

District 5080 ESRAG "Green Team"
Report of activities
January 12, 2022, Virtual Meeting Notes

The D5080 Green Team met November 16, 2021; Oriah Leeson, Interact President from Nakusp, presented our Christmas Carbon Challenge, which ultimately went out to the entire district via DG Lynn O'Connor.

Here is the challenge:

1. Calculate my Carbon Footprint, using <https://coolclimate.org/calculator>
2. Choose (up to) 3 areas in which I can lower my carbon footprint, and start doing it!
3. Share why I chose those areas and how it went at our next meeting on January 11, 2022.

We were also delighted to have 3 Interactors at that meeting, two from Canada (Nelson and Nakusp) and one from Colville, WA. The multigenerational composition of our team is not only delightful, but is also vital to the work we are doing.

We met again on January 11, 2022 after a holiday break. To begin the meeting, Maria Kliavkoff spoke about the fundamentals of having peaceful conversations in difficult times, and about difficult topics.

We then shared our experiences with the carbon challenge. The results were surprising to many of us, particularly where we fall in terms of carbon emitted due to the electricity we consume and the travel we engage in (and the foods we eat!) The calculator allows us to see what the results will be when we make changes as well.

We learned that while the carbon calculator we used is not designed for youth, there is great interest amongst Interactors and other high school students to participate. Izzy, from Colville, actually modified the calculator and sent it out to all students at Colville High School. She received more than 55 responses.

We are also developing an Assessment Tool to help clubs find projects that are likely to be successfully carried out AND that will have a positive impact on the environment. Scott Meakin, who is a sustainability expert and a member of our Green Team Leadership group, initially developed the tool; David Savage, our co-chair and a whiz at creating power points helped to make it accessible, and we are all working to make the tool simple but useful both for local and global projects. We hope to share the tool with other clubs once it has been tested and modified.

Finally we shared what we find most useful about our team, and our recommendations for future directions. Many of the suggestions had to do with getting the word out so that others may join, including placing a monthly article in the digest, having a presence on the district website, and sending a blurb out to clubs that they might include in their club newsletter. It was recommended that we share a list of personal actions people can take to help decrease our carbon

footprint. Many people are interested in the assessment tool but find it complex and would like us to repeat a session on its use.

Our Interactors appreciated being part of an active effort to support the environment and hoped that we could come up with smaller challenges and/or a district wide project that might be more do-able for everyone. Starting the meeting with a minute of silence was a suggestion we will begin implementing at the next meeting.

Phil hopes we can all come up with an “Elevator Talk” about our team, and Scott challenges everyone to answer the question “Why should you care?”

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 15 at 6:30 PST.