

Engaging Hearts, Enlightening Minds: Resources for Rotarians

Thursday, February 10, 2022

This issue offers resources for Rotarians working at every level, from developing an E-Club to drawing on the world's great faiths to enlighten and engage policy-makers in climate solutions.

Take your pick of:

- Two global policy forums (Climate and Peace and RCAT)
- Resources for inspiring reluctant people to embrace climate action (Sacred Season and En-ROADS)
- Climate-smart technology (E-Rickshaws in India and pumped hydro energy storage in Canada)
- A roadmap for launching an Eco-Club, and
- Classic Rotary Service Above Self (volunteering for RICON and editing ESRAG videos)



Thanks to the many readers who sent the valuable, timely news shared here! *Photo: Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta visiting RC Ulwe Node to celebrate the first E-auto rickshaw project for South Asia. On his right, ESRAG member Jaideep Malaviya, D3131 Chairperson for Renewable Energy and Climate Change.*

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Indian Club Launches Rotary E-Rickshaw Project

By Ariel Miller on Thursday, February 10, 2022

On Jan. 19, Rotarians in Ulwe Node in India's Maharashtra State handed over the keys of a three-passenger electric rickshaw to a delighted youth, uneducated and previously unemployed. Their donation of this vehicle will be his path out of poverty. The fact that it is electric will slash his operating costs by 60%, compared to a diesel-powered auto-rickshaw. The students he ferries to and from school will pay significantly lower monthly fares. This is the first electric passenger auto-rickshaw to be promoted by any Rotary Club in South Asia.

His rickshaw won't emit diesel exhaust, a factor in India's terrible burden of lung and cardiovascular disease. Even if he recharges with coal-generated electricity, the E-auto rickshaw will be responsible for 25 fewer tons of CO2 emissions over its 10-year useful life than a diesel model. As solar-powered electric charging stations come online in India, these electric rickshaws will be even greener.

The potential impact of adopting this innovation is huge. "India has close to 2 million 3-wheeler passenger auto-rickshaws that are approved by Regional Transport Offices (RTOs)," explains solar engineer Jaideep Malaviya, Chairperson in Renewable Energy and Climate Change for D3131. "It is a common form of urban transport as a vehicle for hire and private transport in many countries around the world. Rotary's 7th Area of Focus 'Protecting the Environment' fascinated the Rotary Club of Ulwe Node and members decided to pool funds to undertake this unique project on a pilot basis with the aim of generating mass awareness amongst auto-rickshaw drivers and also addressing climate change."

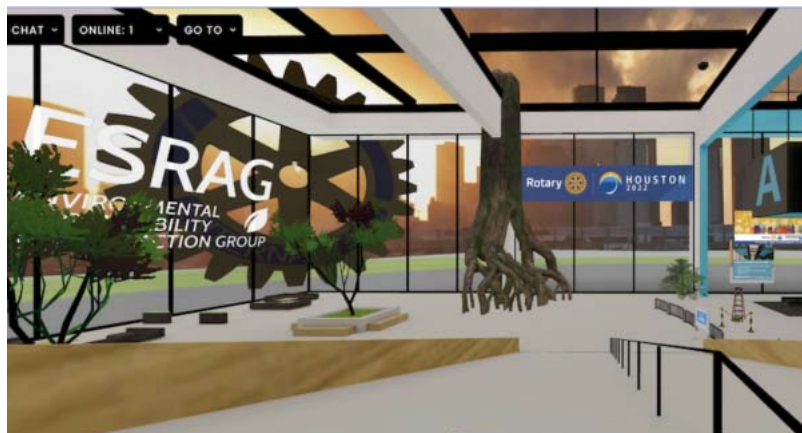
Photo: Beneficiary receiving the keys from D3131 District Governor Pankaj Shah.

[Read More](#)



Ready to Relish RICON? Represent ESRAG!

By Ariel Miller on Wednesday, February 9, 2022



If you're eager to connect with worldwide Rotarians – either in-person or virtually – sign up to tell them about ESRAG June 4-8. We're now recruiting ESRAG volunteer hosts, both for our in-person exhibit at the Rotary International Convention (RICON) in Houston and for our online 3D meeting and resource center. If you're a topic expert, working on environmental projects with your Club, developing a District Environmental Committee, or fostering an ESRAG Regional Chapter, RICON is a perfect opportunity to

share your enthusiasm and expertise. You can inspire other Rotarians by showing them they have the power to help preserve the planetary conditions essential to human life and livelihood.

If you're going to Houston, let [Karen McDaniels](#) know if you can volunteer for a shift in our House of Friendship exhibit: to explain how ESRAG equips Rotarians, and to recruit members. She also needs volunteers to bring their tablets to other places where Rotarians congregate between meetings and show them how to enter and explore our 3D virtual exhibits, which illustrate the fantastic array of knowledge and technical assistance ESRAG's members, Task Forces, and Regional Chapters provide to Rotarians around the world.

If you are ready to dive into RICON without generating the carbon emissions associated with going to a big convention, join the ESRAG team volunteering in ESRAG's 3D online meeting and resource center. What we create together will be available to everyone on every continent, free, for 2022 and beyond.

Contact [Laurie Zuckerman](#) to explore how you can help. The picture above gives you a tantalizing glimpse of ESRAG's 3D House of Friendship, created last year and now being updated and expanded for the Houston Convention. Klas Holmlund of ESRAG Europe is preparing a witty training video on how to navigate in this 3D world, so you'll be right at home meeting others there and sharing ideas. Looking forward to seeing you – face-to-face or by avatar – in June!

Roadmap for Launching an Eco Club

*By Joe Hentges, Assistant Rotary Coordinator, Zone 26,
Wednesday, February 9, 2022*

Cause-based Rotary Clubs are relatively new. [PDG Michael Drake](#), a longtime Rotarian in Tucson, AZ (D5500), was interested in starting a club focused on environmental service and solutions. The challenge was to bring together interested and committed people to meet the needs of the community in an effective and sustainable way. Wanting to also introduce new members to Rotary, he noted, "People may not know anything about Rotary, but they do know about environmental issues." The new club - named "Tucson Verde" or "Green Tucson" - would dovetail nicely with Rotary's growing focus on environmental issues.



Emphasizing fellowship and the sense of belonging, the strategy they used was a huge success. 87% of the charter members were new to Rotary. Almost half attended District Conference just two months later.

Joining Michael as new club champions were PDGs Ellie Patterson and Kirk Reed. Together they planned a recruitment process to assure success and, "share the enjoyment of Rotary with others." Their process can be a useful guide for those interested in starting a new club.

Photo: RC Tucson Verde Facebook page

[Read More](#)

Climate Risks: Making choices. Feb. 15 Climate and Peace Forum

Tuesday, February 8, 2022



Three experts will illuminate actions we can still take to avert the danger of climate change accelerating to points of no return, in this latest international webinar of the Climate and Peace Forum presented by the Rotary Clubs of Sydney, Australia on 15th February at 6:00 pm, AEDT (UTC + 11).

Admiral (Ret.) Chris Barrie, Adjunct Professor of Strategic and Defense Studies at the Australian National University (ANU), will discuss climate change and sovereign risk and how these will impact Australia and the Pacific, Bangladesh, Europe and the world. International environmental law expert Zara Bending, Senior Lecturer at Macquarie University, and Will Steffen, Emeritus Professor at ANU's Fenner School of Environment and Society, will join Admiral Barrie in discussing the dangers of inaction and what we can still do to avert climate

change tipping points. [Register here](#), free! at If you can't attend in real time, [visit the website later](#) to watch the recording.

[Read More](#)

ESRAG Projects Seminar Feb. 16 - Pumped Hydro Energy Storage

*By Christopher Puttock,
Wednesday, February 9, 2022*

In this presentation, Peter Bubik will explain the Pumped Hydro Energy Storage technology, look at existing projects around the world, talk about the opportunities and challenges in Alberta, and look to the future of how this technology will help in the process of decarbonizing Canada's economy. The seminar starts at 2:00 pm UTC, 8:00 am Evanston time. Register [here](#).

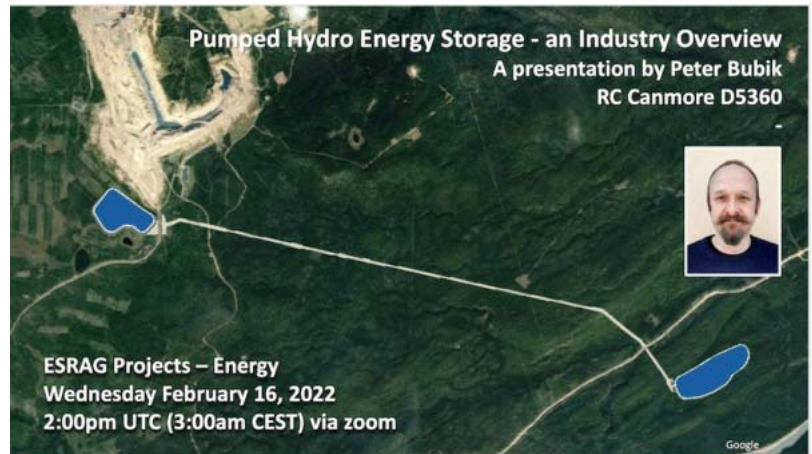
Peter's Bio: Peter Bubik is an engineer focused on the development of renewable energy projects. He has served in many roles ranging from technical support, siting, development to construction supervision, project management and due diligence work. After graduating from engineering at the University of Calgary, Peter commenced his career in renewable energy with Canadian Hydro Developers working on run-of-river hydro power plants and moving on to wind power development. Later with Hatch, Peter led engineering teams supporting wind power developers from early-stage development to construction and commissioning.

In 2012 Peter co-founded Turning Point Generation - a company focused on permitting and developing a Pumped Hydro Energy Storage (PHES) project in Alberta. In summer of 2018, Alberta Utilities Commission approved Alberta's first ever PHES project - TPG's Canyon Creek PHES project and in 2021 TCenergy purchased all shares in Turning Point Generation. Peter, his wife and their four children live in the beautiful Crowsnest Pass Alberta, but are currently on a multi-year assignment in Peter's native Czech Republic where he works as Project Manager on Near Zero Energy Buildings, energy storage and renewable projects.

Here are the topics scheduled for ESRAG's upcoming Projects seminars:

1. Feb. 23: Club/District Projects: Susquehanna River, Owls, Imperilled Butterflies
2. Mar. 2: Planetary Boundaries, Dr Gunilla Östberg, 1:00 pm UTC
3. Mar. 9: Russian River and other projects to be announced
4. Mar. 16: Forest Restoration in Southwestern Australia, Tristan Campbell

When you register for an event in the ESRAG Projects Seminar series, you'll be added to the email list for updates as speakers are scheduled. Check the [ESRAG Events page](#) as well.



International Cooperation and Climate Action: RCAT Monthly Forum

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Cooperation between countries is essential to addressing the climate crisis. Despite concerns about the results from COP 26 in Glasgow, climate



advocates have to understand how global cooperation has arrived at its current state, and how it will influence immediate future climate actions. At this monthly RCAT forum, speaker Nathan Cogswell will give an overview of the international climate collaboration process, starting with where previous international efforts have failed, to explain why the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is organized the way that it is. The UNFCCC - and the role of all countries and subgroups - are key to recognizing the actions Rotarians must take in advocating with their local and national governments to assure we meet the emissions targets for 2030 and beyond.

Nathan Cogswell is a Research Associate with the International Climate Action Initiative and a core member of World Resource Institute's work on the UNFCCC process. His research and work is focused on supporting the UNFCCC negotiations and implementation of the Paris Agreement's rule-based regime, focusing on transparency, accountability and capacity-building. He holds a Master of Arts in Environmental Resource Policy from the George Washington University.

[Reserve your virtual seat here.](#)

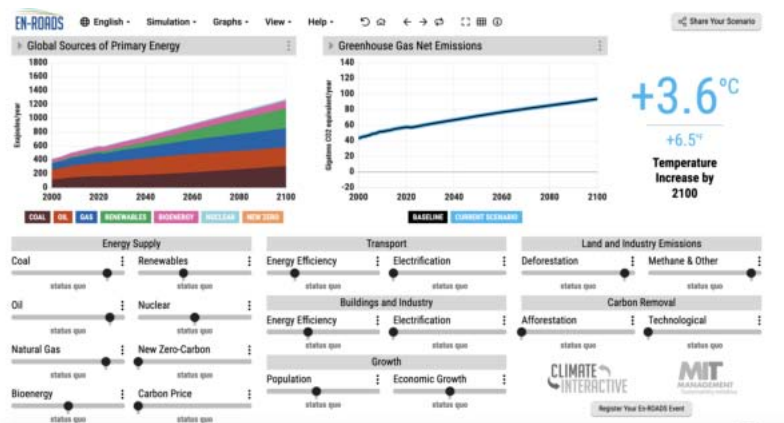
Seeing for Themselves: Engaging Communities in Climate Solutions via En-ROADS

By Ariel Miller on Monday, February 7, 2022

"Research shows that *showing people research* doesn't work," said En-ROADS Ambassador Nate Mills at an ESRAG Climate Solutions workshop Jan. 25. Instead, Mills explained, it's more effective to put them in charge: "Give them a way to see the problem, what they can do, and how to interpret the results."

Mills then introduced participants to the [En-ROADS simulator](#) developed by [Climate Interactive](#), the Sustainability Initiative at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT's) Sloan School of Business, and Ventana Systems. This free, online tool provides a graph showing how global temperature will rise if current trends continue. By adjusting sliders, you can see the impact of applying 30 different policies, such as carbon pricing, improving building efficiency, and changing the mix of energy generation. The global temperature graph shows not only how much, but how quickly a given policy would slow global warming between now and 2100. Given the urgency of reducing greenhouse gas emissions before 2030 to avoid a calamitous tipping point, that's an essential virtue of this simulation.

[Read More](#)



Drawing from World's Religions: GreenFaith's Sacred Season for Climate Justice

By Ariel Miller, Monday, February 7, 2022

The global interfaith network [GreenFaith](#) is launching a worldwide [Sacred Season for Climate Justice](#) from March 17 to May 6



drawing on the spirituality, ritual and moral teachings of world faiths whose major religious holidays engage billions of people. The celebrations of Vaisakhi (Hindu and Sikh), Ramadan (Muslim), Holy Week and Easter (Christian), Passover (Jewish), Vesak (Buddhist) and Naw Ruz and Ridván (Bahá'í) take place during these weeks, as well as an equinox, Earth Day, and World Water Day. The Green Faith [Sacred Season website](#) will provide a library of spiritual resources, rituals, prayers and talking points which will be available starting March 1 in English, Spanish, French or German. You can contribute

resources from your tradition by Feb. 26 to either the [English](#) or [Spanish](#) library.

“Each submission should boldly call for the end of new fossil fuel extraction, the phase-out of current fossil fuels, and/or support a just climate transition, rooted in clear faith language,” GreenFaith organizers explain. “During the Sacred Season, religious partners around the globe are offering powerful messages or sacred rituals for climate justice. Drawing on our core values and in a spirit of compassion, love and justice, we are shifting the narrative by calling for an end to new fossil fuel projects and deforestation and a rapid, just transition to a sustainable future. Together we’re showing up on our holiest days to connect climate justice with our religious values.” If you plan a Sacred Season event you can upload it on [GreenFaith’s global map and calendar](#).

Starting Feb. 21 at 10 ET (UTC – 5), GreenFaith will host a Zoom meeting on each faith tradition that has a major holiday during the Sacred Season. One meeting will also review the [Fossil Fuel Treaty](#). To sign up for these webinars, [click here for English](#) and [here for Spanish](#).

Read the [core values](#) of GreenFaith and consider how they harmonize with the Rotary Four-Way Test. *Photo: GreenFaith website.*

Video Editors Wanted!!

By Patricia Armstrong, Saturday, January 15, 2022

Volunteers wanted!!

Over the past two years, ESRAG has brought you hundreds of virtual environmental seminars and our hardworking volunteers have spent countless hours editing these seminars.

Many of these seminars are now available on YouTube and the ESRAG and regional chapter websites for you to either watch at your leisure or to show to your club or District. We are planning to curate all these seminars, so that you can easily find them on the ESRAG website.



We now need your help. Do you have recording editing skills and have some time to help us edit the recordings of the 2022 seminars? Perhaps you know someone who does. If so, we would like to hear from you. Please [contact Communications Director, Pat Armstrong](#) to explore how your editing skills could help inform and inspire fellow Rotarians for effective environmental action.

Photo: ESRAG's Pat Armstrong, D 9212 PDG Joe Otin - Rotary International Representative to the UN Environment Programme - and Rotary International Projects Officer Lauren Marquez-Viso explaining the process of applying for Rotary Foundation Global Grants during their virtual breakout session for the RI Virtual International Convention in 2021.

Send us Your News



We are eager to share your great projects with Rotarians worldwide who are dedicated to saving life on our planet. Thanks to readers who have been sending us wonderful material!

Through this newsletter, ESRAG's social media accounts, and the website we can post events (please give us at least two weeks notice) as well as articles explaining what you do, how you do it, and links to further resources. It's [easy to connect by email](#). You can send what you've already written or ask to set up an interview. Looking forward to hearing from you!

The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group

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