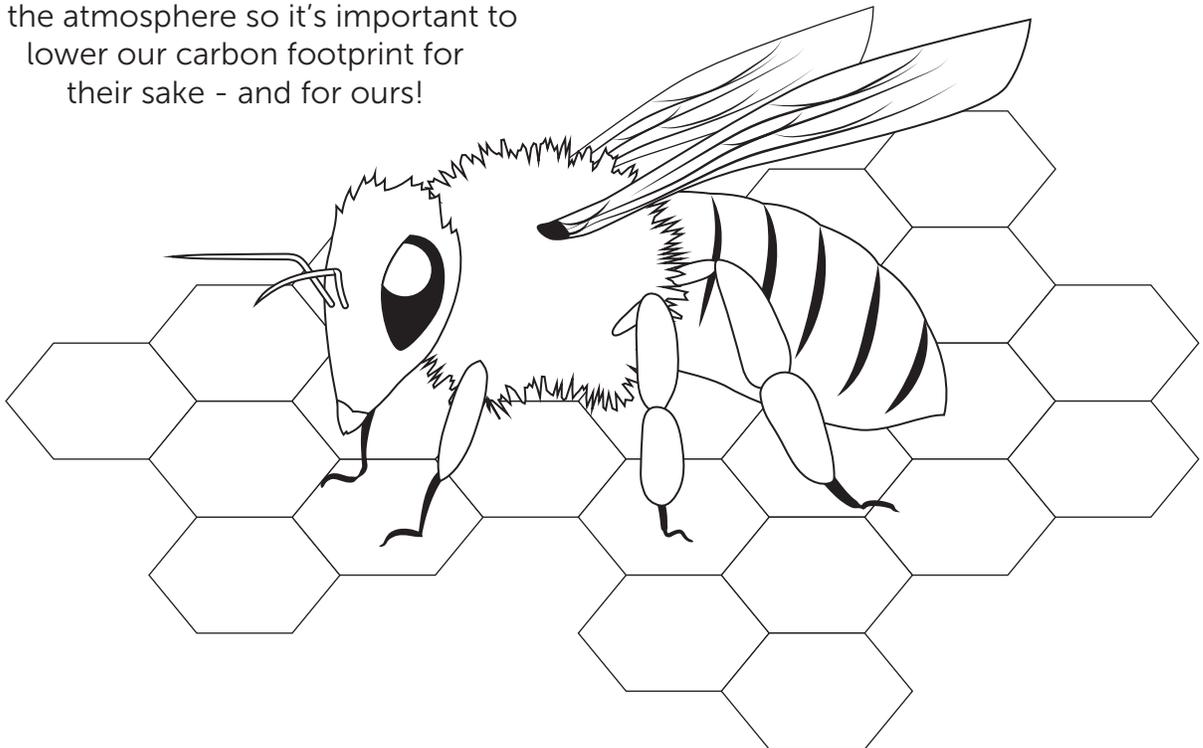# PROTECT OUR POLLINATORS

What do Bees, Birds, Bats, Butterflies and Beetles all have in common? They're all pollinators, meaning they help plants to produce fruits and seeds by transporting pollen from one plant to another as they forage for food.
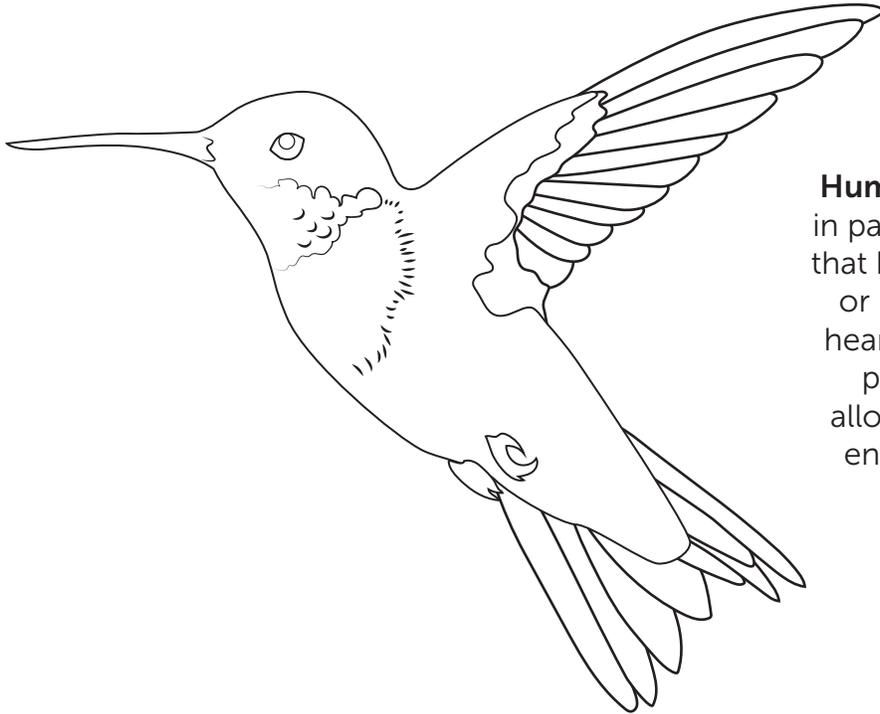
Climate change from fossil fuel use can make it harder for pollinators to find food when the plants they usually feed on start blooming at earlier times, or cause their habitat range to change. Warmer temperatures can also make some pests stronger that will harm pollinators.

Fighting climate damage won't just help pollinators though - we depend on pollinators for at least 1/3 of the food we eat! That includes crops like apples, bluberries, peaches, walnuts, carrots, cucmbers, watermelon, and many many more!
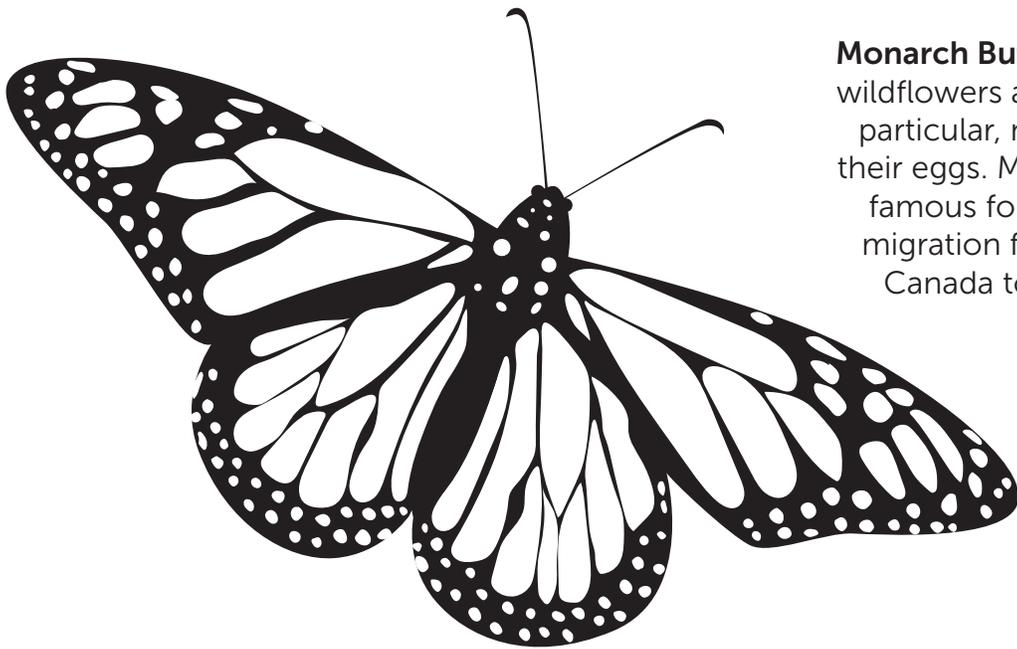
Learn more about a few of these awesome critters. You can color them in, cut them out and hang them up on your wall!

Bees, particularly honey bees, are super-pollinators! They are responsible for pollinating most of our food crops. They're also very sensitive to changes in weather patterns as well as high levels of CO_2 in the atmosphere so it's important to lower our carbon footprint for their sake - and for ours!

Hummingbirds love wildflowers, in particular cone-shaped flowers that hold lots of nectar, like lupine or bee balm. A hummingbird's heart rate can reach 1,200 beats per minute when it's flying, allowing it to beat its wings fast enough to hover and even fly backward!

Monarch Butterflies also help pollinate wildflowers and they depend on one in particular, milkweed, to feed and lay their eggs. Monarch Butterflies are also famous for their annual 3,000 mile migration from the Eastern U.S. and Canada to overwinter in Mexico!

Bats are very important in desert climates for helping to pollinate cacti and other plants. They feed on cactus flowers and nectar along with bugs. While other creatures like flying squirrels or lemurs can glide through the air, bats are the only mammals that can actually fly!