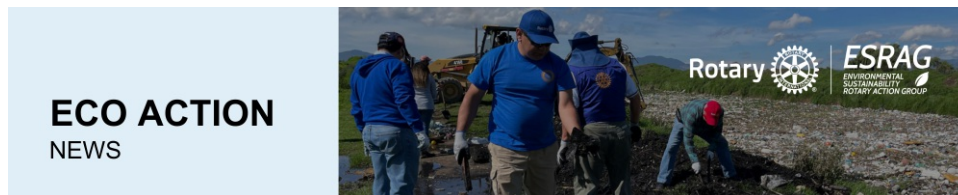


## 120,000 Solar Panels Later! Rotary's Climate Momentum Builds

As COP30 approaches and the world turns its eyes to Belém, Brazil, ESRAG is shining a spotlight on how Rotarians can be catalysts for climate action, locally and globally. This issue dives deep into how climate change touches every Area of Focus, from water to health to peacebuilding. You'll discover practical tools, inspiring initiatives, and personal stories that show how people of action are rising to the challenge. Whether it's installing solar panels, rethinking what's on your plate, or using ESRAG's carbon tools to travel more consciously, this is your guide to making measurable climate impact, one Rotary project at a time.

- **ESRAG's Climate Action Roadmap: Powering COP30 Goals with Rotary Action**
- **Climate Change: A Cross-Cutting Challenge for All Rotary Areas of Focus**
- **Travel with Awareness: Use ESRAG's Flight Carbon Estimator**
- **How Your Fork Can Fight Climate Change Better Than Your Vote**
- **Powering a Brighter Future: 120,000+ Solar Panels and Counting!**
- **Community Action for Fresh Water: From Personal Loss to Global Impact**
- **Rotarians at COP30: People-Powered Climate Action**
- **Climate Solutions at RICON: Rotary in Action**



### ESRAG's Climate Action Roadmap: Powering COP30 Goals with Rotary Action

As the world prepares for COP30 in Belém, Brazil, attention is turning toward how governments, communities, and civil society can align efforts to meet the urgent demands of the Paris Agreement and the UN's climate targets. With the stakes higher than ever, ESRAG is stepping up with a powerful tool: the ESRAG Climate Action Roadmap.

This roadmap empowers Rotary members, clubs, and districts to take measurable, scalable action that directly supports the international agenda being advanced at COP30.

#### What Is COP30?

COP30, hosted by the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is where world leaders will submit new nationally determined contributions (NDCs) to reduce emissions by 2035. It's a critical checkpoint to assess progress and push for more ambitious commitments to:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation)
- Protect communities and ecosystems from climate impacts (adaptation)
- Mobilize finance for climate solutions
- Promote technology transfer and capacity building
- Ensure inclusive action for Indigenous peoples, youth, and marginalized communities

These goals echo across the high-level dialogues, thematic days, and negotiations listed on the [official COP30 schedule](#).

[Read More](#)

# Climate Change: A Cross-Cutting Challenge for All Rotary Areas of Focus



## Why Every Club Has a Role to Play

Rotary's seven Areas of Focus guide how we serve communities, tackle challenges, and shape a more just and sustainable world. But one global issue transcends them all: climate change.

Often perceived as just an environmental concern, climate change is in fact a powerful force multiplier, worsening inequalities, endangering health, and threatening progress across all sectors. At ESRAG, we recognize that taking climate action isn't separate from Rotary's mission, it's essential to achieving it.

Here's how climate change impacts each of Rotary's Areas of Focus, and why integrating climate solutions strengthens every project your club takes on:

[Read More](#)

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# Travel with Awareness: Use ESRAG's Flight Carbon Estimator



As we head into the final months of the year, many of us are on the move, flying across the globe for COP30, traveling for holidays, or reuniting with family and friends. Air travel opens incredible opportunities for connection and impact, but it also comes with a carbon cost.

That's why ESRAG offers a simple and powerful tool: the [Flight Carbon Estimator](#).

## Why Does Flight Carbon Matter?

Air travel is one of the most carbon-intensive activities individuals engage in. A single round-trip flight can emit hundreds to thousands of kilograms of CO<sub>2</sub> per passenger. While global aviation accounts for about 2-3% of all greenhouse gas emissions, its rapid growth and high emissions per trip make it a key climate concern.

With climate impacts intensifying worldwide, it's more important than ever to travel mindfully, especially for those of us who are passionate about sustainability and service.

## What Is the ESRAG Flight Carbon Estimator?

The Flight Carbon Estimator is a free, easy-to-use online tool that lets you:

[Read More](#)

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# How Your Fork Can Fight Climate Change Better Than Your Vote

By Chris Davies



Many Rotarians find themselves trapped in a familiar pattern: waiting for someone else to solve the climate crisis. Whether the government, corporations, or some breakthrough technology will emerge and thus enabling them to put their environmental conscience on hold. It may take joining ESRAG to realise that we don't need to wait for political shifts or new technologies to make a meaningful impact. The most powerful climate action might already be sitting in our kitchens.

Whilst we often think of solar panels, electric vehicles, or complex carbon capture technologies as the primary solutions to climate change, there are simpler, more accessible options that deliver immediate results. One such is adopting a plant-rich diet. Project Drawdown, the comprehensive global research initiative, cites **plant-rich diets as the second most impactful action we can take to reverse climate change, ranking just after food waste reduction.**

This isn't merely about personal health, though the benefits there are substantial. Agriculture is the single greatest driver harming the systems that support our lives, contributing more to global warming than all forms of transportation combined. The global livestock industry produces 32% of global man-made methane emissions, second only to the fossil fuel industry which produces 35%. Even if we completely eliminated fossil fuels tomorrow, food systems alone would contribute to 1.5-2°C of global warming – a threshold we cannot afford to cross.

[Read More](#)

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## Projects

To inspire and take action



### Powering a Brighter Future: 120,000+ Solar Panels and Counting!

Rotarians around the world are rising to the challenge, and the numbers prove it. ESRAC's Million Solar Panel Challenge has now logged over 120,000 solar panels, equating to 963,032 tonnes of CO2 emissions avoided over 30 years. That's the power of collective action.

#### Why Solar?

Solar energy is one of the most impactful, scalable climate solutions we have. It produces clean, renewable energy without contributing to air pollution or climate change. Solar also improves energy access and resilience, especially in underserved or remote areas, and supports local economies through job creation and energy savings.

For Rotary clubs, solar power is a perfect fit:

- Improves lives by powering schools, clinics, water systems, and community centers.
- Reduces reliance on fossil fuels, directly addressing climate change.
- Builds local partnerships and empowers communities.
- Aligns with Rotary's Environment Area of Focus and supports multiple other Areas of Focus.

[Read More](#)

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# Community Action for Fresh Water: From Personal Loss to Global Impact



What if a personal tragedy could inspire a global movement for clean water?

That's the [story behind](#) Community Action for Fresh Water, a bold initiative launched to empower individuals and communities to restore and protect freshwater ecosystems, the rivers, lakes, wetlands, and aquifers that sustain life.

This project is deeply tied to Rotary and ESRAC's mission, and it beautifully illustrates how environmental work can be both personal and global in scope.

## Why Fresh Water?

Fresh water is essential for drinking, growing food, hygiene, and healthy ecosystems. Yet around the world, these life-giving water sources are under siege, from pollution, overuse, and climate change.

According to the UN, one in four people globally lacks access to safely managed drinking water. And we're losing freshwater biodiversity faster than any other ecosystem.

That's why [Community Action for Fresh Water](#) is calling for grassroots mobilization. It's not just a policy issue, it's something every community can work on, together.

## What the Campaign Offers

[Read More](#)

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## Rotarians at COP30: People-Powered Climate Action

This November, the world will converge in Belém, Brazil, for COP30, the most pivotal climate milestone of the decade. ESRAG is proud to support a volunteer-led initiative uniting 60,000 Rotarians and Rotaractors across Brazil, and around the world, to turn global climate goals into tangible, local impact.

### Why COP30 Matters

COP30 is more than a global summit where governments will submit new national climate commitments for 2035. These pledges will determine the planet's path toward limiting global warming to 1.5°C. It's a chance to shift from promises to action.

For Rotary, this moment is an unparalleled opportunity to:

- Connect local service with global climate solutions
- Bridge dialogue and action with Rotary's trusted community leadership
- Scale partnerships across Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus and the UN climate pillars (mitigation, adaptation, finance, capacity-building, and technology)
- Build peace by addressing the climate drivers of inequality, migration, and conflict

### What ESRAG is Doing at COP30

ESRAG is playing a key leadership role in connecting Rotary's grassroots power with the global climate movement:

[Read More](#)

## Climate Solutions at RICON: Rotary in Action



Mark McKenna, ESRAG Climate Solutions Task Force, speaks to a standing room only audience.

By: Claudia Jordan

**Did you know that more than 15,000 Rotarians from across the globe gathered in Calgary, Canada, in June 2025 Rotary International Convention (RICON) to share solutions for the world's most pressing challenges?**

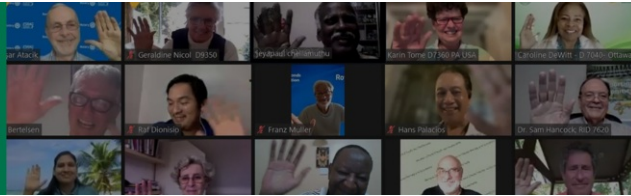
Among the highlights was the work of ESRAG's Climate Solutions Task Force (CSTF), which brought together members and partners to explore how Rotary can take bold, practical steps to address the climate crisis. Six of ESRAG's nine most active Task Forces delivered multiple presentations over three days in the Environment Hub and Peace Park at the House of Friendship! A total of twenty Task Force members including twelve Task Force Leaders attended Calgary RICON 2025, showcasing their Task Force projects and initiatives.

A Global Family, A Shared Mission

RICON reminded us of the power of Rotary's global network. With participants from over 120 countries, the atmosphere was charged with ideas, hope, and determination. Climate change was not a side conversation—it was central to many discussions on health, food security, peace, and economic development.

[Read More](#)

## Seminars



ESRAG's™ Project Seminars are back—refreshed, refocused, and ready to inspire action! As we reset our project seminars, we renew our commitment to Rotary's™ vision of creating lasting change by supporting clubs and districts in developing and implementing impactful environmental projects.

These twice-monthly seminars will continue to bring together members from across regions to exchange ideas, share success stories, and engage in practical strategies for advancing Rotary's™ seventh area of focus—protecting the environment. Each session will feature inspiring presentations from our newly elected Board members and members of the Rotary family, partners, followed by open discussions that encourage collaboration and innovation.

**Tuesday, November 12th at 1:00 PM UTC: Building knowledge, networks, and energy to grow impact through Projects.**

Our speaker, Ms. Judith Diment, is an experienced Public Relations Consultant with a demonstrated history of working in the public relations and communications industry. An adept networker who has built and maintained excellent working relationships across the sector, skilled in Media Relations, Crisis Communications, Event Management, Fund Raising, Public Speaking, and Management. Strong media and communication skills and 28 years experience of global health advocacy and government relations. Ms. Diment is a recipient of numerous honors and awards and a distinguished Champion of Rotary International Polio Plus Committee whose unwavering commitment to service continues to inspire Rotarians worldwide.

[Register today.](#)

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## 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.*

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