



working for future generations

Empowering Rotarians in the face of Climate Change

Key Questions:

- Is the planet getting warmer because of our fossil fuel use?
- Is this the biggest issue facing the future of the human race?
- If you agree 'Yes' - what can Rotarians do about it?
- And what can we as individuals do about it?

Key Challenges:

- World average temperatures are rising. Arctic sea ice is disappearing, oceans are dangerously acidic and the weather is increasingly unpredictable.
- A key feature is that our atmosphere and our seas now contain historically high levels of carbon dioxide - CO₂.
- The latest predictions indicate that the rate of climate change is increasing.
- As the climate slowly heats up, citizens all round the world are seeing a more volatile climate – more drought, more floods, more storms, higher temperatures.

Key Answers

Individuals can adopt best practice – e.g. we should neutralise the emissions from our unavoidable car and plane travel at www.CO2OffsetTrust.org.

- We can ensure our homes are efficient and energy efficient. For example ensuring adequate insulation to keep heat in/or out, installing cfl light bulbs, reducing standby consumption, switching off computers and games when not in use and lowering central heating by a degree or two.
- Such actions will immediately save the householder money.
- Individuals can also encourage best practice amongst their friends and at work.
- Many work places now encourage energy-saving initiatives. Let's expand them.

We have a duty to our communities, our descendants and each other to understand the vital climate change challenge.

Take the Trust challenge - visit www.CO2OffsetTrust.org to learn how you can Educate, Demonstrate, Innovate and Donate towards a sustainable solution.

www.CO2OffsetTrust.org



The CO₂ Offset Trust is an International Rotary Club-to-Club project.

Where Do You Stand?

Do you believe that the Earth's environment is of critical importance to everyone?

Do you believe we ignore our role in accelerating CO₂ levels at our peril?

Do you agree that Rotarians have a responsibility to tackle this challenge?

What you can do!

- Take control of your own carbon footprint. Use the Trust facility to offset your own unavoidable travel emissions at www.CO2OffsetTrust.org
- Your donations will promote Rotary Club projects across the world that reduce or absorb CO₂ emissions
- Does your home minimise its use of energy? Two years ago the UK estimated that £680m (= US \$950m) was spent on unnecessary "standby power" (TVs and related electrical appliances). Was your house one of those wasting energy... and paying for it?
- Ask about your employer's approach to the environment?
- Could your Rotary District Environment representative give advice to members on how to reduce energy consumption?

- Can your Club create a panel of energy experts to call upon for advice?
- Become active in your club. Can you work in Environment at District level? Is there a carbon reduction project your club could adopt?
- Is the climate change message sufficiently clear within Rotary at the national and international level? Can you influence the agenda?

The Big Picture

1.3 million Rotarians can make a huge difference. Rotarians should take a lead on climate change. We belong to an international NGO that has already shown it can tackle big challenges.

- Use the Trust website as an inter-active forum to develop best practice projects that help mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Educate your members and communities about the issues and opportunities.
- Rotary can influence governments. It can generate funds for action on climate change. Leadership is needed to take action on this vital topic.
- The Trust is challenging all Rotarians to develop relevant, sustainable, humanitarian projects that are carbon-neutral.

Let us know what **YOUR Club is doing to MEET THE CHALLENGE**, and we'll share your ideas with other Rotarians.

www.CO2OffsetTrust.org

The Sustainability Trust

