



*"The Climate Task Force is a dynamic team of experts and passionate people that support the Rotary Family to educate about the Climate Crisis and implement solutions" JOIN US!*

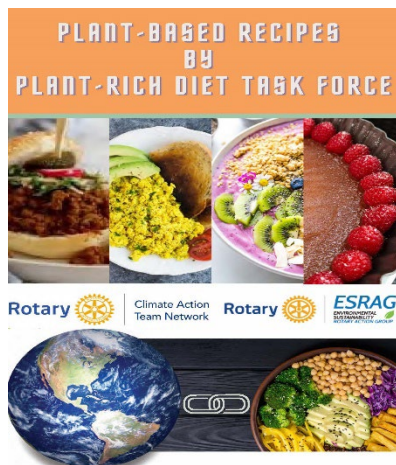
*[esrag.org/climate-solutions-drawdown/](https://esrag.org/climate-solutions-drawdown/)*

# CLIMATE TASK FORCE

**ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22**

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## Adoption of Solar by Habitat

### A Manual

This manual was created by the Renewable Energy Task Force of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group in consultation with the staff of Habitat for Humanity International and local Habitat Chapters



# CLIMATE TASK FORCE

## Strategic Highlights

The Climate Task Force is working to support Rotary Clubs to empower local communities around the world to implement Climate Solutions that help reverse Global Warming. This past year the Climate Task Force shortened its name from the ESRAG Drawdown Climate Solutions Task Force to integrate within ESRAG's Six Themes to facilitate achieving the Climate Task Forces' Goals.

ESRAG has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Project Drawdown [www.drawdown.org](http://www.drawdown.org) to educate Rotarians to implement Drawdown Solutions to Reverse Climate Change as quickly, safely, and equitably as possible.

The Climate Task Force has been working in 2021/22 to support the efforts of the four Solutions task forces: Clean Cooking, Food Waste, Plant Rich Diet and Renewable Energy. Project Drawdown ranks these climate solutions among the top ten solutions to reverse global warming.

### Project highlights for 2021/22 included:

- **Lunch out of Landfills**, (LOOL) A middle school and high school lunch waste reduction, recycling, and composting program in the USA; (Food Waste Task Force) Contact: Joe Richardson, Founder, LOOL, [joesr@bar-t.com](mailto:joesr@bar-t.com); Bavan Nadarajah, Sustainability Intern at Bar T Mountainside, [bavannadarajah@gmail.com](mailto:bavannadarajah@gmail.com)
- **A Solar Handbook for Habitat for Humanity homes in the USA**. (Renewable Energy Task Force) Contact: Elizabeth Henke [ebbwww@gmail.com](mailto:ebbwww@gmail.com) <https://esrag.org/habitat-solar/> Video: <https://vimeo.com/700848153>
- **A Global 15 Day Plant Rich Diet Challenge** to help people transition to a more earth and human healthy diet. Also, a Rotary Plant Rich Diet Cookbook. (Plant Rich Diet Task Force). Contact: Ambaree Majumder [ambaree@gmail.com](mailto:ambaree@gmail.com); Scott Nelson [cottreidnelson@gmail.com](mailto:cottreidnelson@gmail.com)
- **Clean Cook Stove construction projects in Uganda, Africa and Nicaragua, Central America**, combined with tree planting projects and an innovative solar cooking project in Kenya. (Clean Cooking Task Force). Maya [mayasmeulders@hotmail.com](mailto:mayasmeulders@hotmail.com) David Knoppert [DAVIDKNOPPERT@sympatico.ca](mailto:DAVIDKNOPPERT@sympatico.ca) Doug Thompson [douglas.john186681@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.john186681@gmail.com)
- **Solar Refrigeration for a Community Farmers Market**, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, Eastern Caribbean. (Climate Task Force, Plant Rich Diet Task Force, Food Waste Task Force and Renewable Energy Task Force). Contact Doug White [dougkwhire@gmail.com](mailto:dougkwhire@gmail.com)

## Meeting Schedule and Zoom Link

The Climate Task Force has three meetings a month.

**Steering Committee Meeting:** Composed of the team leaders of the individual task forces to plan and coordinate events, speakers, and projects. First Thursday at 1 PM Central USA time.

**Main Monthly Meeting:** Second Thursday at 1 PM Central USA time. Generally, a speaker meeting with task forces rotating monthly speaker subjects and brief updates from the Individual Task Forces.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83694474174?pwd=MWttbFBnTWpFdStYUFF4QjRDMkITQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 9447 4174 Passcode: ESRAG2020

**Climate Task Force: Solutions Committee Meeting:** Third Thursday at 1 PM Central USA time. Coordinating within task forces and supporting and developing existing and new task forces and projects.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83858040050?pwd=MW1vVnN1SGt4aFiOW00SkR0Y3E5dz09> Meeting

ID: 838 5804 0050 Passcode: 702525

## **Speakers/Presentations:** (Examples of speakers this past year:)

Jan. 2022 Dr. Sailesh Rao, founder of Climate Healers. **The Surprising Truth Behind the Leading Cause of Climate Change.** Presented by the Plant Rich Diet Task Force.

Feb. 2022 **US Dept. of Energy's National Community Solar Partnership (NCSP).** Nicole Steele, Director of NCSP and Anna Balzer, Solar Community Engagement Coordinator will be our speakers. Presented by the Renewable Energy Task Force.

April 2022" **Beyond Sticks and Stones : Modern Energy Cooking Services**  
Speakers: Doug Thompson, Maya Smeulders, Mike Hatfield, Luther Krueger and David Knoppert. Presented by the Clean Cooking Task Force.

May 2022, Natasha Lantz, Whole Communities Director, T. Colin Campbell Center for Nutrition Studies, **Whole Communities Membership Program to promote Wellness for People and the Planet!** Presented by the Plant Rich Diet Task Force.

## **Climate Task Force Co-Chairs:**

**Rob Anderson, Co-Chair:** Canterbury, Victoria, Australia District 9800

[rob@causegoodthings.org](mailto:rob@causegoodthings.org)

**Doug White, Co-Chair,** St Thomas, US Virgin Islands, District 7020 [dougkwhite@gmail.com](mailto:dougkwhite@gmail.com)



# CLEAN COOKING TASK FORCE: OVERVIEW

Three billion people cook with open fires worldwide causing approximately 4 million premature deaths annually. Massive deforestation, as well as emission of millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and black carbon into our planet's fragile atmosphere, make it a huge contributor to climate change.

Women, who are often with children, spend many hours of their day collecting firewood, maintaining the fire and cooking for their families. Compared to men, this puts their health at more risk and limits their chances of better education, career choices and earning capacity.



The ESRA Clean Cooking Task Force has been created to help find solutions to this detrimental problem. Its mission is to create awareness and to promote practical solutions towards urgent transition to Clean Cooking for a more equitable and healthier planet. There are several projects already underway.

Figure 1: Picture from Nicaragua of typical cooking conditions



The Rotary Club of Stratford (Ontario, Canada) is working with Stove Team International on a project to provide Justa Stoves to families in Nicaragua. Contact [douglas.john186681@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.john186681@gmail.com) for more information.

Figure 2: Typical Justa Stove



The Rotary Club of Abingdon Vesper (United Kingdom) creates awareness and organizes training for people in the Mubende region of Uganda and beyond on how to use free local materials to build mud-stoves which use 66% less firewood compared to a three stone open fire. They also keep the kitchen (virtually) free of smoke both at family homes and at schools.

Figure 1: Happy user of mud stove in Uganda

Contact [mayasmeulders@hotmail.com](mailto:mayasmeulders@hotmail.com) for more information.



The Rotary Club of London Hyde Park (Ontario, Canada) is collaborating on a project in Kenya on an innovative approach to Solar Cooking. This is through the use of SUNBUCKET technology. The potential benefit to the local population and the environment is immense. Contact [DavidKnoppert@sympatico.ca](mailto:DavidKnoppert@sympatico.ca) for more information.

Figure 2: SUNBUCKET technology

**CALL TO ACTION: Consider a pilot project. Contact the ESRAG Clean Cooking Task Force for advice and experience.**

<https://www.esrag-cleancooking.org/call-to-action>

**Clean Cooking Task Force Monthly Meeting:** Second Thursday at 1 PM Eastern USA time.

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81288633486?pwd=WU44RUVhYU9lam9UTXJvZ0lIU1VQT09>

**Clean Cooking Task Force Co-Chairs**

**David Knoppert**, The Rotary Club of London Hyde Park, Ontario, Canada

[DavidKnoppert@sympatico.ca](mailto:DavidKnoppert@sympatico.ca)

**Doug Thompson**, The Rotary Club of Stratford, Ontario, Canada

[douglas.john186681@gmail.com](mailto:douglas.john186681@gmail.com)

**Maya Smeulders**, The Rotary Club of Abingdon Vesper, United Kingdom

[mayasmeulders@hotmail.com](mailto:mayasmeulders@hotmail.com)

# FOOD WASTE TASK FORCE

## Strategic highlights:

Food waste is responsible for 8-10 % of global greenhouse gas emissions. If food waste was a country, it would be the world's 3rd largest generator of Greenhouse Gasses!

When we waste food, we also waste water, agricultural resources and fossil fuels used to produce, transform and transport food. Did you know that 17 percent of edible food is wasted mostly from households, retail service and food service regardless of country?

There is much work to do to make it better and it can start at home and in your club!

Reducing food waste means reducing greenhouse gas emissions, saving resources and saving food.

**Goal of the task force:** Educate Rotarians about food waste by presentations and speakers.

## Speakers:

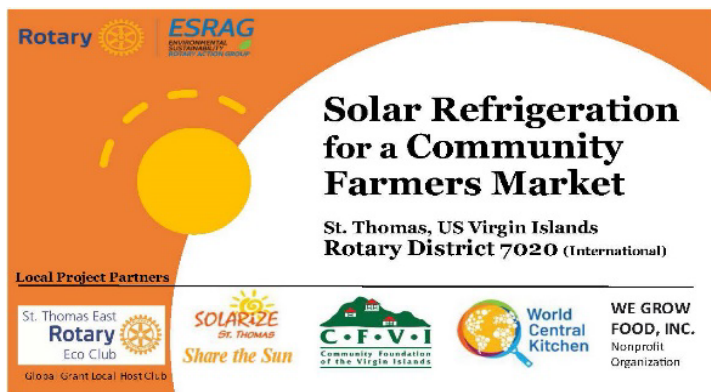


Drawdown Update Affirms Reducing Food Waste as a Leading Solution to Climate



**Produce Good** (based in San Diego) on produce gleaning, food collection and food donation.

One outcome from this last year: collaboration with other task forces to develop a project in the Virgin Island, Solar Refrigeration for a Community Farmers Market, to reduce food waste, provide Clean Energy, food security, access to locally grown organic food, energy equity, economic development, and back up power for resilience in natural disasters.



**Meeting schedule:** Third Tuesday of the month, 3 pm Central US time

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85226784841?pwd=dINGQ0RYdVINa0x0bFVLRlpRRjc2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 852 2678 4841 Passcode: 519584

**Task Force Chair: Amelie Catheline**, Rotary Club of Solana Beach Eco

[amelie.catheline@gmail.com](mailto:amelie.catheline@gmail.com) **JOIN US** (We are actively seeking a Task Force Co-chair)





# Lunch out of Landfills (LOOL)

**Contact:** Joe Richardson, Founder, LOOL, [ioesr@bar-t.com](mailto:ioesr@bar-t.com)

Bavan Nadarajah, Sustainability Intern at Bar T Mountainside, [bavannadarajah@gmail.com](mailto:bavannadarajah@gmail.com)

**About Us:** A Title IX school found 53 bottles of unopened milk in the trash each day, on average! This began **Lunch out of Landfills**. Lunch Out of Landfills is a program that teaches kids about food waste and the importance of composting. It's inspired over 10 local schools to take action, with expectations to inspire twice as many next year.

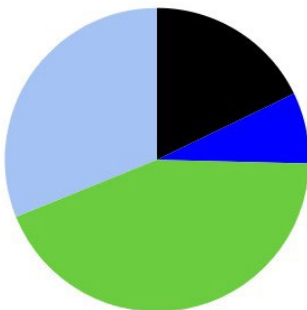
**Our Mission:** Our goal is to teach students the roles they can play in protecting our environment by reducing food waste. Lunch out of Landfills (LOOL) gives K-12 students a first-hand view of the environmental and economic impacts of food waste, and empowers them to become agents of change.



**Coalition to Re-Imagine School Waste:** LOOL partnered with the Maryland Public Health Association, student organizations including Compostology (@compostologymd on Instagram) and Capital Compost, local legislators, school board members, and others to form a Coalition and win a \$48,000 grant from the World Wildlife Fund to begin compost and food recovery programs in 8 Montgomery County Public Schools.

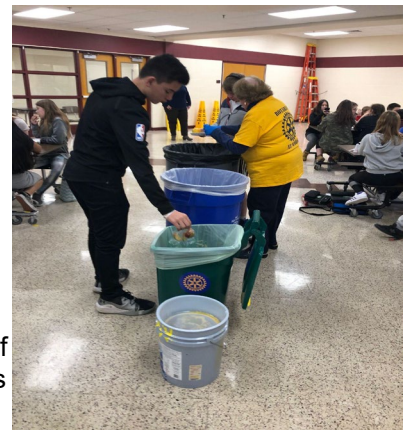
## COMPOSITION OF WASTE

● Trash ● Recycled  
● Composted ● Liquids



**Successes/Data:** Our programs have shown a consistent diversion rate of about 80%. At Green Valley Elementary School, for example, 3,200 pounds of waste have been diverted from the waste stream every 20 days (one month of school!).

**In the Community:** Lunch out of Landfills enjoys useful connections with local Rotary clubs around the country that offer volunteers, funds, and create new opportunities to expand our impactful efforts. The image to the left shows a school in Brunswick, Maryland, as a student sorts their lunch into the proper bins to reduce methane gas from landfills and toxic ash/liquid leachate from incinerators.



**How Can You Join the Movement?** If your school or community would like to move toward a zero-waste goal, contact us. YOU can make critical environmental changes in your community. Start by connecting with LOOL and the Coalition to Re-Imagine School Waste!

\*The data shown to the left is from Green Valley Elementary School in Monrovia, MD





# PLANT RICH DIET TASK FORCE

## Strategic Highlights

The Plant-Rich Diet Taskforce (PRD-TF) was accepted into ESRAG in February of 2021. The team began by recording an “I fix the planet” video and gaining 7<sup>th</sup> place in votes.



In conversation with past RI President Ian Riseley, we proposed a 15-day Plant Rich Diet Challenge to start on October 1, 2021. Over 500 Rotarians and friends signed up for the event. The event generated a YouTube play list of 15, wide ranging in subject videos, collected into a [playlist](#). [15 daily information rich motivational emails](#) were sent. A [starter kit](#) was distributed.

The Challenge is now being updated and reformatted so that any local Rotary Club can host an event in their community.

The Wenatchee (Washington) Confluence Rotary Club will be the first club sponsoring a local 15-Day Plant-Rich Diet Challenge as part of their local museum's environmental film and speaker series this October. The format of the daily email and speaker

series will be modified to enable a club to host the event locally, and Rotarians and the general public will be encouraged to participate

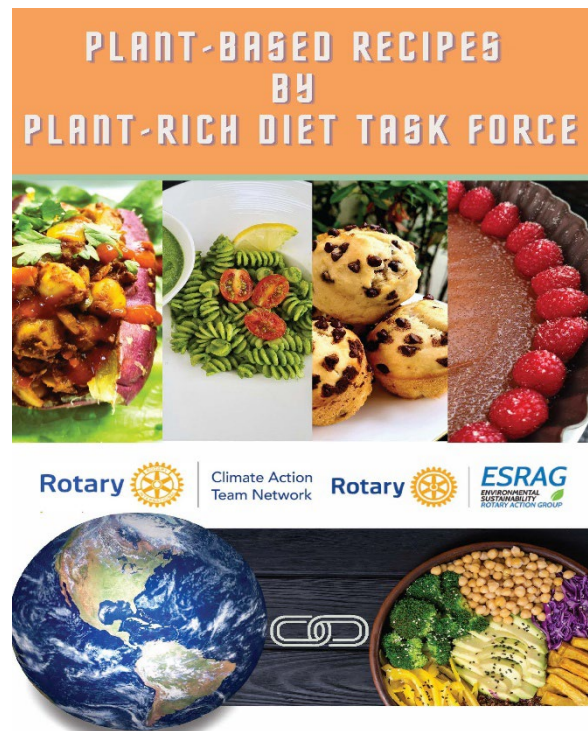
For RICON 2021, the PRD-TF created an information rich 3-D Frame Booth. The co-chairs provided full presentations to Rotary clubs across the US; in India, Singapore and Australia. They also composed to position papers: one focused on the environmental sustainability power of plant-rich diets, the other on the human health benefits. Principal among the cited data points: 50 percent of habitable land is in agriculture, 83 percent of that in animal agriculture providing ONLY 18 percent of calories. Based significantly on the opportunity cost of re-wilding land, 87 percent of GHGe are due to animal agriculture. The College of Lifestyle Medicine estimates 80 percent of human chronic illness can be eliminated through the modality of Lifestyle Medicine. Plant-Rich Diets are key to solving these vital issues. These and other statistics have led PRD-TF to propose a global - Polio Eradication like - coalition to provide comprehensive education on Plant-Rich Diets. The partners exist.

The Plant Rich Diet Task Force, in conjunction with the Rotary Climate Action Team Network produced an online, Whole Food, Plant Based Diet Cookbook to assist Rotarians and Rotary Clubs to transition to a more Earth friendly and human health friendly way of eating to help reduce our carbon footprint.

Here is a link to the Cookbook.

[www.tinyurl.com/rotaryrecipes](http://www.tinyurl.com/rotaryrecipes)

We will soon open the cookbook up for Rotary members from around the world to contribute their plant-based recipes, and to scale up recipes for larger events and Rotary meetings. The form will be on our website, soon.



<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZX2i1yQ1U4rbeq1oBWQaLW-O9EftoMj-/view?usp=sharing>

### Rotary's Climate Change Conversations,

Singapore, June 18th, 2022 was organized by District 3310. The main highlight of the event was a planet-friendly plant-based menu option that was offered to the guests. Out of 116 guests, 106 had opted for the plant-based menu. The event was organized by Ambaree Majumder.

**Current Projects:** PRD-TF is working with the Center for Nutrition Studies, Whole Communities program ( [nutritionstudies.org/whole-communities/](http://nutritionstudies.org/whole-communities/) ) to develop the following programs: Community Education & Food Literacy; Access to Healthy, Affordable Food, and Regenerative Food Systems, all suitable for adoption by Rotary Clubs.

**Meeting Schedule and Zoom Link:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday @ 8PM Eastern USA

**JOIN US:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89574387523?pwd=cFhLZTRGZXFVbW4vYS9GN1h2aDBUQT09>

### Task Force Co-Chairs/Team Leaders and Contact Information

Scott Nelson, Rotary Club of Ann Arbor North, MI [scottreidnelson@gmail.com](mailto:scottreidnelson@gmail.com)

Ambaree Majumder, Rotary Club of Marina City, Singapore [ambaree@gmail.com](mailto:ambaree@gmail.com)

Ambaree Majumder and Scott Nelson are available to Rotary clubs and events as speakers.

# RENEWABLE ENERGY TASK FORCE

## Strategic Highlights

To encourage, educate and offer support for Renewable energy projects worldwide.

## Meeting Schedule and Zoom Link

The ESRAG Renewable Energy (RE) Task force meets on the 3rd Friday of every month 8:45 to 9:45 am US Central time , with the zoom room open at 830 am for networking and chat.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99289434923?pwd=eHJsZ0tgaWpldWZKUHBaS0JHYWRWUT09>

Meeting ID: 992 8943 4923 Passcode: 964272

## Speakers: Notable Speakers and Presentations this year

are available to present about the 7th area of Focus and Renewable Energy. Presented at Cayman Islands, World Travelers, Rotary E-Club of Southeast USA and Caribbean, a couple Mexico clubs, PRESENTATION; Solar Refrigeration for Vaccines is available on our

Website <https://esrag.org/renewable-energy-taskforce/>

## Current Projects:

Habitat Solar Guidebook

<http://www.rotaryhabitat.com/>

Community Solar education

## Task Force Co-Chairs & Contacts

Aur Beck [aur@ESRAG.org](mailto:aur@ESRAG.org)

[tech@AESsolar.com](mailto:tech@AESsolar.com) <https://www.linkedin.com/in/aurbeck/>

Tim Conners [timothyconners@gmail.com](mailto:timothyconners@gmail.com)








## Help power local Habitat homes with clean rooftop solar energy.

### A great Rotary Club project.


- Save low-income families money
- Reduce air pollution
- Provide clean energy leadership

### Habitat for Humanity:

- 
- Provides safe and affordable housing for low-income families
  - There is a Habitat for Humanity near you.
  - The Rotary- Habitat Partnership will bring solar power to Habitat homes.

**Habitat for Humanity and Rotary Partnership Agreement:**  
Since 2017 Rotary International has an official agreement of partnership with Habitat for Humanity.

### Successful Rotary/Habitat Solar Projects:

- 
- East Chapel Hill Rotary Club - NC [\(Click here\)](#)
  - Jackson Williamson Counties Sunset Rotary Club & AES Solar
  - Shenandoah Valley VA: Central Valley Habitat & Give Solar are partnering with local Rotary Clubs
  - UNC-CH Rotaract Club – Chapel Hill, NC

### Our Task Force can get you started:

- 
- Provide you a handbook that will walk you through the process [\(Click here\)](#)

Contact us to start your Club's solar project.  
[solar@esrag.org](mailto:solar@esrag.org) /

<https://esrag.org/renewable-energy-taskforce/>



Contact: Elizabeth Henke [ebbvw@gmail.com](mailto:ebbvw@gmail.com)

<https://esrag.org/habitat-solar/>