




Rotary Cares About the Environment

PRESENTED BY YOUR DISTRICT
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

DISTRICT 5020 LEARNING &
CELEBRATION EVENT, MAY 8&9, 2026



“It is the responsibility of EVERY ROTARIAN to support action directed at improving the environment and protecting animals and plants from extinction.”

– Rotary Council on Resolutions 92-287



Rotary enables members and communities to take action by:

- Protecting and restoring ecosystems
- Supporting natural resource management and conservation
- Supporting sustainable practices
- Reducing emission of greenhouse gases
- Strengthening ecosystems and communities affected by climate change
- Supporting education initiatives
- Advocating for sustainable consumption
- Addressing public health concerns

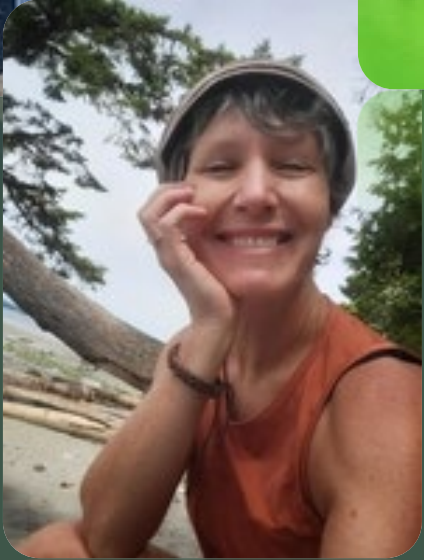


**ROTARY AREA OF
FOCUS:
PROTECTING THE
ENVIRONMENT**

HOW ROTARY
PROTECTS OUR
PLANET



District 5020 Environment Committee



History of District 5020 Environment Committee

▶ 2020 Forming

<https://esrag.org/about-esrag/>

▶ 2021 Storming

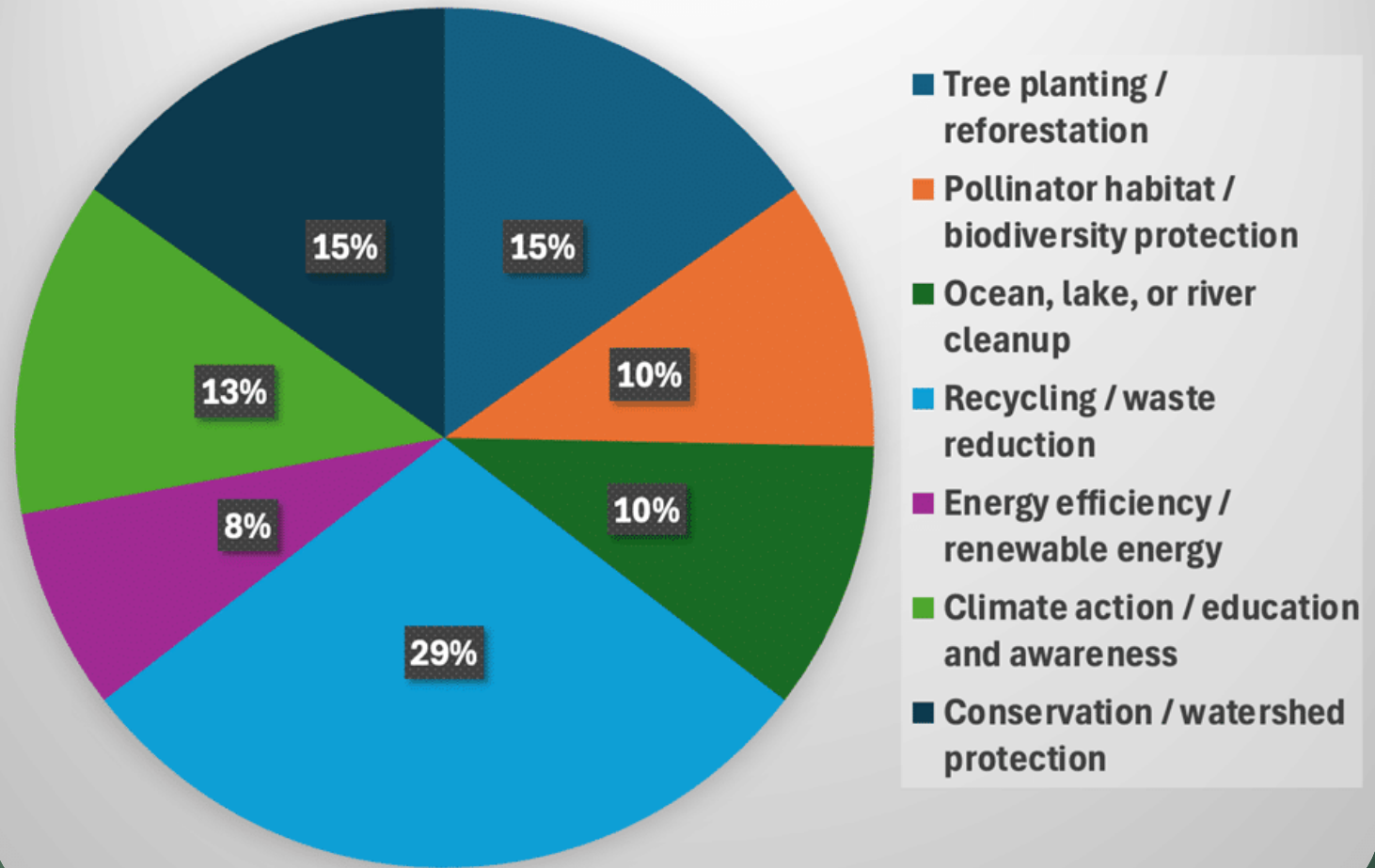
▶ 2025 Norming

▶ 2026 Performing



Survey Finds
that
District 5020
Clubs Care
about
Protecting
the
Environment

Environmental Activity by 5020 Clubs



District 5020 Environment Webpages

Environment

<https://www.rotary5020.org/protecting-environment/>



Community Share

<https://www.rotary5020.org/protecting-environment/community-share/>



BIG BUTT CHALLENGE

District-wide BUTT-PICKING contest this September!

WIN \$500, earn BRAGGING rights, and
become an ECO-HERO!

<https://www.rotary5020.org/protecting-environment/environment-big-butt-challenge/>



Monarch Gardens



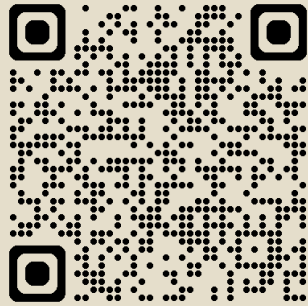
Sumner Rotary Launches Monarch Garden Project

Responding to the alarming decline of the Monarch butterfly population, the Sumner Rotary Environmental Committee (SREC) constructed a 750-square-foot Monarch Waystation Garden at a local elementary school in early 2026. A true community collaboration, the garden will be maintained by students, local senior garden clubs, and Sumner Rotary members—bridging generations through shared stewardship.

Plastics Recycling

Poulsbo Rotary Gives New Life to 100,000 Pounds of Plastic

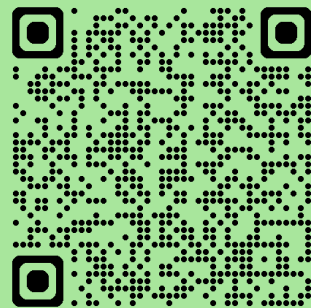
In mid-October 2025, the Rotary Club of Poulsbo dropped off its 100,000th pound of plastic film to its local Safeway store, waste that would otherwise be taking up space in a landfill. The plastics were then collected by a company called **NexTrex**, which recycles plastic film and waste wood products into a composite for the creation of decks and outdoor furniture.



Community Cleanups

Community cleanups protect the environment, enhance the beauty of natural spaces, and promote healthy living and a sense of responsibility among community members. **Shawnigan Lake EcoClub** leads the way and provides a **CHECKLIST** of ideas for planning your community clean up event.

[Community Clean Up Day Checklist.docx](#)



Shawnigan Lake EcoClub

In June 2021, an intrepid team of Rotarians from the community of Shawnigan Lake chartered as “Canada’s First Rotary EcoClub.” The Club takes a “down-to-earth, hands-on, boots-on-ground approach to community service.”

[What is an EcoClub](#)



Beach Cleanups



Rotarians are teaming up with local organizations to help with removal of plastics and other litter from our beaches. Activities include hands-on work parties, financial support, and assisting with fundraising events.

Every month, the **Rotary Club of Oak Bay** joins Surfrider at one of their regular beach cleanups. This is a fun way to participate in meaningful activity that serves community and the environment. And it's easy to organize!



Invasive Species Removal

- ▶ Sidney by the Sea @ Island View Beach Park
- ▶ Oak Bay Rotary Club @ Uplands Park



LUNCH OUT OF LANDFILLS

Port Townsend Rotary Clubs have implemented, and are providing ongoing support for, Lunch out of Landfills in their community. This student-led initiative reduces food waste in schools by diverting cafeteria waste from landfills through composting, food sharing tables, and community partnerships.



[Lunch out of Landfills - ESRAG - Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group](#)



International Collaboration



Seven District 5020 Clubs teamed up to support the Solar Cooker Project in Chihuahua, Mexico, providing 40+ Haines Solar Cookers and solar cooking training for rural low-income households. Solar cookers are life-saving appliances that help individuals and communities cook without the negative effects of burning wood, improving the health of those cooking and keeping carbon-capturing trees alive in the earth and sustaining the environment.

Carbon Offsets

The Rotary Club of Sidney is mitigating their carbon footprint by supporting carbon sequestration (offsets) for their yearly activities and events.

Donations from the club are made to Tree Canada Society “National Greening Program” for tree reforestation in areas of BC that have been impacted and are in locations where trees will have the most benefit to the environment.

Benefits of Reforestation

- Carbon Sequestration
- Wildlife Habitat
- Clean Environment



<https://treecanada.ca>

GREEN EVENTS HANDBOOK

How to Run Sustainable Rotary Events



PLAN
IMPLEMENT
MEASURE
OFFSET
REFLECT



<https://esrag.org/green-events/>

Examples

- No plastic
- Local food
- Plant-rich menu
- Conservation
- Paper reduction
- Recycle
- Walk/bike/carpool
- Hybrid attendance
- Footprint estimates
- Handprint pledges
- ...

Club Events

- Club meetings
- Events attended
- Fund raisers
- ...



Why become climate friendly?

As pollution levels rise and the world becomes warmer, storms and droughts become stronger harming the people that we, Rotarians, work hardest to help.

Priority 1: **INCREASE ROTARY'S GLOBAL IMPACT**

Priority 2: **EXPAND OUR REACH**

Priority 3: **ENGAGE THROUGH CARBON EMISSION REDUCTIONS
& NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS**

Priority 4: **ADAPT BY ALIGNING OUR INVESTMENTS**

EVERY CLUB CLIMATE FRIENDLY

An ESRAG
INITIATIVE

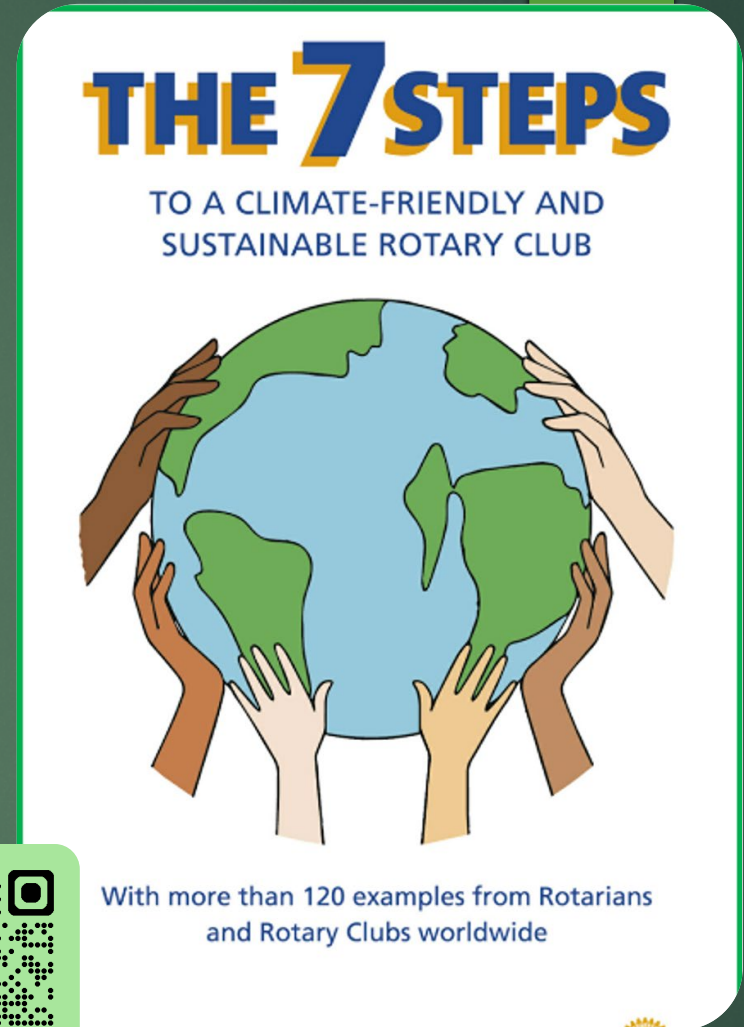


▶ HOW IT WORKS

- ▶ Your club can lead the charge to positive change!
- ▶ How? It's like any team sport where the goal is to get the LOWEST score.
- ▶ Details on calculating your carbon footprint and actions your club can undertake are on the ESRAG WEBSITE: <https://esrag.org/every-club-climate-friendly/>
- ▶ Keep it simple at first. A Typical club emits 10 to 15 tons of CO² equivalent per year.

The 7 Steps to a Climate-Friendly & Sustainable Rotary Club

- ▶ 1. Understand club & local mindset
- ▶ 2. Plan your actions & make a pledge
- ▶ 3. Communicate & build knowledge
- ▶ 4. Estimate CO² footprint & handprint
- ▶ 5. Reduce the footprint of club activities
- ▶ 6. Do projects to increase handprint
- ▶ 7. Donate to yield carbon neutrality





Rotary acts for the environment; ESRAG is the catalyst.

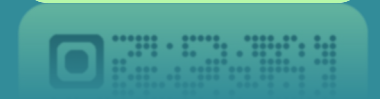
ESRAG: Environmental Sustainability
Rotary Action Group.

[Join ESRAG](#)

Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)

“ESRAG assists Rotary clubs, districts and multi-districts in planning, implementing and evaluating service projects, building awareness, and inspiring action. These projects promote environmental sustainability, awareness of climate change, and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate climate disruption.”

<https://esrag.org>



ESRAG Themes



Biodiversity

The term biodiversity (from “biological diversity”) refers to the variety of life on Earth at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems, and can encompass the evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes that sustain life.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Circular Economy

Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Re-choose, Repair, Reuse, Recycle towards zero waste

[LEARN MORE](#)



Climate

Rotary is uniquely placed to empower local communities around the world to implement Climate Solutions that help reverse global warming. If one Rotary International President could inspire millions of trees to be planted, imagine the opportunities that await.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Food Systems

For humans to thrive, our Food Systems must thrive.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Pollution

Search for a solution to put an end to pollution.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Sustainable Living

Living sustainably within the planetary boundaries.

[LEARN MORE](#)

ESRAG Task Forces



Clean Cooking

To create awareness of, and to promote practical solutions for the need to urgently transition to Clean Cooking.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Climate Solutions

Drawdown is the point in the future when levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere stop climbing and start to...

[LEARN MORE](#)



Conserving Glacial Resources

Implementing and evaluating management techniques to slow down melting and conserving the meltwater

[LEARN MORE](#)



Food Waste

Become a food steward.
Reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save resources, save food.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Plant Rich Diet

The Plant-Rich Diet Task Force exists to educate Rotarians and the general public on the benefits of Plant-Rich Diets to...

[LEARN MORE](#)



EndPlasticSoup

EndPlasticSoup is the ESRAG task force to end plastic pollution worldwide.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Pollinators

They are essential to our food web, ensure biodiversity and provide irreplaceable ecosystem services.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Renewable Energy

To encourage, educate and offer support for those involved in renewable energy projects worldwide.

[LEARN MORE](#)

ESRAG Initiatives



Eco Expo

EcoExpo events encourages Rotarians that help & encourage local communities to move ahead with eco-friendly practices.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Every Club Climate Friendly

Become a climate friendly and carbon neutral club before 2030.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Habitat Solar

Address energy poverty for Habitat for Humanity, low income, home owners.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Operation Pollination

Engage in pollinator protection and education projects.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling

Dispose of lithium-ion batteries through a fully closed-loop recycling solution.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Lunch out of Landfills

Students divert lunch waste by sharing edibles, composting and recycling.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Million Solar Panels

Fighting climate change one solar panel at a time.


[LEARN MORE](#)



Plant-Rich Challenge

Improve your well-being while also being part of a group of people around the world taking personal action to reverse global warming.

[LEARN MORE](#)



“The environment is not an afterthought; it is the very foundation upon which all our other service work is built.”

– Tony Camoroda, District Governor, April Message 2026



Thank You

DISTRICT 5020 ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE