



# OPEN FORUM

ROTARY 7620  
NEWSLETTER  
CENTRAL MD & DC



## January 2021

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## “THE ENVIRONMENT” WORKSHOP ON JANUARY 16, 2021

by Dr. Christopher F. Puttock, ESRAG Chair  
2019-2021

January is Vocational Service Month for Rotary International, and we are having a webinar for the Environment. Perfect timing. This provides us with a really great opportunity to investigate the vocations and service that are now available through this new area of focus. Also see the brief video from Rotary International President Holger Knaack at [www.ifixtheplanet.org](http://www.ifixtheplanet.org).

We will be looking at the different aspects that can be covered within Rotary projects through the addition of the “Environment”. There are some important overlaps with the other six areas of focus. Therefore, this webinar-workshop is timely for everyone in Rotary. I encourage all Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors in the District to join us in exploring what in the natural and in the built environment is under the purpose, goals, and parameters of this new area of focus. You will be surprised by what isn't here.

Under five broad domains (breakout rooms) we will workshop Rotary projects that fulfill the prospects, goals, and vocations of this new area of focus (AOF). Our domains for vocations and environmental service are:

- 1. Planetary health** - a) healthy air, b) healthy land, c) healthy soil, and d) healthy water. Our nexus is with AOF water and sanitation: providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene.
- 2. Biodiversity** - a) preventing biodiversity loss, b) ecosystem health and restoration, c) sustainable food production, and d) environmental resilience.
- 3. Clean energy** - a) solar, b) wind, c) water and wave, d) other sources: thermal, nuclear, hydrogen, biofuels, others.

**4. Circular economy** - a) design, production, and marketing b) transportation and connected communities, c) responsible consumption-reduction, and d) reuse, repurpose, recycle. Our nexus is with AOF economic and community development: growing local economies

**5. Wellbeing and Resilience** - a) a healthy environment, b) a wealthy environment, c) a happy environment, and d) a just environment. People find themselves caught between their built environment and the natural environment. Our nexus is with three AOF maternal and child health: saving mothers and children; disease prevention and treatment: fighting disease; and peace and conflict prevention/ resolution: promoting peace.

Yes, the AOF that is missing is basic education and literacy: supporting education. Education is fundamental to all we do. It holds the key to all the domains, and the environment provides instructional tools everywhere. Also missing is monitoring and measurement. These are key elements to sustainability: economic, social, cultural, and environmental.

There are vocational opportunities throughout the natural and built environments. The goal of our workshop is to engage the Rotary family in finding which activities can match with people's gainful employment, not only locally but across the world, and in doing so, doing good for the place where we live, and for our sustainable future.

**Please join us for “The Environment” Workshop on Saturday morning, 8:30-11:30am, January 16, 2021. Register at <http://www.rotary7620.org/>**