

ROTARY DISTRICT ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Christopher F. Puttock, District Environment Committee Chair; ESRAG Chair 2019-2021

The September 2020 Minutes of the Rotary International (RI) Board of Trustees included Appendix B Environment Area of Focus (Decision 26). This document is available to all Rotarians at www.myrotary.org. The final markup will be released in January, prior to the RI International Assembly for District Governors-elect from February 1-11, 2021. The D7620 Environment Committee is planning a virtual Webinar-Workshop on the new area of focus "Supporting the Environment" for January 2021. It will be open to all the Rotary family of D7620. Please look out for details and registration next month. This will explore how your club can engage in the new area of focus and join with other clubs across the District in multi-club projects.

The D7620 Environment Committee is continuing several District-wide projects and expanding some others. Six District projects below are currently in development or underway; we welcome more if you would like to get involved. Our projects will be featured in detail over the months to come:

- Pollinator plants for schools and pastures benefiting bees, butterflies, birds, and all of us;
- Tree planting in the District and beyond;
- Food waste recycling, including Lunch out of Landfills;
- Project impact reporting, geospatial mapping, tracking progress of D7620 projects;
- Environment awards for clubs doing environmental projects (featured next month);
- Finding feral freon (CFC-11 and CFC-12) for collection and removal

for destruction.

Finding feral freon: Joe Richardson, Rotaractors and Interactors have been engaged in the collection of canisters of CFC-11 and CFC-12 around Frederick and Baltimore. These two as well as other hydrofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are known as freons. Freons are not hazardous to humans. The use of these, mostly refrigerants, coolants, and propellants, was banned by the 1987 Montreal Protocol because of their destruction of the ozone layer and as greenhouse gases (GHGs) that are c.10,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide. These illegal feral freons are still in home and building storage and need to be removed before the canisters leak. Our goal is to locate and remove these canisters for destruction by our partner Tradewater, Inc. If you know any business in our Rotary District that would like payment for canisters with CFC-11 or CFC-12 please contact Joe Richardson (joesr@bar-t.com). Today newer HCFCs are commonly used in a wide variety of applications, including refrigeration, air-conditioning, building insulation, fire extinguishing systems, and aerosols. The need for alternatives for these products will increase 10-fold over the next three decades, so the race is on to find replacement chemicals that are not GHGs and harmful to our future.

Several members of the Environment Committee are available for presentations on environmental topics for Rotary Clubs across the District and beyond:

- Chris Puttock – Supporting the Environment, Climate Change, Pollinators, and almost anything to do with Environmental Sustainability. He is the current Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG), and was a prime mover

for establishing the new area of focus

- Joe Richardson – Feral freon, school food waste and composting
- William Dent, Mary Anne Richebarger - Monarchs over America, Operation Pollination, and the Monarch Sister Schools Program with Mexico

If you would like a presentation on anything to do with the environment, please contact the Committee Chair.

Zoom meetings:

Upcoming Environmental virtual zoom meetings for all our Rotary family

- Mary Anne Richebarger with CFP – RC Rockville - Pollinator gardens (12/3/2020 12:00pm)
- Chris Puttock – RC Kamloops, British Columbia – Pollinator gardens (12/3/2020 5:30pm)
- Colin Holmes (RC Capitol Hill, ESRAG) – Ocean plastic pollution (12/9/2020 8:30am)
- Charlie Garlow (ex RC College Park, ESRAG) - Clean Air vs Pollution (1/13/2021 9:00am)

Zoom webinar-workshop:

D7620 Exploring "Supporting the Environment" (tentative dates 1/16/2021 9:00-11:30am, or 1/23/2021)

Please extend the invitation to members of your clubs and anyone you know in other clubs that would like to be involved in "Supporting the Environment" through the activities and support of the Environment Committee. Our next meeting is proposed for 7:00am Monday December 14, 2020. Please contact Christopher Puttock (Christopher.Puttock@gmail.com) if you would like to be involved.