

# Rotary District Committee for Protecting the Environment



Forming a District Committee for Protecting the Environment is a great opportunity to support Rotary's New Area of Focus. ESRAG is providing this document as a resource for District leadership teams forming a committee for Protecting the Environment. The intention is to provide guidelines that will be modified to meet the needs of each District. Many Districts have already formed committees, task forces or action teams with various names including District Environmental Sustainability Committee, Preserving Planet Earth, Environmental Committee, etc. The committee will likely be most effective if the committee chair reports directly to the District Governor and serves on the District board, District Leadership Council, or equivalent.

## Committee Objectives

- Champion Protecting the Environment and Environmental Sustainability (ES) to Rotarians in the District
- Advise clubs on the adoption of the new TRF area of focus
- Help train, advise, network, and measure environmental sustainability (ES) projects and the environmental aspects of other District projects
- Engage, motivate, and empower Rotarians to incorporate environmental sustainability into their daily lives and in their club and District activities, events, and projects
- Develop training, presentations, and example projects that can be shared between clubs and Districts
- Provide advice and information on ES to the District Governor, its clubs, and their members
- Recognize club and district ES accomplishments at the end of the Rotary year

## Qualifications of Committee Leader

- Enthusiasm for Protecting the Environment and Environmental Sustainability
- Good presentation and communication skills, or willingness to improve
- Good leadership and teamwork skills
- Knowledge of how Rotary develops, funds, and implements projects
- Experience with how Rotary works at a club and District level
- Experience with developing and building partnerships
- Previous experience with environmental sustainability and a commitment to keep up to date with new developments
- Ability to work respectfully and in a non-confrontational manner

## District level committee responsibilities

- Serve as an advisor on ES activities within the District and its Clubs
- Provide appropriate resources for the District Governor and other District leaders in the development of ES programs and projects
- Ensure that the committee is comprised of a diverse array of Rotarians and Rotaractors
- Prepare and update as required a District ES strategic plan

- Assist with creating greener events and conferences
- Be the liaison between ESRAG and the District
- Provide educational/professional learning opportunities about ES for Rotarians and Rotaractors
- Provide technical and administrative input for ES projects within the District
- Communicate and coordinate with other District committees as appropriate
- Work as part of the District's leadership structure to ensure that ES concerns are addressed during District Assemblies, conference break-out sessions (if held); arrange specific District seminars, ideally including outside speakers
- Attend District meetings and seminars
- Encourage and provide articles for the District's Newsletter
- Work with DG to create and promote an EnviroClub Awards program
- Support the District's ES projects, as well as selected projects with other Districts
- Gather, record and update information about District and Club ES projects from planning through to completion on the District/ES website, so that such information will be available to assist other Rotarians
- Work with District Trainer and PETS training to create presentations and training at PETS about the new Area of Focus

### Club level committee responsibilities

- Assist Club Presidents to set and achieve their ES goals
- Encourage clubs, through club visits (Zoom calls), to develop and incorporate environmental sustainability projects as part of their club's mission and for members to develop awareness of major environmental sustainability issues
- Encourage and provide support for clubs to set up an ES committee (with an ES chair/team leader) and to apply for a Rotary EnviroClub Award
- Communicate to clubs about ES in general and ES activities within Rotary

### Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)

ESRAG, an international action group for Rotarians and non-Rotarians, provides support and information for individuals, clubs, districts, and zones in environmental sustainability. This work advances the Object of Rotary through positive impacts in all seven Areas of Focus.

The ES committee may decide to capitalise on the ESRAG resources by:

- Promoting membership in ESRAG
- The District committee chair will serve as the District liaison person with ESRAG
- Acting as a conduit of information from ESRAG and regional chapters of ESRAG by notifying clubs and District officers of opportunities for implementing environmental projects
- Updating District ES projects on the ESRAG website
- Educating clubs on possible ES projects using the ESRAG & UNEP Handbook - [link](#)
- Learn more about ESRAG resources at [esrag.org](http://esrag.org)

