



Rotary and the UN: Partnering for the Environment and Sustainable Development

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ESRAG Forum - Inspiring Environmental Optimism

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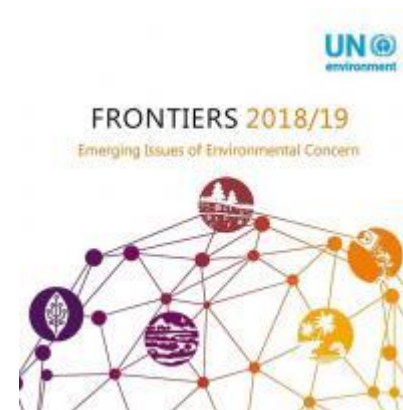
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UN Environment Programme

UN Environment and Sustainable Development



Our Mandate

- UN Environment sets the global environmental agenda and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment
- Empower governments and other stakeholders in evidence-based decision-making
- Conduct environmental and early warning assessments, including of emerging concerns
- Global environmental monitoring systems for air and water, (biodiversity, oceans and land/soils to come)



World Environment Situation Room

A Single Entry Door to Geospatial Information connecting a HUB of Data Centers worldwide



Meeting the targets of Sustainable Development Goals is doable... **through partnerships!**

- Examples of successful local action can be leveraged by the UN's global reach and mandate.
- Collectively, we have the technological and financial means; collective commitment, political will and policy response.
- We need **partnerships** between civil society, the private and public sectors, NGO's, international organizations, financing institutions, science and academia.
- Partnerships with Rotary can for example pave the way – with global proportions and place based ownership!



About World Environment Day



- Globally recognized on June 5 each year – for world wide awareness and action
- UN's principal event for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of nature
- World Environment Day in 2019 is focused on reducing air pollution
- Join us to #BeatAirPollution

<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>





Beat Air
Pollution



WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY

CHINA
2019



EN ▾



**7 million premature deaths
are caused by air pollution
each year**

#BEATAIRPOLLUTION

Take Action



The ESRAG and World Environment Day Handbook for Rotary Clubs

- Launched on the occasion of World Environment Day
- Foreword by outgoing Rotary President Barry Rassin and incoming President Mark Daniel Maloney
- Created by the ESRAG with input from UN Environment. Aims to educate and inspire Rotarians to take action for the environment.
- Contains examples of 11 key actions Rotary Clubs can take
- Environmental action supports all six of Rotary's key areas – **peace, disease, water and sanitation, mothers and children, education, and local economic growth!**



1. Host a World Environment Day event



- World Environment Day (June 5th) is the “people’s day” for doing something positive for the environment
- It is the UNs’ principal event for encouraging awareness and action for the protection of nature.
- Grown to be one of the largest global platforms for public outreach and is celebrated by millions of people in more than 100 countries

<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/get-involved/register-your-event>



2. Adopt a river for sustainable development

- Rivers are universal lifelines to societies and civilizations
- However, are under serious threat from population growth and urbanization, increased economic activity

Actions

- Identify a local stretch of a waterway (river, creek, or tributary) to adopt.
- Identify sources of pollution through water quality monitoring or an “audit” during a clean-up.
- Conduct awareness and education campaigns to help protect the waterway.



3. Organize a clean-up

- Identify a particularly polluted area that you want to prioritize for a clean-up.
- Invite work colleagues, your family, partners, neighboring organizations, and suppliers to help.
- When collecting trash, analyse the types of trash collected and their sources through an audit
- Create an alliance of businesses and other organisations in your community to support and act on clean-ups.



4. Measure and improve air quality



- Pollution in our cities and in our homes is killing 6.5 million people each year and is driving climate change

Actions

- Promote carbon sequestration through tree planting.
- Donate or install air quality monitoring devices or buy handheld air quality meters to test air in your local community; i.e. test the concept of citizen science

- Talk to media, host live interviews, or post online to raise awareness about the presence of air pollution in your community.
- Promote car-free days in your community.
- Consider eating mostly vegetables instead of meat.

5. Monitor and improve water quality



- Roughly 80 percent of world's wastewater discharged untreated (over 95% in some developing countries)
- Pollution through pathogens, organic matter, chemicals and salinity are of particular concern – up to 1/3 of all rivers could be affected. (UNEP 2016, Snapshot of the World's Water Quality)

Actions

- Set up water-quality monitoring networks along rivers, lakes, or aquifers.

- Citizen science exercises to monitor the water-quality status and trends of freshwater ecosystems
- Promote safe wastewater reuse and treatment – thoroughly underpinned by science

6. Plant trees and restore forests

- The threat to global forests is alarming, with 7 million hectares (about 5 million football fields) destroyed annually
- This deforestation, together with agriculture and other land use changes — accounts for about a quarter of all global greenhouse gas emissions.

Actions

- Raise awareness about the benefits of tree planting and forest restoration.
- Organize community drives to plant trees on land that has been degraded.
- Identify conservation challenges in your community and find ways to address the problem.
- Host a tree-planting event.



7. Connect with nature



Actions

- Lead a nature hike.
- Contribute to a citizen science platform by monitoring nature or bird counts, frog counts, etc.
- Raise awareness in schools about the importance of creating opportunities for students to experience nature
- Encourage Rotarian parents to host nature clubs for families from their community
- Fundraise to create nature and cycling trails in your communities.
- Create opportunities for people to engage in nature-based activities.

8. Help a community go solar

- Solar power as a renewable, carbon dioxide free energy source, has a significantly smaller environmental impact

Actions

- Promote the use of renewable energy resources, such as solar.
- Support underprivileged communities by helping provide solar powered systems for their homes.
- Raise money to add solar panels to a local school and provide
• education about them and energy-use counters.
- Develop and support programs to train women as entrepreneurs, who can install, maintain, and repair renewable energy systems.



9. Build a Community Garden

- The urgency to produce enough food to satisfy the increasing global population has led to the more rapid destruction of our environment
- Growing community gardens can help reverse some of these trends while providing fresh, locally produced food, and building community pride and friendship.



Actions

- Deepen people's understanding and appreciation for community gardens by starting your own Rotary club garden or hosting an open, sustainable garden event
- Sell seeds and plants and teach people how to plant and tend their own gardens.
- Organise a forum on how and why we should protect all pollinators that provide critical services in our food production.

10. Beat plastic pollution

- About 8 million tonnes of plastic enter the ocean annually from rivers, creeks, and drains, and ends up either floating on the surface or deposited on beaches or in ocean sediment.
- UN Environment has been leading the fight against marine litter through its Clean Seas campaign-



Actions

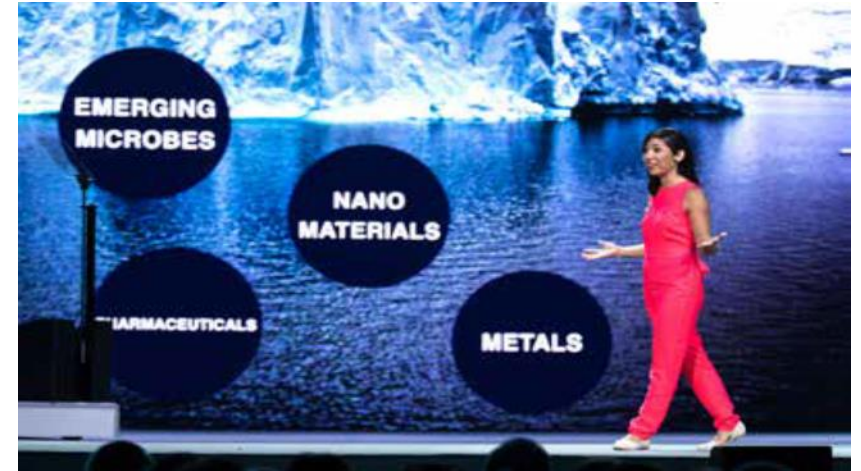
- Organize clean-ups of plastic pollution (clean-up activities can be combined with an audit of the plastic litter collected).
- Set up an education booth at a local shopping centre that highlights the issues of plastics and waterways, and offer tips for people to reduce their use of plastic.
- Sell reusable coffee mugs or reusable cotton shopping bags with a simple message and your club's name and contact details.

11. Reduce our ecological footprint

- Currently; we're using three times more resources than in 1970.
- If our consumption patterns do not change by 2050, we will need the resources of three Planet Earths to sustain us.

Actions

- Raise awareness about the ecological footprint of goods and services to encourage people to choose more sustainable practices.
- Provide space and resources for businesses and people to share their experiences about sustainability to foster a culture of innovation and change.
- Host electronic waste drives where Rotarians collect e-waste from others and dispose of it appropriately. Work with local authorities to raise awareness about sustainable waste solutions.



Two Next Big Things for Rotary?

1) Restoring nature and our relationship with the Planet

- The UN has just taken bold new steps to accelerate efforts to achieve the SDGs, by declaring 2021-2030 the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
 - This Decade will massively scale up restoration of degraded and destroyed ecosystems to fight the climate crisis, enhance food security, water supply and biodiversity.
 - UN Environment and FAO will implement – and we need partners like Rotary in order to deliver on these actions worldwide.
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2) Join us in building a local and national Water Sustainability Agenda 2030 – and raising awareness

World Water Quality Alliance

assessment and service platform



2030 Agenda



National relevance



50+ partners



Country Owned
Co-Design



CHINA
2019



Only Partnership will
support a meaningful
Agenda 2030 for people
and nature at scale

Thank you



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