



ROTARY

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ROTARY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Since 1905, Rotary members worldwide have implemented thousands of environmental projects, from digging wells and creating conservation areas to starting community recycling programs. Each year, Rotary members in 33,000 clubs around the globe take a "hands on" approach to solving environmental problems through implanting eco-friendly projects in their communities and abroad, often in partnership with other organizations, government, and educational institutions.

As business and professional leaders committed to volunteer service, Rotary members help raise awareness of important environmental issues. Through their club volunteer projects, Rotary members implement projects to promote sustainable land management and conservation, encourage responsible water use and waste management, improve energy efficiency and pollution reduction, enhance access to safe water and basic sanitation facilities, and other environmental challenges.

As the UN Millennium Development Goals continue to inspire and guide Rotary's volunteer projects, 1.2 million Rotary members worldwide will continue to address crucial environmental challenges and inter-connected issues, including food, water, health, energy, and poverty alleviation.

Below are examples of Rotary environmental projects:

- To combat greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation, Rotary clubs in Illinois, USA sent high school students and teachers to Mali to deliver solar ovens and teach villagers how to use them. The ovens, made of local, recycled materials, enable villagers to cook hot meals and pasteurize water. The solar oven technology also reduces the amount of time that women and children spend gathering firewood, as well as decreases the likelihood of mudslides caused by deforestation.
- The Rotary Club of Bali Ubud, Indonesia planned and built a plant to compost organic waste that had previously been dumped in rivers and lakes, canals, and along the streets on Bali. By creating a composting plant for the organic waste, the club has significantly reduced emissions of methane, one of the most harmful greenhouse gases. In addition, the carbon offset project has generated high-value compost and reduced the negative impact of waste on the tourism industry.
- Rotary clubs in Switzerland have partnered with the Climate Protection Partnership, an international climate protection organization that promotes the gathering of knowledge about CO2 reduction, raises awareness and inspires long-term climate protection.
- The Rotary Club of Perth launched the Days of Change program to combat climate change in Western Australia and beyond. Individuals will pledge to make incremental, practical changes at home, work, and in their daily lives to reduce their carbon footprint. The program uses

electronic marketing and social networking to engage communities and cut emissions on a scale never before seen in Western Australia.

- The Rotary Club of Kisangani, Zaire, with support from Belgian Rotary clubs, initiated a project to develop orchards of *Treculia Africana* and to teach farmers how to use the trees' nitrogen fixing properties through alley-cropping.
- Rotary members in Sao Paulo, Brazil, working with several Rotary groups in Canada, the United States and Brazil, donated 56,000 nut trees for replanting Brazil's rain forest. The trees provide income for local Indians and combat deforestation.
- Rotary members in the UK, Australia, South Africa, Canada, and the USA have launched the CO2 Offset Trust – Rotarians for CO2 Reduction to lower carbon dioxide emissions. Through the trust Web page (www.co2offsettrust.org), visitors can track their calculate the amount of carbon dioxide generated for specific activities, such as an airplane flight, and then donate the amount to the trust. The money raised helps fund Rotary projects that remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere or that teach people how to reduce carbon dioxide emissions. To date, funds have gone toward a forest replanting project led by a UK Rotary club and a solar oven project led by a Rotary club in California, USA.
- Recognizing Rotary's strength at the grassroots level, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has teamed up with Rotary in a new alliance called the International H₂O Collaboration, which will implement long-term, sustainable, water, sanitation, and hygiene projects in the developing world. The alliance has begun work in the Dominican Republic, Ghana, and the Philippines, with other countries to follow based on the success of the projects. Alliance activities in each country will be funded jointly by USAID and Rotary, with an expected minimum initial commitment of \$2 million per country.

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