

Carlow County Council invites you to “feel free to plant a tree” as part of National Tree week 2021.

This year National Tree Week 2021 runs from Sunday March 21st – Saturday 27th March. The annual event reminds us of the importance of Trees in our everyday life. As the biggest plants on the planet, they give us oxygen, store carbon, stabilise the soil and give life to the world's wildlife. They also provide us with the materials for tools and shelter. In a time where Climate Change is featuring highly on all agendas, Carlow County Council are inviting you group or organisation to take positive climate action and feel free to plant a tree.

Carlow County Council, through the Environment Department, will have 500 native Irish saplings to distribute to community & voluntary groups, education centres and sports facilities all around County Carlow and will also provide information and support to help you get your planting just right. One of the biggest challenges is remembering to plant the right tree in the right place, and with that in mind, Carlow County Council have engaged the services of Dee Sewell from Green side up to deliver a free online webinar entitled Talking Trees with Dee. This webinar will help you to understand

- Right Tree in the right place
- Sowing your saplings
- Bare root vs container
- Making it grow
- The climate connection

“I am delighted to see the return of this initiative,” says Cllr. Tom O Neill, Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council. “The campaign was cancelled in 2020 due to COVID and while we understand the disappointment felt by many people who had arranged Tree Week planting events around the county, we needed to prioritise the health and well-being of our communities during what was a stressful and uncertain time. Its fantastic to see it returned in 2021, and that we can facilitate, in a safe way, an opportunity to get involved, to get outside in the fresh air, and leave a long-lasting positive climate action for people and planet. As Sustainable Goal Champions it is imperative that we continue to provide opportunities for all in our communities to get involved in actions that support the objectives of this UN call to action.”

Carlow County Libraries are also offering lots of support to those who want to feel free to plant a tree. Their online resources include free access magazines, audio books and eBooks such as Gardeners world and National Geographic as well as superb e books like Ireland's Trees by Niall Mac Coitir. You can even take an online class from the comfort of your armchair using their free universal class facility.

“We are looking forward to another successful National Tree Week here in Carlow and are delighted to have the expertise and passion of Dee Sewell as part of 2021 programme” says Jannette O Brien, A/Environmental Awareness Officer in Carlow County Council, “

We are pleased to offer several online environmental Workshops during the month of March to support biodiversity and Climate action. These workshops are all free, virtual, run during the evenings and open to everyone in our community to attend.

- Biodiversity for Everyone with CCEN and Molly Aylesbury takes place on 16th March 2021
- Let's Talk Climate Action is a two-part workshop with Gavin Harte of ESD Training introducing Carlow communities to Climate Action at a local level and runs on 22nd and 23rd March.
- Talking Trees with Dee will provide you with lots of advice, practical tips and techniques to help you plant in your garden or in your community and takes place on Thursday 25th March.

As usual we will have a limited number of native Irish saplings to distribute free to the voluntary community groups and schools in the Town and County, but there is a huge demand for these trees so don't forget to put your organisations name down quick!

"Due to the circumstances surrounding Covid-19, with the restrictions on travel and limitations on gatherings, we are mindful of the logistics involved with National Tree Week this year" says Senior Engineer for Environment Orla Barrett, " we ask that people remain conscious of the need to limit activities and if you are engaging in any tree-related activity, to please respect the restrictions in place." She adds

For further information on how you can apply for your free saplings or in relation any of the free workshops, call Jannette O'Brien 059-9136232 or email jobrien@carlowcoco.ie