

Catchment**CARE**Community Actions for
Resilient Ecosystems**Inside this issue:**

Introduction to CatchmentCARE 2

CatchmentCARE Launch Event:
June 2018 2Development of New Education
Programme 3Groundwater Monitoring
Systems 3Catchment Officers on the
Ground 4

CatchmentCARE Project Partners 4

Contact Us and Social Media Links 4

CatchmentCARE News



CatchmentCARE (Community Actions for Resilient Ecosystems)

CatchmentCARE (Community Actions for Resilient Eco-systems) is €14m project funded under the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme and aims to improve freshwater quality in cross-border river basins across three cross-border catchments. The aims will be achieved through development of three water quality improvement projects in the Finn, Blackwater and Arney catchments and installation 50 boreholes across the region.

A project supported by the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme, managed by the Special EU Programmes

Catchment**CARE**

Community Actions for Resilient Ecosystems



Introduction

CatchmentCARE (Community Actions for Resilient Eco-systems) is €14m project funded under the European Union's INTERREG VA Programme and aims to improve freshwater quality in river basins in three cross-border catchments.

The CatchmentCARE Project will aim to establish 3 water quality improvement projects in the **Finn** (Donegal-Tyrone); the **Arney** (Fermanagh-Cavan-Leitrim) and the **Blackwater** (Armagh-Tyrone-Monaghan) catchments and install 50 boreholes across the region. This will be achieved through a combination of policy actions, catchment actions and community actions. The partners each have key expertise which is reflected in the 'Work Package' lead roles shared across the partnership:

- Donegal County Council
- Agri-Food and Bioscience Institute
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council
- British Geological Survey / Geological Survey Ireland
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Loughs Agency
- Ulster University

- Lead Partner / Project Management WP
- Legacy WP
- Communications WP
- Groundwater WP
- Scoping & Action Targeting WP
- Water Body Actions in Catchments WP
- Catchment Land Use Actions WP



CatchmentCARE Launched in Donegal

The CatchmentCARE project was officially launched on 14th June 2018 at the An Grianan Hotel in Burt, Co. Donegal. Over 80 delegates were welcomed to the event by Councillor Gerry McMonagle, Cathaoirleach of Donegal County Council. There were addresses by Michael McGarvey, Director of Service (Donegal County Council), Seamus Neely, Chief Executive (Donegal County Council), and Mark Feeney, Director of Managing Authority (Special EU Programmes Body). Con McLaughlin, CatchmentCARE Manager gave the audience an overview of the project outlining the benefits that will be afforded to water quality in the three catchments.

Presentations were then given by Dr. Donnacha Doody (AFBI) on Land Use Actions, Dr Marcus Malley (ABC Council) on Water Body Actions and Taly Hunter-Williams (GSI) on Ground Water Actions. Guest speaker for the day was popular TV presenter Mr. Joe Mahon, who gave some thoughts on his 'Lesser Spotted Journeys' and helped launch the CatchmentCARE logo. Closing remarks on the launch were given by Andy Fanning, Programme Manager (EPA) and Tim Irwin, Head of Water Management Unit (NIEA).

Local schools were also on hand with an array of interesting project work that they have carried out as part of the water topic in the Green / Eco-School programme

The afternoon saw a visit to Inch Wildlife Reserve, where Wildlife Ranger, Lee McDaid gave the delegates a guided tour of the reserve and explained the history, wildlife and management of the area.



New CatchmentCARE Education programme

An exciting new education programme will be delivered in schools as part of the CatchmentCARE project. The programme will be developed to teach students about the importance of looking after our local river systems and the wildlife that call our rivers home.



The new programme will be piloted in primary and post primary schools across the Arney, Finn and Blackwater Catchments in 2019 with a view to extending the work to more schools in the coming years.

Education programme aims

- ✓ Raise awareness of the local environment and inspire action to protect it.
- ✓ Inform and educate young people and others about the importance of local rivers.
- ✓ Engage students in taking care of these rivers and inspire them to be positive agents of change within their school, at home and in their communities.
- ✓ Support schools and groups to develop a range of environmental projects, provide information and act as a focus for practical help and advice.

The education programme will be connected to the current School NI Curriculum through a variety of areas of learning, including:

- ✓ 'World Around Us' (Primary)
- ✓ 'PDMU' (Primary)
- ✓ 'Language and Literacy' (Primary)
- ✓ 'Maths and Numeracy' (Primary)
- ✓ 'The Arts' (Primary)
- ✓ 'Environment & Society' (Post-Primary)
- ✓ 'Science & Technology' (Post-Primary)

It will also be connected to the Republic of Ireland School Curriculum through the following areas:

- ✓ Social, Env. & Scientific Education (Primary)
- ✓ Languages (Primary)
- ✓ Mathematics (Primary)
- ✓ The Arts Education (Primary)
- ✓ Social, Personal and Health Ed. (Primary)
- ✓ Agricultural Science (Post-Primary)
- ✓ Geography (Post-Primary)
- ✓ Biology (Post-Primary)



Image courtesy of © UKRI

Groundwater Monitoring Stations

One of the interesting elements of the CatchmentCARE project will be the installation of 50 groundwater monitoring stations across the region. These will reveal how water travels underground through catchments and help to understand how best to improve freshwater quality. Knowing this can make a big difference to protecting the life in our rivers and improving the quality of the water we use.

A groundwater monitoring station is a collection of one to three vertical boreholes in the ground of varying depths installed using a drilling rig. Each borehole allows water from a specific level under the ground to enter it. Samples of water are then collected from it and other monitoring equipment can be installed to see how the water table changes over time.

Each of these stations are constructed and installed in a matter of weeks, with each station being fenced off. It is envisaged that the information gathered (and made available to the landowner) will help inform issues such as land drainage, fertiliser and pesticide usage, and our changing climate, as well as being an important part of the CatchmentCARE Education Project.



CatchmentCARE



Community Actions for
Resilient Ecosystems

Contact Us



CatchmentCARE
Donegal County Council,
County House,
Lifford,
Co Donegal
F93 Y622



(074) 91 53900



info@catchmentcare.eu



twitter.com/catchmentcare



facebook.com/catchmentCARE



Instagram.com/catchmentcare

CatchmentCARE
Community Actions for Resilient Ecosystems

Catchment Officers on the Road

A large component of the CatchmentCARE project will be engaging with local landowners and farmers across the three catchments. The project is fortunate to have three very experienced and knowledgeable 'Catchment Officers' employed to carry out this important work.

The Officers, Lisa Doyle (IFI), Tom Woods (ABC) and Mark McCauley (Loughs Agency). Have been busy since Autumn 2018 identifying potential problem areas on the Catchments such as bank erosion, cattle encroachment and nutrient run-off. They have also been looking at developing project work to help solve some of these issues.

Tom, Lisa and Mark's work encompasses a variety of the CatchmentCARE work packages. One of the most important elements of their work will be engaging with, listening to, and supporting local communities in putting healthy rivers at the heart of local communities through a variety of project work.

Mark, Tom and Lisa will be the eyes and ears of the project on the ground, and as such will play an integral role in the success of the Catchment CARE project research and legacy in the coming years.



CatchmentCARE Project Partners

Lead Partner: Donegal County Council (DCC)

Partners:

- Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute (AFBI)
- Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council (ABC)
- British Geological Survey (BGS)
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)
- Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
- Loughs Agency (LA)
- Ulster University (UU)

