

# Governor Carney Launches Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative (TEDI)

## Public invited to enter trees they plant in new TEDI tracker

**NEW CASTLE, Del.** – Governor John Carney on Tuesday launched a new program that aims to plant a tree for every Delawarean as part of the state’s efforts to reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This initiative was originally announced in Governor Carney’s [2020 State of the State Address](#) and discussed in [Delaware’s Climate Action Plan](#) as a strategy to support local communities’ enhancement of urban greenspaces.

[Click here](#) for photos from the event.

*“Last week, when I announced Delaware’s Climate Action Plan, I said that as the country’s lowest-lying state, climate change is a very real threat to Delaware’s future,” said Governor Carney. “Reducing emissions is essential to our efforts to deal with climate change, and the Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative – TEDI – helps us move forward on accomplishing one of the strategies outlined in the Climate Action Plan.”*

“We all have a stake in improving our environmental health to ensure a stronger and healthier Delaware,” said **Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long**. “By involving the community and encouraging Delawareans across the state to plant trees, we are taking steps to mitigate carbon emissions and their impact on our state, our children and future generations.”

Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental

Control (DNREC) Secretary Shawn M. Garvin and Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) Secretary Michael T. Scuse joined Governor Carney, Lt. Governor Hall-Long, state and county officials, and stakeholders at a tree planting at Lieutenant Szczerba Memorial Park in New Castle to help launch the program. The two state agencies are partnering on the initiative.

DNREC and the Delaware Department of Agriculture partnered to develop a [new website](#) where residents can access information on selecting, planting, and caring for their trees. In addition, residents, non-profit organizations, and municipalities can visit [de.gov/tedi](http://de.gov/tedi) to enter information and photos of their tree plantings to help count the trees planted throughout the state.

Healthy and resilient forests are a vital part of the efforts to combat the negative impacts of climate change. As part of a comprehensive approach in Delaware's Climate Action Plan that includes energy efficiency, clean transportation and transitioning to clean energy sources. Planting and nurturing trees is a nature-based solution to reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

"Along with our programs that help Delawareans reduce their energy use, TEDI provides an opportunity for everyone to contribute to our statewide effort to improve air and water quality, preserve soil, and support wildlife – all while reducing the harmful greenhouse gas emissions that are driving climate change," said **DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin**.

Urban trees and forests help decrease energy use and emissions by providing shade, cooling temperatures and changing wind speeds. [Studies have shown trees can reduce temperatures](#) by 9 degrees and energy and heating costs by \$7.8 billion a year in the United States.

Encompassing 1.25 million acres, Delaware has nearly 360,000

forested acres. With 78 percent of the state's forests privately owned, the Delaware Forest Service provides technical assistance, funding and education to serve as a foundation for tree planting, conservation, reforestation, forest management and wildlife protection throughout Delaware.

"We are proud to have the Delaware Forest Service as part of the Department of Agriculture. With fewer than 25 staff, the Forest Service continually works with communities and private landowners all over Delaware to harness the power of trees to transform communities," said **Secretary of Agriculture Michael T. Scuse**. "The Tree for Every Delawarean Initiative is an important investment in our state's forestland that will help improve our economy and public health. Every \$1 million invested in tree planting and reforestation efforts creates 40 forest-related jobs. And from a health perspective, research has shown that trees absorb 17.4 million tons of air pollutants a year, helping to prevent 670,000 cases of asthma and other acute respiratory symptoms annually."

DDA's Urban and Community Forestry Program works to increase tree canopy in communities statewide. The Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program has provided more than \$1.86 million in matching tree grants for more than 588 projects in the First State – with more than 16,000 trees planted. Municipalities, communities and organizations can assess their current level of tree cover as a starting point to explore opportunities to plant new trees using the Delaware Forest Service's online tree canopy tool at [de.gov/treecanopy](https://de.gov/treecanopy).

###