

The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group - **ESRAG: Supporting The Environment** Opportunities, Limitations and FAQs The Newest Area of Focus

Big West Regional Chapter
September 16, 2020





The Guardian

Two people die as Venice floods at highest level in 50 years
'This is result of climate change,' says Venice mayor, who decla...



Bees Loss of bees causes shortage of key food crops, study finds

- Apple and cherry production hampered by lack of wild bees
- Bees affected by loss of habitat, pesticides and climate crisis

Air pollution is much worse than we thought

Ditching fossil fuels would pay for itself through clean air alone.

By David Roberts on August 12, 2020 10:10 am



CNBC

ENVIRONMENT

As Earth overheats, asphalt is releasing harmful air pollutants in cities

Experts warned of a pandemic decades ago Why weren't we ready

In a rueful look back at her prescient book, an author wrestles with why we shrug at the nightmare warnings - and hope this time will be different.

9 APRIL 2020.
BY ROBIN MARANTZ HENIG



Environment

Climate crisis: Amazon deforestation up by a third, sparking calls for urgent action to tackle logging and fires

UK should legally require companies to cut deforestation from supply chains, WWF says

Harry Cockburn | Thursday 13 August 2020 12:12

f t w s

2 minutes left

BBC Home News Sport More

NEWS

Science & Environment

Nature loss: Major report to highlight 'natural and human emergency'

By Matt McGrath
Environment correspondent

28 April 2019

UK climate change protests



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOEL SARTORE. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTO ARK
+ READ CAPTION

ENVIRONMENT One million species at risk of extinction, UN report warns

A landmark global assessment warns that the window is closing to safeguard biodiversity and a healthy planet. Yet

FOX 32 CHICAGO

Residents angry over critical water shortage in Saint John, Indiana

By Dane Placko | Published August 25 | FOX 32 Chicago

Residents angry over critical water shortage in Saint John, Indiana

2 minutes left

FOX 32 CHICAGO

CNN health

PROJECT PLANET

Global food waste twice as high as previously estimated, study says

in Erdman, CNN

2056 GMT (0456 HKT) March 18, 2020



A woman in Bangladesh uses bales of straw to try to protect a riverbank that is eroding away from floodwaters. Much of the country is ground zero for a global climate crisis.

PHOTOGRAPH BY G.M.B. AKASH. PANOS PICTURES/REDUX

ENVIRONMENT

Climate change creates a new migration crisis for Bangladesh

The country, already grappling with the Rohingya crisis, now faces a devastating migration problem as hundreds of thousands face an impossible choice between battered coastlines and urban slums.

Central Europe to face severe droughts without late action

2020



Researchers have predicted a sevenfold increase in the number of consecutive summer droughts in Central Europe. The

Forbes

672 views | Sep 3, 2020, 11:07am EDT

Climate Change And The Circular Economy

Frank Van Gansbeke Contributor

Fintech

Professor of the Practice at Middlebury College in Vermont.

reduce
reuse
recycle



Introducing Rotary's newest area of focus:

Supporting the Environment

“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.

THE UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals

mostly align with **Rotary's Six Areas of Focus:**



Promoting Peace



Fighting Disease



Providing Clean Water and Sanitation



Saving Mothers and Children



Supporting Education



Growing Local Economies

**Only six UNSDG Goals do not align:
Those that relate to the Environment**



An AOF for the Environment opens opportunities beyond Global Grants

- TRF will be able to add a team of technical advisors with environmental expertise.
- Peace Fellows and Global Grant Scholars will be able to choose the Environment as their course of study.
- Arch Klumph Society Members will be able to dedicate their gifts to the environment.
- Staff members will be empowered to support initiatives relating to the environment.
- Rotary will be able to expand staff expertise to add an Environmental Sustainability officer, and more.

SIX POINTS

- Trustees unanimously created New Area of Focus and amended TRF's Mission Statement, BUT No Policy or Grantmaking Guidelines yet.
- No Global Grant applications until July 2021
- Role of Rotary Action Groups – Primarily supporting clubs and Districts in project development, and implementation
- Limitations on Advocacy – only what you need to do the project at hand.
- Standard Rotary Club Constitution – Article 14 YES: Discuss the welfare of the community, the nation, and the world, but NO endorsing 'political' positions.
- Tension between limitations on clubs, and responsibilities of individual Rotarians – see 1992 Jönköping Resolution.

June 2020 Actions by TRF Trustees and RI Directors

The Trustees

- subject to approval by the RI Board, **unanimously agreed to add the Environment as a seventh area of focus**, effective 1 July 2021 and revised Rotary Foundation's mission statement to read:

Our Mission: The Rotary Foundation helps Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by improving health, providing quality education, **improving the environment**, and alleviating poverty.

The Board . . .

- thanked the Trustees for accepting the Board's earlier request to **establish a new Environment area of focus and unanimously agreed to the addition of this seventh areas of focus**;

<https://my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/trustee-decisions>

<https://my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/board-decisions>

Rotary Action Groups

RI Code of Policies Article 42

42.030.2. Relationship with Rotary International

Rotary Action Groups are a resource to Rotary clubs and districts in their specialty. Rotary Action Group activities must be in harmony with RI policy. **Rotary Action Groups may not be used to promote** religious beliefs, **political issues**, or other non-Rotary organizations, or **for the sole purpose of advocacy**. Recognition of a Rotary Action Group by RI in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any district or club. **A Rotary Action Group may not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. A Rotary Action Group is not an agency of RI.** Rotary Action Groups must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. Rotary Action Groups may not exist or function in any country in violation of the laws of such country.

42.030.15. Rotary Action Group Advocacy Guidelines

The general secretary shall circulate to all Rotary Action Groups the Rotary Action Group Advocacy Guidelines, as follows:

Rotarians are advocates for ending polio and for improving lives through service in Rotary's six areas of focus.* Rotary Action Groups are organized with the purpose of supporting clubs and districts in planning and implementing large-scale, community development and humanitarian service projects in a particular domain in which their members have expertise. **As part of their work, it is understood that RAGs promote awareness of an issue and advocate for action to address the issue.**

When dealing with governments for which a particular issue is politically sensitive, RAGs are expected to avoid taking partisan positions and are encouraged to submit suggested calls to action to Rotary International for review.” (April 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 135)

Source: January 2018 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 102

This section of the **RI Code of Policies has not been amended since the creation of the area of focus, ‘Supporting the Environment’*

Standard Rotary Club Constitution

Article 14 Community, National, and International Affairs

Section 1 — *Proper Subjects.* Any public question involving the welfare of the community, the nation, and the world is a proper subject of fair and informed discussion at a club meeting. However, this club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure.

Section 2 — *No Endorsements.* This club shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office and shall not discuss at any club meeting the merits or demerits of any such candidate.

Section 3 — *Non-Political.*

(a) Resolutions and Opinions. This club shall neither adopt nor circulate resolutions or opinions and shall not take action dealing with world affairs or international policies of a political nature.

(b) Appeals. This club shall not direct appeals to clubs, peoples, or governments, or circulate letters, speeches, or proposed plans for the solution of specific international problems of a political nature.

Council on Resolutions: 92-287

from the Rotary Club of Jönköping, Sweden.

...**clubs** shall be encouraged to ... make it possible for our earth to survive as a good place for mankind and give emphasis to the **protection and improvement of the environment** in their community and World Community Service projects.

It is the **responsibility of every Rotarian** to support action directed at **improving the environment** and **protecting animals and plants from extinction**.

Article 42 Community Service

42.020. Environmental Protection

42.020.1. Protecting the Environment

1998 RI Code of Policies, present until 2010



Challenging times for our clubs

Embracing the environment as a cause will open many opportunities for Rotary's future and for the world.

Rotary's leadership is needed.

There's a thirst for Rotary's moral authority.

Opportunities

- New Members
- Project Inspirations- District grants now; Global Grants July 1, 2021
- New Partner opportunities
- New Funding Opportunities



ESRAG's Project Drawdown Task Force

Climate Solutions inspired by Project Drawdown research



- Reduce Sources
- Support Sinks
- Strengthen Institutions

Co-leaders:

Doug White Anderson dougkwhite@gmail.com

Rob Anderson rob@causegoodthings.com,



Drawdown is that point in time when the concentration of greenhouse gases peaks and begins to decline on a year-to-year basis.

Drawdown.org

Carbon Offsets

A partnership with global impact!

ESRAG is partnering with Tradewater, a mission-based company, to collect and eliminate obsolete Freon cylinders, eliminating an ozone depleting and potent global warming gas



- Partnership with ESRAG expands the global network to collect Freon cylinders for destruction
- Together we can prevent 1,000,000 tons of GHG from being released into the atmosphere by the end of 2021
- Freon collection and destruction creates economic opportunity and protects the environment



Offset

ESRAG provides offset opportunities



I Offset My Carbon Footprint !



CARBON OFFSET CERTIFICATE

A gift from

has been given in your
honor to offset

tonnes of CO₂ to reduce greenhouse
gas emissions in the fight against
the climate crisis. This donation will
support the work of the Environmental
Sustainability Rotary Action Group in its
mission to educate others as well as
helping develop, fund, and implement
carbon reducing global projects within
Rotary.



For more information visit esrag.org

Invest in Rotary projects
to reduce & clean-up GHG
emissions

ESRAG's Renewable Energy Task Force

**Cleaner, more efficient
cook stoves**



**Solar and wind power
as local utilities for**

- schools
- clinics
- wells
- community centers



- use less fuel
- healthier Indoor Air
- less time &/or money spent on fuel
- reduced deforestation
- safer cooking



ESRAG's Biodiversity Task Force



Water-shed & ecosystem
sensitive plantings, agroforestry

Biodiversity Support – pollinator gardens,
reducing animal –human conflict



Empowering Women and Girls



Menstrual Hygiene Management and reusable kits to support school completion.

Supporting Reproductive Health and Education to give Women choices



Training Women and Girls in STEM Providing skills and Opportunities in Green technologies

ESRAG's Food Solutions Task Force



Reducing Food Waste

Plant-based diets



Resilient and
Regenerative Agriculture

Coming Soon: Circular Economy Task Force

Working upstream to reduce single use
Plastics and the need for Clean ups,





Pollution in the River killed my older sister, one I will never know, because she died before I was born, from Polio contracted from a contaminated River where untreated sewage still flows today. The influence of Rotarians is huge. The moral authority of Rotarians can play a leading role in bringing positive environmental action. We must stop pollution and Rotary **MUST** make the environment a unique area of focus: to prevent more deaths and sickness, to stop those mothers from losing their children, To make sure our future generations live in a better world. 🌍

Salvador Rico, Cleaning the Rivers of the World, RC South Ukiah, CA, USA



Open opportunities by taking action:

- **Join** ESRAG
- **Engage** your Regional Chapter
- **Connect** with a Project Task Force
- Calculate reduce and offset your carbon footprint: home - club - business
- Start an **Environmental Committee** in your club
- **Support** your **District's Environmental Officer** – or become one
- **Activate Rotary youth** with the Climate Solutions Coalition.
- Use ESRAG's resources to open environmental opportunities in your club.





- First ever Observer Delegate sent by Rotary International to the UNFCCC Climate Talks, attending COP24 in Katowice, Poland, December 2018.
- Invited Presenter to TRF's Environmental Issues Taskforce, February 2020

Karen Kendrick-Hands, J.D.
RC Madison, WI D 6250

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Phone: +1 (313) 600-1668



Rotary Climate Action Network.

Subject: RCAT/ESRAG Andrew Gunther speaking on the Climate Crisis & Solutions


When: Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 1:00 pm - 2:00 PM. Central Time

Location:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4734005711?pwd=L0UreDFsOWWh2dnpucGViczNvcUZqQT09G>

Alan Anderson
luckyduck49@gmail.com
Cell: 507-301-4673



Rotary 

The Climate Crisis: Meeting the Moment


Andrew Gunther


Sept 17, 2020 - Thursday 11AM PST

This virtual talk will reveal the surprising history of climate science, discuss the critical events leading to the current climate emergency and offer vivid illustrations of some of our most hopeful solutions – many of which are already underway. Those who attend will become more effective communicators about climate issues, and ambassadors for the clean-energy transition that's needed to give the next generation a more livable future.

Andrew Gunther is an environmental scientist and climate change educator who was recently appointed by California Governor Gavin Newsom to the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board (www.andrewgunther.com).

Sponsored by

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ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

Rotary  **Rotary Climate Action Team**

RSVP <http://evite.me/b7rMGejs8B>