



Tree planting workshop with Belcarra National School, June 2023.

Lough Carra LIFE assisted the LCCA with facilitating native tree planting school workshops as part of the Trees for Communities' programme, an education and awareness activity to encourage people to plant a native tree in their garden for biodiversity purposes. The LCCA had purchased 120 native tree saplings as part of this programme, including Birch, Oak, Alder, Wild Cherry, and Rowan. Damian Jordan, from the Lough Carra LIFE team, presented a demonstration on how to plant a native tree to the children on Belcarra National School.

Native trees are a very important component of the local environment as they can be a home and food source to an abundance of beneficial insects such as ladybirds and hover flies, and very important to water quality. Trees are renowned for their ability to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and in return release oxygen. Also, as they grow and especially once they are established, their root systems are great for sucking up excess water and nutrients. Their root systems are also very good for stabilising soil and hence if they are planted near any watercourses, they can help stop any soil erosion into nearby streams and rivers. Being that these trees are native, they are much more adapted to our climate and wildlife and grow easily in this country without needing any special feed or attention.

In the playground of the school Damian showed the children how to plant the tree at the correct depth, and gave a brief explanation of how to look after the tree, keeping the soil around the tree clear of any grass or weeds, watering the tree during dry weather, and then next year mulching around the base of the tree with some well-rotted farmyard manure. Each student in the school was gifted a tree to bring home and plant in their own garden.



Tree saplings were presented to students by the LCCA, Belcarra Community Council, and the Lough Carra LIFE Project.



Damian Jordan, June 2023.

