



D9675 EnviroClub Awards *Information*

Introduction

The District EnviroClub Awards have been adapted from a successful environmental awards program in the United Kingdom. In this program, clubs register environmentally sustainable (ES) initiatives (activities, projects, programs, and events) and are encouraged to improve these through a series of awards, starting with a Bronze Award and moving on to Silver and Gold Awards. Individual Rotarians are also encouraged to be catalysts for environmental action in their communities.

We should all be aware of the many environmental problems facing the world, such as climate change, pollution, water shortages, loss of habitat, energy security, loss of biodiversity and waste management. Rotary is in an ideal position to take leadership to ensure that the world we leave to the next generations is no worse, if not better, than when we inherited it. Participating in the EnviroClub Awards enables us to support Rotary's newest Area of Focus – *'Protecting the Environment'*.

Benefits of being an EnviroClub

- It will give recognition to your club for its existing environmental initiatives and the incentive to further develop these initiatives.
- Environmental sustainability is an important and current issue worldwide, affecting everyone. Being a recipient of an EnviroClub Award may help to make your club more relevant to your members and better engage and retain your members.
- Recognition of your environmental initiatives through the EnviroClub Award may also attract new members, increase income to your club through community grants and lead to new partnerships with Rotary clubs, businesses, and community groups in your local community.

Aims and objectives

The aims of these awards are to encourage clubs to undertake environmental initiatives and by publicly presenting the Awards, encourage other clubs to explore their own environmental initiatives.

Who can take part?

Any Rotary, Rotaract or Interact club in District 9675.

How does it work?

The scheme begins with the appointment of a Club Environment Officer (EO), who may be either the Club Chair or an Environment Committee, a key player in another Committee such as Community Service, or any interested member. It is recognised that environmental initiatives can span many avenues of service such as Community Service, International Service and Youth Service.

The Awards Scheme is a progressive criteria-based system, where clubs will work for a 'Bronze' Award first before progressing to a 'Silver' Award and finally a 'Gold' Award. To encourage innovation by clubs, there are no specific initiatives in which a Club should participate for any level of Award. The club's Environment Officer might consider joining ESRAAG to access a variety of project ideas and resources <https://www.esrag.org/>.

Applications for an Award are forwarded to the District Environment Officer (DEO) who reviews the submission with relevant members of the District Environment Committee. The DEO is typically the person who chairs the District 9675 Environment and Sustainability Committee. The final decision to approve the award will be made by the District Governor.

Three levels of the Awards

Bronze Award

This is the basic award, simply requiring a club to register its EO and document its current and planned initiatives.

Steps

- Appoint a Club Environment Officer (EO).
- Form a small committee or working group of 2 or 3+ members with the aim to meet either formally or informally several times a year to review the Club's current environmental projects (if any) and to consider other projects.
- Select at least one environment project to implement.
- Have the project(s) recognised by the Club's Board and shared with the rest of the Club members.
- When the project is ongoing, submit an application for the Bronze Award to the DEO.

Examples of initiatives

- Regular litter clean-ups (e.g., once a month).
- Build a vegetable garden in the community or at a school.
- Participate in tree planting events.
- Collect unwanted personal items (e.g., clothes, glasses), toys or household goods and donate to an Opportunity Shop if in good condition or take or send to a recycler such as Big W (broken/incomplete plastic toys), Terracycle, or Brad Recycling.
- Include an environmental column in your club newsletter.
- Partner with an environmental organisation and participate in an environmental initiative.

Silver Award

To qualify for a Silver Award, a club will need to demonstrate that it is continuing with and improving an existing initiative **and** launching at least one new one.

Steps

- The Club Environment Committee or working group meets either formally or informally several times a year and, where possible, includes other club members in discussions of potential environmental projects.
- Launch **ONE** or more new major initiative.

- Continue an existing initiative and increase its effectiveness.
- Communicate information about your initiatives through newsletter(s) and/or other media.

Examples of initiatives

- An additional initiative from the list above.
- Organise or participate in a community environmental or sustainability event.
- Organise a collection of recyclable items (e.g., plastic bottle caps, blister packs) and transport or post these to a recycling centre such as Terracycle, Brad Recycling or your Council's recycling facility.
- Conduct a community/club seminar on contemporary environmental issues, such as recycling or the use of plastics.
- Install or contribute to the installation of renewable energy systems in schools or community venues, either nationally or internationally.

Gold Award

A Gold Award signifies a significant commitment to the environment. To qualify for a Gold Award, a club will need to demonstrate its involvement in a minimum of **TWO** major initiatives in the Rotary year.

Steps

- The Club Environment Committee or working group meets either formally or informally several times a year and, where possible, includes the whole club in discussions of potential environmental projects.
- Launch **TWO** new major initiatives **OR** continue **TWO** existing major ones and explore ways to increase their effectiveness.
- Look for opportunities to build partnerships, for example with:
 - other clubs or cluster of clubs in District 9675
 - a multidistrict or global initiative
 - the wider community, local schools, businesses, or churches
 - environmental groups
- Communicate information about your initiatives through newsletter(s) and/or other media.
- Prepare and present a 2 - 3 min video clip on one of the main projects highlighting key aspects and any collaborations / partnerships, or community involvement.

Examples of initiatives

- Organise a major clean-up of a beach or creek.
- Organise a clothing swap day.
- Organise or participate in a community environmental or sustainability event.
- Install, or participate in the installation of, renewable energy systems in schools or community venues, either nationally or internationally.
- Encourage schools to work together, for example, students from a secondary school could assist children from a primary school to plant trees in parks or bushland

reserves. (Such activities are best done in coordination with the relevant local Council or government environment department.)

- Collect unwanted hospital equipment and arrange for these to be sent to needy communities in Australia or overseas.
- Work with a local school to support students to monitor the energy performance of their school or assess its carbon footprint or to measure its water usage.

How to apply

- Applications can be made at any time in the Rotary year, but before 1 June, to allow time for processing prior to the District Changeover dinner.
- Complete the application form and forward to the District Environment Officer (see below).

Awards

The Awards will be presented at an appropriate District 9675 function.

Application form

Available on the District 9675 website - <https://rotarydistrict9675.org/Stories/district-enviroclub-awards>



More Information

Contact the District Environment Officer (DEO):

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Chair: District 9675 Environment & Sustainability Committee

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