

The Rotary Year in Review: Food, Climate, and Collective Action

This month's newsletter explores how what we grow, eat, and share affects every corner of our world—from climate resilience to economic development, health equity to peacebuilding. You'll discover how Rotary members are taking action globally, from shifting diets to planting fruit trees, advancing AI for climate solutions, and financing clean water. As we reflect on our shared accomplishments, this issue invites you to sow the seeds of change for a greener, healthier tomorrow.

Featured Articles:

- *Planting Seeds for the Future: Closing the Rotary Year with a Focus on Food Systems*
- *Lower Your Carbon Footprint for RICON Travel – Join the “Pledge to Veg” Carbon Offset Challenge!*
- *ESRAG Named Official Nominator for the Earthshot Prize*
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- *Building a Better World: Rotary’s Premier Environmental Workshop*
- *ESRAG 2025 Annual General Meeting*
- *Upcoming ESRAG Seminars*
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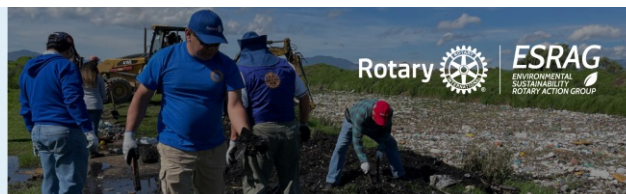
Planting Seeds for the Future: Closing the Rotary Year with a Focus on Food Systems

As June marks the close of the Rotary year, it offers a moment of reflection and renewal—a time to celebrate the impact we've made and to replant our commitment to people, peace, and the planet. This year, we close with a theme that is both fundamental and forward-looking: Food Systems.

Why food systems? Because food connects us all. It ties together nearly every Rotary Area of Focus: it underpins health, drives economic development, influences education and peace, and is deeply interwoven with our environmental sustainability goals. From reducing hunger and improving child nutrition, to supporting regenerative agriculture and protecting biodiversity, food systems are a cornerstone of building resilient, thriving communities.

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ECO ACTION
NEWS



Lower your carbon footprint for RICON travel - Join the “Pledge to Veg” Carbon Offset Challenge!



Plant-rich eating is one of the most impactful actions we can take to reduce climate change, protect the environment, and improve our health. It is the [ultimate expression of our Rotary values](#) and can reduce our individual carbon footprints by up to 75%.

To help offset the carbon emissions associated with travel, the ESRAG Plant-Rich Diet Task Force (PRD) encourages all RICON attendees to eat at least one or more plant-rich (vegan or vegetarian) meals during RICON and register them using this [short form](#) to contribute to a running tally of collective carbon savings. Our total Pledge to Veg carbon savings will be announced at the conclusion of RICON. Look for the QR code at RICON or [visit our](#)

[website.](#)
[Read More](#)

ESRAG Named Official Nominator for the Earthshot Prize: A Global Opportunity to Champion Climate Solutions



The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) is honored to announce that it has been selected as an official nominator for the prestigious Earthshot Prize for the second consecutive year. This recognition places ESRAG among a select group of organizations worldwide trusted to identify and elevate the most innovative and impactful environmental solutions on the planet.

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Bridging Rotary's Focus Areas Through Climate Action

By: Nilam Bedi

Rotary's Environment Area of Focus offers a timely and critical bridge across all seven Areas of Focus. While designated as Rotary's newest Area of Focus, the environment is not a siloed concern—it underpins every effort Rotary makes to build peace, improve health, provide education, and strengthen communities. Climate change, in particular, is not only an environmental issue; it is a growing threat multiplier that directly hinders progress across Rotary's humanitarian goals. The intersection between climate change and Rotary's mission is clear: if we want to succeed in our global service efforts, we must recognize and respond to the impacts of a changing climate across all Areas of Focus.

Governmental, business, industrial, and philanthropic sectors around the world are integrating climate considerations into their strategic planning. There is increasing evidence that climate change is negatively impacting societal outcomes in nearly every sector, including economic development, health, education, and water resources. Rotary's own grants, club projects, and operations are not immune to these challenges.

This paper explores how climate change intersects with each of Rotary's Areas of Focus and suggests ways to further integrate climate resilience into Global Grant guidelines and project strategies.

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Financing Sustainable Water

By Rob Sisson

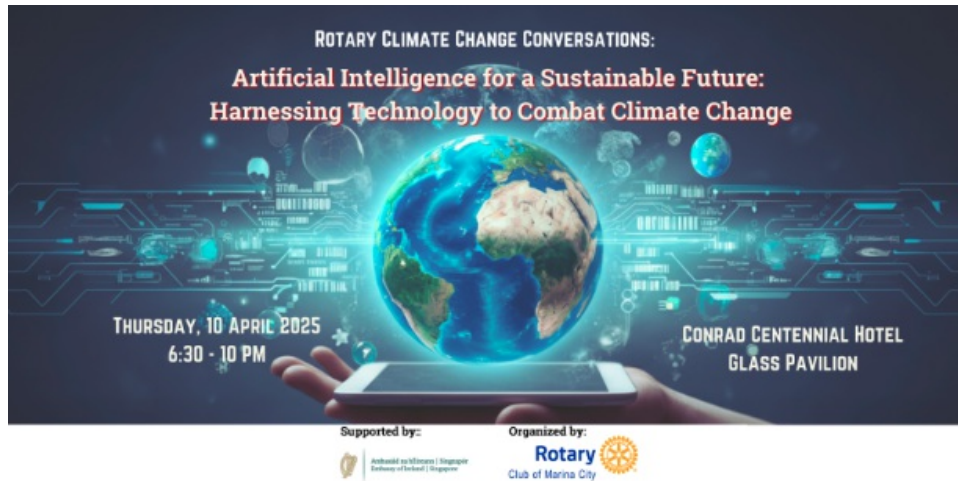
Water is essential—life simply cannot exist without it. That much is a given. However, securing funding for sustainable water projects? That's not always so straightforward. Let's dive into some options that could support your next sustainable water initiative.

Partner with Rotary Experts — WASHRAG (1)

WASHRAG (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Rotary Action Group) is a group of dedicated experts with deep knowledge of WASH-related projects. They excel at designing impactful, sustainable water initiatives and provide valuable guidance on financing. WASHRAG members can also support your Rotary Global Grant applications and help ensure your water project is set up for long-term success.

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Artificial Intelligence for a Sustainable Future: Harnessing Technology to Combat Climate Change



By Ambaree Majumder

The third edition of Rotary Climate Change Conversations (RC3), hosted by the Rotary Club of Marina City (RCMC), took place on Thursday, 10 April 2025, at 6:30 PM at the Conrad Centennial Hotel in Singapore.

From its inception, the goal of RC3 has been to foster a culture of prioritizing the planet's well-being by bringing together members of Rotary International and the broader environmental and sustainability community in Asia. By facilitating meaningful conversations on climate change, RC3 aims to empower individuals and communities to take collective action in response to the climate crisis.

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Events
Save the Date

MAGIC ALL AROUND
21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA
Register today at convention.rotary.org

Rotary CALGARY 2025

Join ESRAG at RICON 2025: Where Environmental Action Takes Center Stage

Rotary's global family will gather this June in Calgary for the 2025 Rotary International Convention (RICON), and ESRAG is excited to be front and center in the action! With environmental sustainability now one of Rotary's seven Areas of Focus, RICON is the perfect opportunity to showcase how Rotary members worldwide are leading efforts to protect our planet and create lasting change.

Visit ESRAG at Booth #221 and the ESRAG Hub in the House of Friendship. Learn more at esrag.org/ricon

[Read More](#)

Building a Better World

Rotary's Premier Environmental Workshop Before RICON 2025



Friday, June 20, 2025

Location: Calgary, Alberta, Canada | In-Person at SAIT or Live via Zoom

Registration: \$85 USD (In-Person) | \$10 USD (Virtual)

[Register here.](#)

As climate challenges intensify around the globe, Rotary is stepping up. ESRAG (Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group) and RAGCED (Rotary Action Group for Community Economic Development) are co-hosting Building a Better World, a high-impact, full-day workshop designed to empower Rotarians to scale up sustainable, community-led climate solutions. Whether you join us in Calgary or tune in virtually, this workshop is your chance to shape Rotary's environmental legacy.

Why You Should Attend?

This workshop isn't just another pre-convention event—it's a catalyst for innovation and action. You'll:

- Bring your project ideas and learn how to make them more sustainable and scalable.
- Gain tools to improve the long-term return on your club's investments of time, energy, and funding.
- Learn how to integrate environmental impact with community economic development.
- Collaborate with Rotarians and climate experts who are already driving successful



projects worldwide.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Questions? [Contact us.](#)

2025 ESRAG Annual General Meeting

Please join us for the upcoming 2025 ESRAG AGM- Online.

When: Friday June 13, 2025 02:00 PM Universal Time UTC

[REGISTER IN ADVANCE](#) for this webinar.

AGENDA:

1. Welcome



2. SPEAKER:

"Accelerating Climate Solutions" by [Jonathan Foley Ph.D.](#), Executive Director, Project Drawdown

"Jonathan Foley, Ph.D., is the executive director of Project Drawdown, the world's leading resource for climate solutions. He is a world-renowned environmental scientist, sustainability expert, author, and public speaker whose work focuses on understanding our changing planet and increasing the adoption of the most promising solutions to sustain the climate, ecosystems, and natural resources we all depend on."

3. ESRAG 2024-25 Year Review by PDG Yavuz Atilla, ESRAG Board Chair (2024-25)

4. ESRAG 2024-25 Financial Report by Tim Conners, ESRAG Treasurer

5. ESRAG 2025-26 Year Upcoming Plans by DG Ludwig Kalthoff, ESRAG Chair Elect (2025-26)

6. Q & A and adjourn.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM

[REGISTER](#)



June 4: From Fork to Forest: Why we can't solve the climate crisis without changing how we eat with Nicola Philpott and Anna Larsson

Even if we stopped using fossil fuels today, emissions from our food system would still cause the earth to exceed targets. This lively presentation discusses the impact our food has on climate and the environment. Learn actions you can take at your next meal to start changing things for the better. [Register.](#)

June 11: Feeding People, Creating Jobs, and Benefiting the Environment with Mary McLaughlin Discover how the [Trees That Feed Foundation](#) boosts food security, jobs, and the environment in tropical nations by planting fruit trees like breadfruit. Learn about their programs helping communities in Haiti, Uganda, and Jamaica become self-sufficient. [Register.](#)

June 18 and 25: No Seminar. See you in July!



Bridging Health and Climate – A Conversation with Rotary International Director Pat Merryweather-Arges

Rotary International Director Pat Merryweather-Arges joins the ESRAG Podcast to share how health and climate go hand-in-hand and why Rotary is uniquely positioned to lead on both. Listen now to hear her vision for local action with global impact. [Listen](#)

Connect with us on social media

Follow us & join the conversation.



The Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.