

WASH NEWS

WASH ROTARY ACTION GROUP

ESRAG
ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY
ROTARY ACTION GROUP

Rotary



WASH
Rotary Action Group
WATER - SANITATION - HYGIENE

At the Singapore Convention, the presentation on solar power with WASH Projects was popular. This month, we have asked ESRAG's Elizabeth Henke to be a guest contributor. We will be back to our regular content next month.

Solar Power is a Game Changer

By Elizabeth Henke, ESRAG

As Rotarians, we understand the transformative power of clean water. Rotary has long been at the forefront of providing boreholes, having drilled thousands of wells that save lives by delivering clean and safe drinking water to communities in need. But how can we modify a borehole to extend its reach and improve even more lives?

The answer is simple yet powerful: by adding solar-powered pumps and storage tanks. This innovative solution ensures that water reaches more people: homes, hospitals, and schools. With clean, easily accessible water, communities can thrive—hygiene improves, time is freed for education, and hospitals can operate safely and efficiently.

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The Million Solar Panels Challenge

By Elizabeth Henke, ESRAG

<https://esrag.org/million-solar-panel/>

The Million Solar Panels Challenge encourages every Rotarian to purchase at least one solar panel—whether for themselves or for others. Over 500 Rotary members have already bought and logged their panels. Will you be next?

Who Qualifies?

Any Rotarian who has purchased solar panels for their home or business, or contributed to installing solar panels for others, is invited to participate.



Already Have Solar Panels?

Please log them here: bit.ly/ESRAG_MSPC

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What AI Says about Solar Projects

Rotary members are always looking for practical steps. So, Stew Martin, WASH-RAG's Technical Advisor /Cadre, worked with the AI tool ChatGPT to come up with this guide to planning and implementing a Solar WASH project.



Working with a Cadre or a WASH Ambassador with experience installing solar energy projects is always a good idea.

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Solar Project Tips from Members

We asked Rotary members, Philip Wolstenholme and Ibrahim Yaouba, who have experience with using solar power, with WASH projects, to provide us with some tips on what to take into account when planning your project.

1. Perform pressure calculations for all pumps.
2. Ensure that the sanitation system, such as septic tank, is operating before flush toilets are brought online.
3. Install solar panels with a slope of at least 15° so that water and dust will not appreciably accumulate.
4. Assume that someone will try and steal the pump and the solar panels and take security precautions.
5. Know where to obtain plumbing supplies and technicians locally.

Rotary's Solar Powered Pathway

By Laurie Zuckerman, ESRAG Director, Chair of Communications

Solar-powered revolution

The storm hit, and the power went out. I wondered, Will it be restored before nightfall? My husband's medical equipment depends on electricity to help him breathe while he sleeps. Fortunately, we're lucky enough to have solar panels and a backup battery to get him safely through the night.

Meanwhile, the drought in Ecuador rages on. Without water to supply the hydroelectric system, my friends Wilson, Pablo, and their communities endure blackouts that stretch over eight hours each day, impacting their homes, families, and businesses. Could solar play a part in adapting to this drought?



What about you? What happens when your power goes out? How does it affect your health and livelihood?

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Solar Helps Eradicate Polio and Much More

By Elizabeth Henke, ESRAG

Investing in solar power is about more than polio - it's about empowering communities. Reliable electricity enables healthcare, education, clean water, and economic development. By lighting up the path to a healthier, more prosperous future, solar energy can play a pivotal role in eradicating polio and building resilience against other health challenges.

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2025 People of WASH Photo and Video Competition

With \$1,500 in prize money, the 2025 People of WASH Photograph and Video Competition is now open for submissions. Follow this link to get more details: <https://www.wash-rag.org/photo-contest/>

Prize Money

Photograph - First - \$300, Second - \$150 and Third \$75

Video - First - \$600, Second - \$300, and Third \$150

We will be using submissions on WASH-RAG promotional and educational materials, so there are great bragging rights in addition to the prize money.



Get a Partner and Obtain Funding

Our members often ask "Where can I find an International Partner?" and "How do I get other clubs to support my Project?"

This fall we released our [WASH Project Portal](#) where you can submit your Global Grant information. The process to submit your project is easy and very straightforward. You can also submit your Global Grant, Community Assessment, and any additional information (e.g. photos, promotional pamphlets, etc.)

It is clearly indicated which Projects need an International Partner. A bar chart indicates how much money has been raised. Regular follow-ups will keep the information updated. Upload your Global Grant and see how well the Portal works.



Renovate Water and Sanitation Facilities in Schools

Calendar of Events

23 - 25 Jan - Uniendo America Project Fair (Panama)

31 Jan - 3 Feb - Columbia Project Fair (Medellin)

22 Mar 2025 - World Water Day

28 May 2025 - World Menstrual Hygiene Day

24 - 31 Aug - World Water Week (Stockholm)

15 Oct 2025 - Global Hand Washing Day

24 Oct 2025 - World Polio Day

19 Nov 2024 - World Toilet Day

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Submit your stories, videos, and pictures for upcoming Newsletters to us at info@wash-rag.org.

WASH-RAG reserves the right to edit stories for length and content. By submitting a story you give us permission to publish and make public your contact information including but not limited to your email or club's website.

The WASH Rotary Action Group is pleased to consider partnerships with any corporate supporter. Due to the unique attributes of water sources and water provision, accepting corporate support does not imply an endorsement of any particular water technology. Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, and Rotary partners must evaluate any technology to determine if it is the best solution for the conditions where the program will be implemented. The WASH Rotary Action Group can provide guidance about where different technologies work best, but Rotarians and Rotary clubs must decide how to implement their programs.

This Rotary Action Group is recognized and operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International. To learn more please contact the WASH Rotary Action Group by email at info@wash-rag.org. Thank you.

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