



The CO₂ Offset Trust

“Rotarians for CO₂ Reduction”

NEWSLETTER, July 2008



The CO₂ Offset Trust is a Rotary Club-to-Club project

Climate Change: 1.2 million Rotarians CAN make a difference!

www.CO2OffsetTrust.org

Climate Change Features at RI Convention in Los Angeles

The Trust exhibited at the 2008 Los Angeles RI Convention June 15-18, from which it was clear that many Rotarians had some appreciation of Global Warming and wanted to know more in a non-politicised and unbiased explanation. Delegates were keen to discuss what their Clubs can do to raise Climate Change awareness. 2,000 Trust leaflets were distributed with a copy of the June 22nd Climate Change edition of National Geographic magazine. Ominously delegates from all over the world said that the climate in their country was changing to become hotter, wetter, stormier or dryer. The Trust leaflet suggesting Climate Change project ideas for Clubs to consider is available at the website.



RI President 2007-08 Wilf Wilkinson presents a check for US\$2,000 from The CO₂ Offset Trust to Lorna Milligan of the Fresno, California Club for their Solar Cooker project. Looking on (L-R) are Peter Moralee (Trust Project Coordinator, Bretby Club, UK) Peter Sephton (Trust Chair, Sheffield Club, UK) and Christine Sephton (Trust originator, East Hampton Club, New York, USA)

The Trust donates to neutralise carbon dioxide emissions in Guatemala:

A check for two thousand US dollars was presented by RI President Wilf Wilkinson during the International Convention in Los Angeles on behalf of The CO₂ Offset Trust to **the Fresno, California Rotary Club** for its **Solar Cooker Project**. The money will be used to set up a Solar Cooking training facility in Guatemala that will enable local people to cook without the need for open fires. The Solar Cooker removes the need to collect and burn firewood, provides nutritious food, reduces eye and lung diseases and provides safe drinking water. More information is on the Fresno Club's Website at <http://www.rotary5230.org/UMAP.asp?FolderID=313>

Peace Scholars' Professor Warns of Chaos from Climate Change Impact

Professor Paul Rogers, who leads the course for Rotary Peace Scholars at Bradford University, England has offered the Trust his views on the importance of its work. They include the comment ***'If we do not prevent the excesses of climate change, we will be bequeathing to our children a world of severe insecurity, if not chaos, and it will be our generation that will be blamed.'*** There is more on Professor Rogers' comments about the importance of global warming on potential world conflict on the Trust Website

How Rotarians can help to reduce CO₂ (Carbon Dioxide) emission levels:

- **CONSERVE:** we WASTE Energy. Devise ways to cut energy use without altering living standards.
- **DONATE** - via www.CO2OffsetTrust.org, to a Rotary project that removes the CO₂ you create.
- **EDUCATE** yourself, your club and your community on sustainability, energy-saving and CO₂ reduction.
- **CREATE:** projects that remove CO₂ from our atmosphere & apply for a grant from The CO₂ Offset Trust.

'Cap & Trade' your personal Carbon Emissions from Flying

Now you can 'Cap & Trade' your personal global warming emissions via a Rotary Club project. Each 2,000 mile round trip flight emits one tonne of CO₂ per passenger, which can hang around to heat the planet for 100 years. Donate to offset that flight – better still, get local companies to offset ALL employee flights. Go to www.CO2OffsetTrust.org to offset the CO₂ your flight created, using a credit card.

This way you support a Rotary Club project that will remove the carbon dioxide your flight created.

For 20 Projects to help your Club reduce Climate Change, go to www.co2offsettrust.org/pdf/laconventionleaflet.pdf

World Energy Consumption (est) 2008 = 31 bn barrels of oil, 6bn tonnes of coal, 100 trillion cu ft of natural gas = 30 billion tonnes of CO₂ emitted

A cheque from The CO₂ Offset Trust for one thousand UK pounds was presented by Immediate Past RIBI (Rotary in Britain and Ireland) **President Allan Jagger to Harrogate Rotary Club** on Monday July 14. **Terry Knowles, the tree-planting project coordinator, says this will plant 400 broadleaf trees** in North Yorkshire's Nidderdale Valley reforestation and takes the Club half-way to its target of 25,000 trees in the valley. Each tree absorbs around three tons of CO₂ during its lifetime, as well as locking carbon into the ground. Coincidentally, three tons is the amount of CO₂ calculated to be emitted per passenger by a 6,000 mile (e.g. transatlantic) return flight. More details on the Nidderdale Forest development project are available at the Harrogate Rotary Club Website - <http://www.harrogate.co.uk/harrogaterotary/Carbon.html>



RIBI President 2007-08 Alan Jagger presenting the £1,000 cheque from the Trust to Harrogate Rotary Club President Tony Hill, July 14, 2008

Interest among Rotarians in carbon reduction projects is growing all around the world.... from planting one million mangrove trees in the Philippines, to switching school electricity generators in Afghanistan to biofuel, to turning sugar cane into fuel in Lindenhurst, New York. **More ideas are welcomed via the Trust website**, to be considered by the project assessment team led by Peter Moralee, of the Bretby Club, Burton on Trent, Staffordshire, UK. The interaction with delegates at the Los Angeles Convention raised many issues and ideas and these will be considered at the next Trust meeting in August. They include a search for a major sponsor to enable the project to gain more publicity and the requirement to assist the current project accreditation⁽²⁾ process with academic support.

Can Your Club Help?

The Trust could use the following assistance....

- ▶ **CO₂ Offset Ambassadors;** Rotarians interested in environmental issues and Climate Change who are willing to speak to Clubs in their areas. The Trust will provide suitable presentation material.
- ▶ Free advice from a marketing agency to develop our message
- ▶ Help from people with energy backgrounds to analyse projects
- ▶ Internationally known auditors to audit our accounts pro bono.
- ▶ Advice to enable donations in your country to be tax-effective.
- ▶ Email via info@co2offsettrust.org if you can offer help.

The Trust Website is under continuous development by Andy Ledbetter of the Dronfield Club in Derbyshire, UK. The flight calculator for carbon emissions will soon cover a much larger range of destinations. A BLOG will also be added. Andy's unusual credentials for volunteering as a Trustee include Tour Manager for many well-known bands, including Led Zeppelin, Paul McCartney and Pink Floyd.



Website developer Andy Ledbetter gets down to some serious work on the day the Trust was formed in September 2007

⁽²⁾ An accredited CO₂ reduction project is one that has been approved by the Trust's independent assessors as removing a pre-determined amount of CO₂ from the atmosphere. Project suitability for a Trust grant will be governed by the Terms, Conditions and Bylaws of the Trust, available online at www.CO2OffsetTrust.org, of which accreditation is one part.

The CO₂ Offset Trust, UK registered charity number 1122835, is a non-profit organization whose application for 501(c)(3) status in the U.S. is pending. Once the application is approved, U.S. tax-payer donations to the Trust will be tax-deductible. For UK tax-payers, donations that are Gift-aided will benefit the Trust. Check out our Website for the latest data.