

Welcome Pack 2024



YOUR SCHOOL FOREST

Cloudforests

Redleaf Business Park
Donabate Co Dublin



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Making Planet Earth Cool™

URBAN FORESTS & EVENTS

WELCOME

Welcome to the Cloudforests urban forest programme. In the following pages we want to guide and inspire you on how to get more from your sustainability journey with us.

Our vision is to create a series of natural habitat hotspots for Irish wildlife to live in and move through our urban environments. Your organisation is now part of that community of urban forests.



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ABOUT US



Our urban forest creation programme is focused on creating dense mini-forests in educational settings, and community and business facilities.

We work with schools to create a new woodland, and can create space for their very own outdoor classroom.

Alongside this we provide educational resources for children to learn about the trees they are planting and the ecosystems they are protecting.

www.cloudforests.earth

WHAT IS AN URBAN FOREST?

Our urban forests are small woodlands planted in schools using native species of trees and shrubs. Our work is inspired by the work of world-renowned botanist Prof. Akira Miyawaki.

Our urban forests are planted very densely with two to three trees per square metre. This encourages them to grow up to 10 times faster than they would at

Our forests absorb more than 30 times more carbon than grass lawns and help to reduce global warming.



THE STEPS

Agree The Forest Location

We'll work with you to agree the best location and layout for your school forest

Perform A Site Survey

We'll review the site and nearby features to determine the best mix of native Irish and naturalised trees to plant in your forest.

Soil Preparation

Before we can even put a tree into the ground, we must first prepare the soil correctly. Our Soil Crew will coordinate this event with you.

Planting Day

About 6 months after our Soil Preparation, we'll set a date for the Planting Day event. Using a mix of bare root and potted trees, we'll work with your community to plant your forest.

Aftercare

We'll help train your own Forest Guardians amongst your students or community group.

For the first 3 years, the Forest Guardians need to keep a careful eye on the forest, and we'll be here to support and guide you. We'll also work with you for progress reports and with ongoing activities.

OUR COMMITMENT



Funding

It's important to us that your resources are used where they're needed, so we'll source funding for the project externally. This means your signs will display details of your forest sponsors, and they may come along to help with the planting event.

Trees and Equipment

We'll bring all of the tools, the compost, the signage and most importantly, the trees!

Support and Guidance

We'll be there at all stages of the planning and implementation of your forests, and we'll also be available for any support and guidance you need after the forest is planted.

SOIL PREP DAY



Soil Prep Day

Soil Prep Day is the first of two main events where your community will get involved in the creation of your school's urban forest.

Our Soil Crew will guide you as we prepare the planting area by covering it with layers of cardboard, and wood chip mulch.

This encourage worm activity and creates soft and crumbly soil, which means the roots of the trees can establish faster and have better access to nutrients.

**FORESTS IN SCHOOLS
BIG IMPACTS**

PLANTING DAY



Planting Day

After 6 months, we come back to our sites to plant at a rate of three per square meter. We use only native trees & shrubs, these native plants have acclimatised to Irish conditions over thousands of years and are best suited to our conditions.

We'll get you involved in the tree planting so prepare for dirty hands and feet!



**FORESTS IN SCHOOLS
BIG IMPACTS**

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

Get Involved



Information about the site.
You'll need to let us know any restrictions or underground utilities that could affect or be affected by the trees.



Get your pupils, parents, teachers,
and the community involved.
Stepping Stone Forests are most
successful when the whole
community is engaged and involved
in creating them.



Save your cardboard.
Have the community save all of
their large cardboard boxes and
packaging to line the planting
area with on soil preparation day



Look after your forest!
For the first 3 years, with our
guidance you'll need to keep a
careful eye on the forest to make
sure the trees get the best start.

We encourage schools to have
the children take on this duty,
hand weeding and making sure
the young trees are protected. No
chemicals are allowed.

GROW COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ONGOING ENGAGEMENT

Doing More With Cloudforests



We'll ask for your pupils to send us regular updates and progress reports on their forests.



Would you like to own your own bird boxes on your site and watch the birds nesting within?

Our birdbox cameras mean your pupils can watch the chicks as they grow.



Take part in the conservation of native Irish bats through our bat box initiative.

**Thank You
For Joining Us!**



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