



Carla Hardy WV Project CommuniTree Planting at Keyser High School

With a mountainside full of wind turbines as the backdrop, 25 students and 2 teachers from Keyser High School planted a mix of 16 pollinator-friendly shade and flowering trees on their campus on Friday, May 19.

All of the tree species planted were selected because they are nectar sources for bees and other pollinators, including red maple, tulip poplar, eastern redbud, sourwood, and the all-time pollinator favorite, littleleaf linden.

A study published in 1976, referenced on this [US Forest Service](#) site, found that 66 species of insects, including bees, pollinated linden (*Tilia*) flowers.

Other species that might not be considered a major source of nectar for

pollinators, such as red maples, are still very important for pollinators because they bloom very early in the spring and provide an early nectar source before other trees, like lindens, bloom.

On planting day, Alana Hartman from WV Department of Environmental Protection provided tree planting demonstrations to the two classes that participated.

In total, 25 students and two teachers assisted on planting day with digging the holes, planting the trees, and then tubing, staking, and mulching them following the techniques in the demonstration.

The second class finished early and helped water all of the trees and clean up all of the remaining empty bags of mulch,



tools, and pots. It only took about 2 hours to make a huge difference on their campus!

The science department, maintenance staff, and community volunteers will work together to maintain the trees throughout the summer.

This was the Golden Tornado's first CommuniTree planting and we look forward to working with these great students and teachers again in the future!

A word from the Project Leader, Jason Lambka:

“My favorite part about the project was allowing my students the opportunity to be involved in real world science. Taking students outside to participate in planting trees...will hopefully give them a better appreciation of the environment.”



For more information, contact the Urban Watershed Forester at ctree@cacaponinstitute.org or by calling 540-335-0687.