


# Environment: Rotary's New Area of Focus & ESRAG: Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group

PDG YAVUZ ATILA (2016-17)  
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Opening remarks by António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the opening of the World Leader's Summit - COP26 (Glasgow, UK) <https://youtu.be/caGfZWpY6xM>

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## Our Planet is experiencing increasing number of Natural Disasters in the recent years

- ▶ Record High Temperatures
- ▶ Forest Fires
- ▶ Big Floods due to heavy rains
- ▶ Drought and forced migration
- ▶ Arctic Ice Melts
- ▶ Sea Level Rising
- ▶ Ocean Acidification

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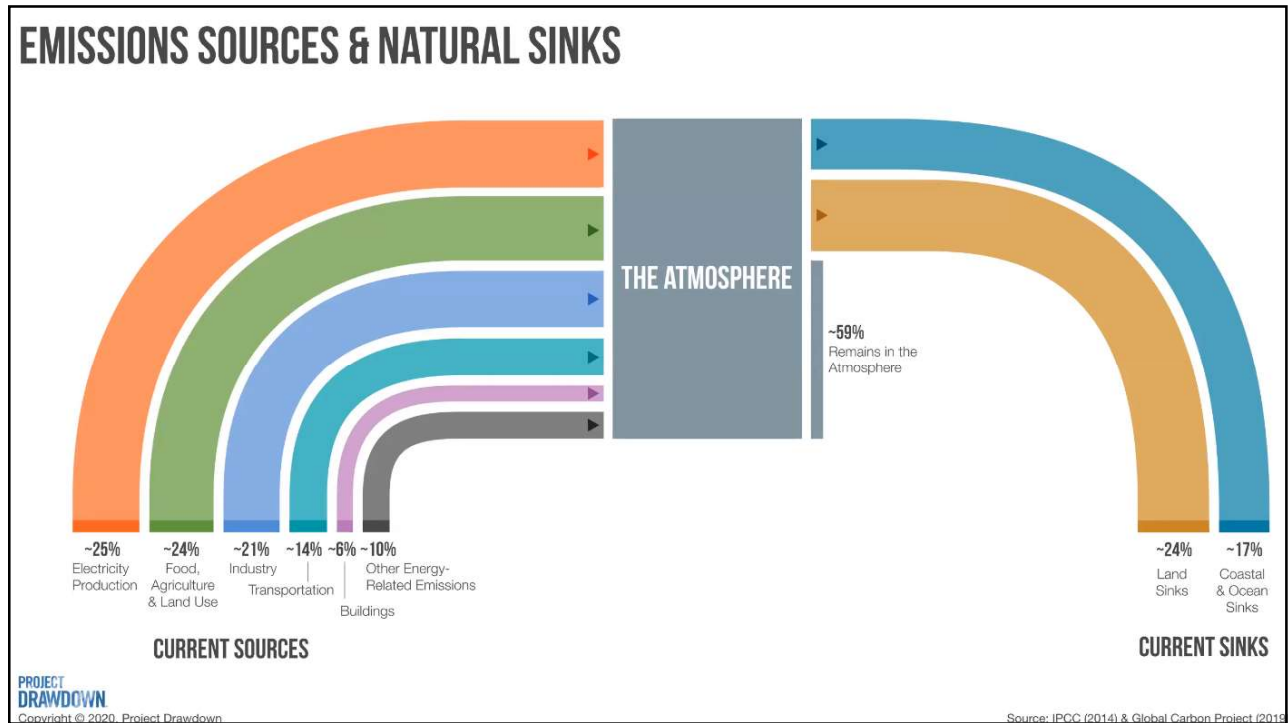
**The BLUE**  
4.54 billion years old

**Planet**  
Population:  
1960: 3 B  
2020: 7.8 B

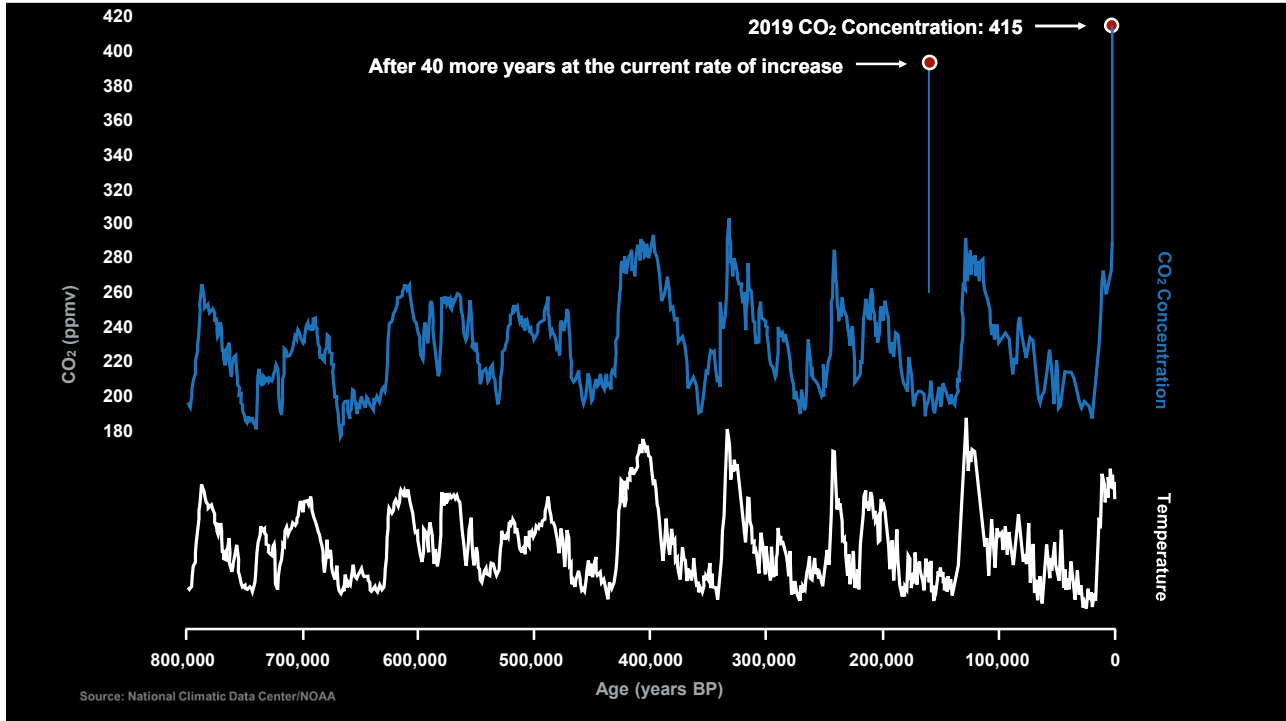
**Rotary**  
PEOPLE of ACTION

**ESRAG**  
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY  
ROTARY ACTION GROUP

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## Rotary Supporting the Environment 30 years ago



“1000 solutions to existing ecological concerns affecting their communities”



**Preserve Planet Earth**  
**RI 1990**  
Rotary Ecology Day  
1 November

**By 1996**  
**PPE had 2000**  
**environmental**  
**conservation projects**

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### RI President 1990-91: Paulo Costa, Brazil

Developed Rotary International's Preserve Planet Earth Program



We Rotarians are all citizens of the world, and we must take the lead in facing this greatest challenge in human history, the survival of our planet.

. . .Envisioning a world of greater justice in which Peace reigns supreme, we will work with dedication to protect and preserve our natural resources, in order to achieve a better quality of life here on our “planet Earth.”

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## RI President 2017-2018: Ian Riseley, Australia

There is another aspect of sustainability that underpins all ... which we can no longer put aside as not our responsibility. That is sustainability of our planet ...



Today, environmental degradation and climate change threaten us all. They are having a disproportionate impact on those who are most vulnerable . . . [E]nvironmental sustainability ... is, and must be, everyone's concern.

RIPE Ian Riseley's Theme Address to the 2017 International Assembly.

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## Environmental Sustainability Tree Planting Challenge

President Riseley challenged all 1.3 million Rotarians to plant a tree.



ESRAG documented at least 4.7 million trees, likely many more

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## RI President 2018-2019: Barry Rassin, Bahamas

Rotarians must acknowledge some hard realities about pollution, environmental degradation, and climate change.

With sea levels projected to rise two meters by 2100, “my country is going to be gone in 50 years, along with most of the islands in the Caribbean and coastal cities and low-lying areas all over the world.”



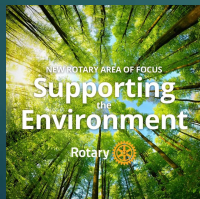
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## RI President 2019-2020: Mark Maloney, USA

The Rotary Foundation Trustees and Rotary International Board of Directors have both unanimously approved adding a new area of focus:

**SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

Friday, June 26, 2020



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## RI President 2020-2021: Holger Knaack

- ▶ “Whenever [Rotarians] don’t want to put things on the table, we say it is political. The best example is Rotary’s new seventh area of focus, the environment. There are many people saying we shouldn’t talk about climate change because that is political. In my view, it is definitely not political. It is a fact, which is why it is important. If things are obviously wrong, then we have to say so.”



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## RI President 2021-2022: Shekhar Mehta

- ▶ In a speech Nov. 10 at the UN Climate Conference, Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta announced that **mangrove restoration will be a central focus of Rotary’s environmental work** in the year to come. “The impact of climate change is rising sea levels, tornadoes and cyclones, and the best and first defender of these in tropical coastal communities are the mangroves,” he said. He noted seeing first-hand the protection provided by mangroves from storm surges. In the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in Sri Lanka, the areas buffered by mangroves suffered much less damage.



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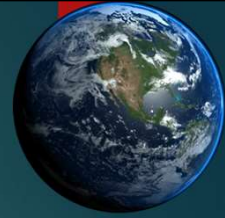
## RI President Jennifer Jones announces Rotary's \$97 million pledge for sustainable projects during Global Citizen Live

- ▶ Rotary International President-elect Jennifer Jones took the stage at the Global Citizen Live concert on 25 September in Paris, France, and **pledged \$97 million in grant funding from the organization for sustainable, Rotary club-led projects.**



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# HOW ROTARY WILL HELP PROTECT OUR PLANET



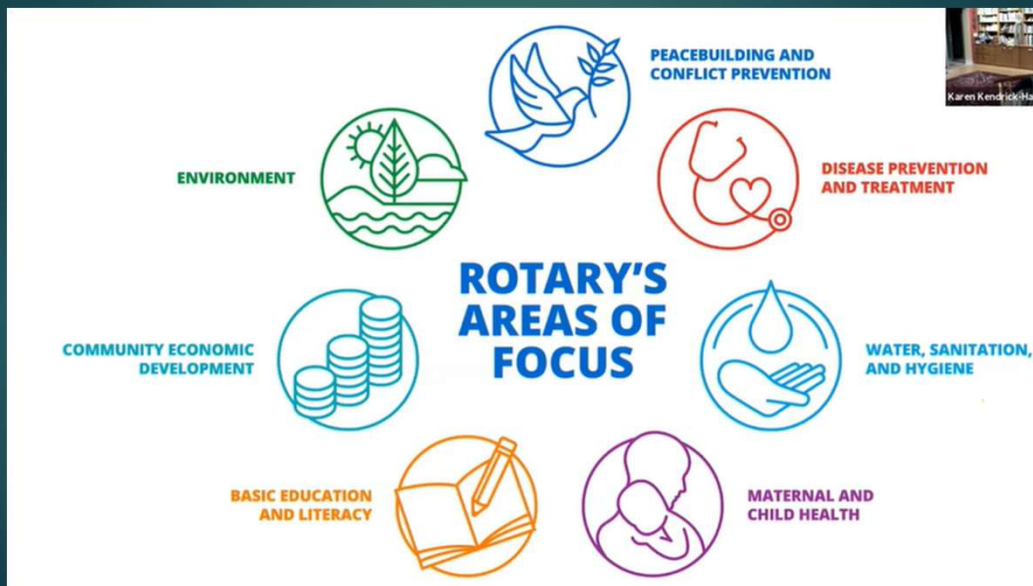
The Rotary Foundation will enable our members and their community allies to take action in these ways:

- ▶ Protecting and restoring land, coastal, marine, and freshwater resources
- ▶ Enhancing the capacity of communities to support natural resource management and conservation
- ▶ Supporting sustainable agriculture, fishing, and aquaculture practices
- ▶ Addressing the cause of climate change by reducing the emission of greenhouse gases
- ▶ Strengthening ecosystems and communities affected by climate change
- ▶ Supporting education initiatives that promote behavior that protects the environment
- ▶ Advocating for sustainable consumption to build an economy that uses resources more efficiently
- ▶ Addressing environmental justice issues and public health concerns



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# Rotary's Areas of Focus



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Rotary 

“Rotary members are tackling environmental issues the way they always do: coming up with projects, using their connections to change policy and planning for the future.”

For more information, **ROTARY.ORG**



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# ESRAG Inaugural Meeting, June 2015

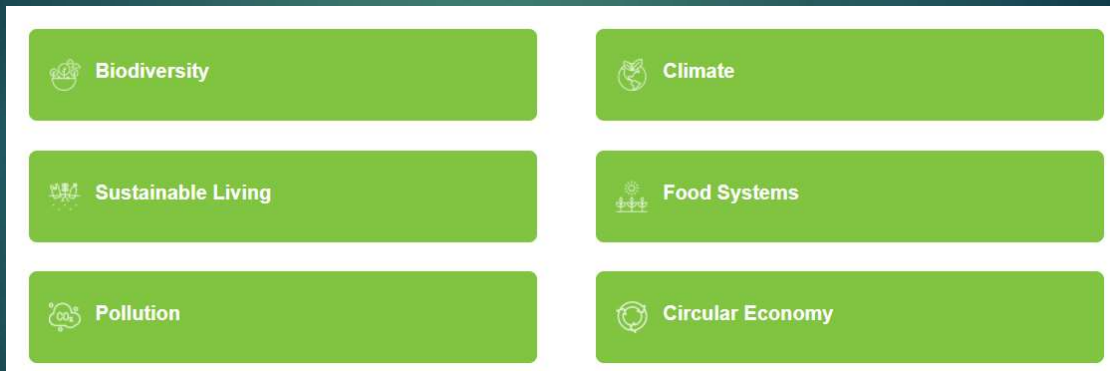


ESRAG Inaugural Meeting, RI Convention - Sao Paulo, Brazil - June 9, 2015

A worldwide network of inspired individuals who translate their passions into relevant social causes to change lives in communities.

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**ESRAG's vision: A world that people unite and take action to protect the environment for a sustainable future.**



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## Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group (ESRAG)

Assists Rotary clubs, districts and multi-districts in

- planning and implementing service projects
- building awareness
- building global and local networks
- inspiring action for sustainable solutions
- supporting RI in environmental initiatives



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ESRAG ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

Home About Climate Projects News & Blog Membership

ESRAG & World Environment Day  
A Handbook for Rotary Clubs

By helping to protect our natural world, we support all of our areas of focus

Rotary ESRAG WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY UN environment

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ESRAG Western North America Regional Chapter  
with 36 Rotary Districts in Zones 26, 27, 28 |

Zone 28  
West

Rotary ESRAG

ESRAG Western North America Regional Chapter

- ▶ 36 Districts
- ▶ 2017 Rotary Clubs
- ▶ 83,775 Rotarians
- ▶ Zones 26, 27, 28

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## Some Impactful Projects and Lifestyle Changes

- ▶ Tree Planting
- ▶ River Cleanups & Plastic Solutions
- ▶ Pollinator/Butterfly Gardens
- ▶ Community Gardens
- ▶ Install Solar roofs
- ▶ Prefer Electric Vehicles, Bikes/E-bikes, Walking
- ▶ Convert Gas Stoves and Heaters to Electric, Heat-Pump Water Heaters
- ▶ Prefer Green Energy sources

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Working with Rotarians, Non-Rotarians,  
Interactors, Rotaractors, Environmental Clubs

**Attracting new Members**

Interact



Rotaract

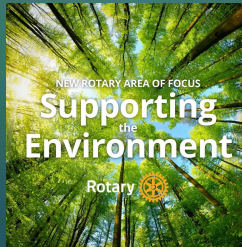


Rotary



PEOPLE of ACTION

  
**JOIN LEADERS  
EXCHANGE IDEAS  
TAKE ACTION  
IN YOUR COMMUNITY**



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**ESRAG**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY  
ROTARY ACTION GROUP

[www.ESRAG.org/join](http://www.ESRAG.org/join)

LIKE/Follow -> Facebook.com/ESRAGBigWest

JOIN & CONNECT with ESRAG Today

To Preserve Planet EARTH!..

Regular: \$30/yr \$125/5-years

Contributing: \$100/yr \$400/5-years

Your tax-deductible 501-c(3) membership dues are the sole source of support for ESRAG's website and administration costs.

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