

SPECIAL EU PROGRAMMES BODY

Project Case Study: CatchmentCARE (Community Actions for Resilient Eco-systems) Update May 2020

THEME:

Environment

FUNDING (ERDF+MATCH):

€13,792,435.55

MATCH FUNDING:

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs NI & the Department for Housing, Planning and Local Government, Ireland

LEAD PARTNER:

Donegal County Council

PROJECT PARTNERS:

Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute, Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, British Geological Survey, Geological Survey of Ireland, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Ulster University Loughs Agency

Start Date: 01/10/2017

End Date: 31/10/2022

PROJECT CONTACT:

info@catchmentcare.eu



www.catchmentcare.eu



[@catchmentcare](https://twitter.com/catchmentcare)

The CatchmentCARE project aims to establish three cross-border, fresh water quality improvement projects in the Finn (Donegal—Tyrone); the Arney (Fermanagh-Leitrim-Cavan); and the Blackwater (Armagh-Tyrone-Monaghan) Catchments; as well as installing 51 boreholes across the region.

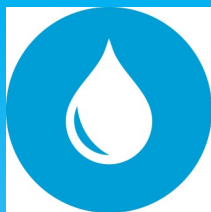
Project Progress

A number of projects funded under the CatchmentCARE Community Incentive Scheme have been approved for funding and are progressing. The scheme was designed to help local communities contribute to the improved management of their river catchments and was open to a wide variety of organisations including: volunteer groups; community groups; NGOs; schools and third level education organisations; youth groups and sports clubs; not for profit organisations; and farming groups.

17 projects across the three catchments were funded in the autumn of 2019 (three each in the Arney and Finn areas, and eleven in the Blackwater area). Examples of projects supported in this round of funding included: practical water-quality improvement projects; education and awareness campaigns; access to loughs and rivers for local communities; volunteer training; specialised equipment; community river trails; citizen science projects and interpretation and signage.



Young people from local schools help Friends of the River Callan on a community litter pick event along the banks of the River Callan, Armagh Northern Ireland



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River Works in Blackwater Catchment

One of the main outputs of the CatchmentCARE project is to deliver a range of riparian and in-stream works aimed at helping improve existing water quality across the project's three catchments.

In early 2020, the Blackwater Catchment Officer, Tom Woods, progressed plans for riparian and in-stream works around the Ballygawley area, which suffers badly from silt deposition / runoff and excessive nutrient loading.

'Ballygawley Phase 1' will entail a range of measures being implemented, including:

- Installing fencing along rivers to help decrease erosion of banks by cattle;
- Supplying and installing livestock drinkers for local farmers;
- Installing field gates and stiles to provide access for farmers and local user groups;
- Planting native species of trees and riverside vegetation to help stabilise riverbanks and create a buffer strip between the river and agricultural land;
- Installing bank revetments and other in-stream works such as rubble mats and flow deflectors (to create a more diverse flow and habitat in the river channel). This work will involve partnership with DEARA Fisheries.

"This will be an interesting learning experience for the project, as we will be working on a highly modified system such as the Blackwater. There are high hopes that these actions will lead to an improvement of the water quality on that stretch of the main River Blackwater."

Tom Woods, Catchment officer



For more information on other Blackwater catchment works contact Tom Woods on: thomas.woods@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk