

Learn More - Know the Facts



The emerging threat to the most vulnerable and underprivileged members of society, is the rapid degradation of their environment, due to rising global temperatures

Our planet is very sensitive to both temperature and pollution. It only takes small increases in either to upset the delicate and unique balance that sustains life. Global climate change will lead to:

- Desertification & Sand Storms
- Strong Winds & Destruction
- Torrential Rain & Flooding
- High Temperatures & Drought
- Polar Ice Melt & Rising Seas
- Deforestation & Loss of Habitats



We must recognise that pollution is not created by a few major culprits, but by each and every one of us. There are now over 6.2 billion of us on Earth - an increase of 200% in approximately 100 years!

FINALLY, although it seems so big, our planet is actually a small, beautiful and fragile place, and whilst it seems unbelievable, WE ARE ABLE to change it for the better.

It is up to us as Rotarians to play our part and set an example.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Get Involved Locally

IDEAS

Projects for Rotary Clubs

- Organise a public anti-litter campaign in your area
- Provide funding for additional dog bins, litter bins, and recycling bins in your local town centre
- Support the Eco Schools Environmental Education Programme. Visit www.eco-schools.org.uk for information
- Help your local school to start a walking bus scheme
- Support the CRed project at the University of East Anglia (UEA). Visit www.cred-uk.org to find out more
- Support the Rodney Huggins Environmental Award
- Promote carbon offsetting through the Rotary CO2 Offset Trust. Visit www.co2offsettrust.org for details
- Contact your local environmental or wildlife group and lend a hand with projects taking place in your area
- Clean up local beaches, beauty spots, recreation grounds
- Clear any derelict sites or neglected ponds
- Create healthy and diverse wildlife habitats
- Plant bulbs, shrubs, trees, and create floral displays.

Useful Contacts

- **Rotary CO2 Offset Trust** - www.co2offsettrust.org
- **Energy Saving Trust** - www.energysavingtrust.org.uk
- **Carbon Trust** - www.carbontrust.co.uk
- **CRed** - www.cred-uk.org
- **Climate Care (carbon offset)** - www.climatecare.org
- **Tools for Self Reliance** - www.tfsr.org
- **Litter Action** - www.litteraction.org.uk
- **Wild Life Trusts** - www.wildlifetrusts.org
- **Transition Towns** - www.transitiontowns.org
- **The Recycling Factory** - www.therecyclingfactory.com
- **Cartridges for Charity** - www.cartridges4charity.co.uk

NEED MORE INFORMATION? Please contact your Rotary District Environment Officer or RIBI direct, using the contact details shown below.

Rotary International
in Great Britain & Ireland



Rotary and the Environment

climate change • global warming • desertification
deforestation • floods • tsunamis • hurricanes • CO2 emissions
air pollution • extinction • disease • famine • drought ...

What Rotarians & their families can do to make a difference



Published by RIBI Environment Group

Rotary and the Environment

Rotary is making a real difference in addressing many humanitarian problems, such as disease prevention, conflict resolution and disaster aid. Our Polio Plus, Peace Scholarships, Aquabox and ShelterBox programmes are just a few examples of which we can be justly proud.

However RIBI has realised that the effectiveness of Rotary's humanitarian programmes will be compromised in the longer term, unless we act now to limit the disastrous effects of climate change upon our environment. For example, the emerging threat to the most vulnerable and underprivileged members of society is the rapid degradation of their environment due to the rising global temperatures.

The RIBI Environment Group has therefore been set up to develop programmes which:

- Build awareness amongst Rotarians and within their own local communities
- Encourage and support individual Rotarians and clubs in taking appropriate action as outlined in this leaflet.

The RIBI Environment Group will help Rotarians and their clubs to understand the problems that we face, and find solutions to combating the biggest environmental threat confronting everyone on the planet.

Rotary can play a vital role not only in educating people, but in making sure that individually and collectively, we take responsibility for global warming, and change the way we live today, for the sake of our children and grandchildren tomorrow.

Virtually everything we do has an impact on the environment, and it can have a positive or negative effect on our lives and the lives of others around the globe.

What will you change? Please read the lists on the right and tick the boxes where you are going to help.



Please be a catalyst for change and adopt some of the ideas highlighted in this leaflet.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

How You Can Help

ACTION Saving Energy in Your Home

- Use energy saving light bulbs
- Turn off unnecessary lighting
- Get your boiler regularly serviced and checked
- Unplug battery and phone chargers when not in use
- Don't leave TVs or other appliances on stand-by
- Use your tumble dryer less frequently
- Insulate your home (windows, doors, cavities & lofts)
- Close your curtains at dusk to prevent heat escaping
- Don't boil more water in your kettle than required
- Set your thermostat to between 17°C and 19°C
- Buy energy efficient "A" rated appliances and boilers
- Avoid cooking food from frozen
- When cooking, remember to put lids on saucepans.

DID YOU KNOW? By reducing energy consumption in your home, you can SAVE MONEY by cutting your electricity and gas bills. You will also help to secure the future of our energy supplies by using less oil and gas.

ACTION Reducing Household Waste

- Say "NO" to plastic bags
- Take your own bags to the supermarket
- Choose products with less packaging
- Recycle as much as you can (e.g. glass, plastic, cardboard, aluminium, steel cans, and paper etc.,)
- Re-use as much as you can (e.g. paper, bags, boxes)
- Print fewer documents or print double-sided
- Reuse paper, envelopes, ribbon, string & gift wrapping
- Recycle ink cartridges and mobile phones
- Compost all your kitchen and garden waste
- Use reusable or eco-disposable nappies
- Donate unwanted clothes, toys, shoes & books to charity
- Start a paint exchange with your neighbours & friends
- Stop junk mail & register with a Mailing Preference Service in your area (in the UK call 0845 703 4599 or go online and visit www.mpsonline.org.uk)

ACTION Reducing CO₂ Emissions

- Cut down on the number of car journeys you make
- Make sure your car is regularly serviced & checked
- Make sure your car tyres are at the right pressure
- Think about buying a car with lower CO₂ emissions
- Take up car sharing with work colleagues & friends
- Drive under 60mph to reduce fuel consumption
- Use public transport, or walk or cycle more often
- Support green energy (like wind or solar power)
- Think before you travel by plane.

ACTION Saving Water

- Use water as economically as possible
- Take showers not baths
- Fit a water saving device in your toilet cistern
- Install a water butt to collect rain water for plants
- Use hose pipes less frequently
- Don't leave the tap running while cleaning your teeth, shaving, or doing the dishes
- Fix leaks from taps and broken pipes immediately
- Only use the dishwasher and washing machine when they are fully loaded
- Drink tap water instead of bottled water (which has often been transported over long distances).

ACTION Reducing Chemicals

- Buy local produce and support farmers markets
- Try to buy organic as most pesticides are harmful
- Use eco-friendly detergents and cleaning products or try natural alternatives like baking soda or vinegar
- Avoid buying and using aerosol spray cans (CFCs)
- Choose water based paints over solvent based paints
- Don't pour paint, paint thinners, weed killer, car fluids, or any other toxic substances down the drain.
- Take them to your local household tip instead.