



Swarm of bees | Photo source [Damien Tupinier on Unsplash](#)

MEXICAN CAMPAIGN CREATES BEEHIVES OUT OF USED STRAWS



SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

A German-Mexican collaboration hopes to help preserve *Apis Mellifera*, the most important bee species in the world for human food

Spotted: A German-Mexican collaboration is building beehives out of used plastic straws. [Last Straw](#) is a campaign to save bees and reduce plastic waste. The idea came to digital marketing agency [Flock Linked by Isobar](#) as a way to encourage people to stop using straws. It partnered with honey producers [Son De Miel](#) and digital production company [Praxlab](#) to create the campaign.

[Last Straw](#) is a prototype of a man-made bee hive, created entirely of used plastic straws. The team discovered that standard straws are the same size as *Apis Mellifera* honeycomb cells. Straws are also made out of the same type of plastic used to manufacture artificial beehives. That means it is more likely bees would accept the straw-based hive. The team worked with professional bee keepers and academics to design the hive and introduce the bees.

The prototype bee hive is already hosting a bee colony. The [plans for the man-made hive](#) are available online for free.

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Email: [@FlockAgencia](#)

Website: [www.laststraw.lat](#)

Contact: [www.laststraw.lat/en/contacto](#)

Takeaway:

Last Straw is part of a larger effort to encourage people not to use straws. It is estimated that 500 million straws are used in the United States every day. Those straws contribute to plastic pollution in the ocean and elsewhere. Large international companies are already starting to ban or reduce plastic straw use. For instance, the hotel chain Hilton has stopped providing plastic straws for guests. David Zacarías, GCD in Flock Linked by Isobar, said that the Last Straw initiative has already inspired some restaurants in Mexico to do the same. Springwise has recently spotted a London-based restaurant that is going plastic free and a disposable toothbrush made out of paper.