



CASE STUDY

Helping Bees Thrive in Ireland

At Facebook, we aim to minimize our energy, emissions and water impact, while embracing the responsibility and opportunity to impact the world beyond our operations.

The opportunity

In 2016, we were excited to grow our presence and continue investing in Ireland by building the Clonee Data Center in County Meath. The 227-acre site was shovel ready, provided good access to fiber and power, and came with a great set of community partners and local talent.

During the construction process, we learned that approximately a third of Ireland's bee species were being threatened with extinction because of reduced availability of food sources and safe nesting sites. So much so that the National Biodiversity Data Centre (GBIF) published the [All-Ireland Pollinator Plan in 2015](#) to help restore pollinator levels across Ireland. The plan brings together organizations who can provide food and shelter for pollinators across all types of land.

As a company that values collaboration to create positive impacts in our communities, we realized the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is about everyone – from farmers to local authorities, to schools, gardeners and businesses – coming together to create an Ireland where bees can thrive.

The solution

As part of Facebook's commitment to sustainability, whenever we establish a data center and join a community, we also look for tangible ways to create a positive impact and to share our values around sustainability and the environment. Knowing our data center was located in a farming area, we knew we could potentially contribute to the Plan and help reverse the decline of bees in the community.

In Spring 2018, we began adding a wide variety of native plants, shrubs and trees on the data center site in hopes they would provide food for the bees. We also implemented a beekeeping program to help cultivate bee hives, assigning three employee beekeepers to a hive to ensure that the hives are healthy.

+500k

bees at the Clonee
Data Center



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Our team of beekeepers is comprised of volunteers who work at the Clonee Data Center, including full-time employees, contingent workers and vendors. They are responsible for preparing bees and equipment for pollination activities throughout the year, including feeding bees, cleaning, painting and constructing hives, raising and replacing queen bees, dividing colonies when necessary, and replacing combs. At the end of the season, we harvest the honey, share the spoils and ensure to feed and treat the bees to ensure their health.

For those working at the Clonee Data Center, the bee keeping program is something we are really proud of. We have shared our progress within the company, as well as with the community so others can learn about the value of bees and track our progress. We are also actively training as many people as possible to help them set up their own bee hives.

The impact

Today, we are proud to say there are 10 bee hives with more than 50,000 bees per hive at the Clonee Data Center and local farmers' crop yields have increased due to more pollination. We have also received accreditation as a business supporter of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, doing our part in helping to sustain the bee population, as well as contributing to the local economy.



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More information

For more information visit our Sustainability site at sustainability.fb.com