



The CO<sub>2</sub> Offset Trust has been funded by donations from its Founding Member Clubs - the UK Rotary Clubs of Sheffield in D.1270, Dronfield, Bretby & Drone Valley in D.1220, the USA Clubs of East Hampton in D.7260 & Tempe South in D.5510, the Australian Clubs of Margaret River in D.9460 & Naracoorte in D.9780 and the South African Club of Kirstenbosch in D.9350

**Climate Change: 1.2 million Rotarians CAN make a difference!**

### How Rotarians can help to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> (Carbon Dioxide) emission levels:

- **DONATE** via [www.CO2OffsetTrust.org](http://www.CO2OffsetTrust.org), to a Rotary project that removes the CO<sub>2</sub> you create.
- **EDUCATE** yourself, your club and your community on sustainability, energy-saving and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.
- **CREATE:** projects that remove CO<sub>2</sub> from our atmosphere & apply for a grant from The CO<sub>2</sub> Offset Trust.

**THE CHALLENGE:** CO<sub>2</sub> from burning fossil fuels has been identified as the main cause of global warming<sup>(1)</sup>. We now know the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> being generated across the world is more than the planet can bear, and that climate change - already with us - will simply escalate as the planet heats up. Population increase from 6 billion to 9 billion by 2050 will exacerbate the ability of our planet to absorb these extra emissions. Rising seas will create huge refugee pressures. Food may be scarce. CO<sub>2</sub> generation by man's activities is growing exponentially, and every year the effects are getting more extreme. Spring is earlier each year. The weather is becoming more volatile. The issue is getting more desperate every day. Countries near sea level will face huge problems and in Bangladesh 130 million people could face disaster as the seas rise.

**As individuals, we Rotarians might feel helpless at the enormity of the issues that face us. But not any longer.** Now there is a direction we can take that will deliver positive action to alleviate the problem. **The CO<sub>2</sub> Offset Trust** – a Rotary Club-to-Club project - aims to connect all Rotarians into a network of funding, support and inspiration.

**DONATE = A personal responsibility:** By donating through the Website [www.CO2OffsetTrust.org](http://www.CO2OffsetTrust.org) we can each remove the CO<sub>2</sub> generated through our personal lifestyle. Doing this on an ongoing basis funds Rotary-Club-managed CO<sub>2</sub> reduction projects. The more of us who donate through the Website, the more projects can be supported, leading to more countries in which Rotarians can make a difference.

**EDUCATE = A Club responsibility:** With over 32,000 clubs, the Rotary movement internationally represents a powerful opportunity to change direction and reduce our CO<sub>2</sub> output. To make a difference, we must first educate ourselves to understand the problems and the solutions. Can your club get speakers to explain the challenges and opportunities? Can your club get a CO<sub>2</sub> Offset Trust speaker, or view our PowerPoint Website download? Can your club get speakers to explain how to cut energy use, improve domestic insulation, reduce your Carbon Footprint and develop self-sustainability?

**INNOVATE = Let's Act Creatively:** The vast majority of possible projects has yet to be discovered, and all 32,000 Rotary clubs now have the opportunity to develop plans that can trigger CO<sub>2</sub> reduction within their communities, or in another part of the world. Accredited<sup>(2)</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> removal projects can apply for a matching grant from The CO<sub>2</sub> Offset Trust.

Can your club develop its own CO<sub>2</sub> reduction project at home or overseas? Can your club design CO<sub>2</sub> education projects that will reach the public and encourage less fossil fuel use and more energy sustainability? Can your club offer advice and practical help to low-income groups to reduce their energy costs? Can your club add to the Trust's growing list of ideas, so that others may benefit? **Add to our blog and tell everyone about your project. Pick up new ideas from our Website.**

<sup>(1)</sup> The CO<sub>2</sub> Offset Trust recommends '*Climate Change Controversies - a simple guide*' - a free 12 page booklet published by The Royal Society - [www.royalsoc.ac.uk](http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk) - to explain the current climate problem and answer many of the common misconceptions.

The **CO<sub>2</sub> Offset Trust** raises money from your offset donations through the Website. It will use these funds to:

- Make grants to accredited<sup>(2)</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> reduction projects run by Rotary Clubs
- Encourage Rotary clubs to educate their local communities about Climate Change and the ways to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Facilitate the creation of accredited<sup>(2)</sup> CO<sub>2</sub> reduction projects.
- Provide through the Website information, education, publicity and promotional materials.
- Offer through the Website blog the opportunity to communicate ideas, debate and ask questions.
- Make donations to Rotary Foundation's 3H programs designed to mitigate the effects of climate change.

## 20 Projects to help your Club reduce Climate Change.....

- 1 **Cut your personal energy costs** - and save money - to reduce our dependence on overseas oil.
- 2 **Donate to The CO<sub>2</sub> Offset Trust** for your unavoidable travel emissions, **especially your flights**.
- 3 **Devise an accredited<sup>(2)</sup> club project** that helps others to reduce their carbon emissions and save money.
- 4 **Appoint a club 'Energy Ambassador'** to **bring in speakers**, develop ideas and speak to other clubs.
- 5 **Ask local businesses** what they are doing to save fossil fuel use. **Create a business 'Energy Forum'**.
- 6 **Encourage sustainability measures** in your community. Advocate low-energy appliances.
- 7 Plant trees to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Create a **Rotary Forest** in memory of loved ones and club members.
- 8 **Enlist the help of young people** – it's their future we're threatening. Offer a Club prize for their best sustainability ideas. Offer educational grants for students studying sustainability.
- 9 **Change all incandescent light bulbs** to CFL fluorescents throughout your community. Get the local power company to subsidize them, then donate them to the neediest groups.
- 10 **Convert low-income homes** to renewable energy sources, like solar, wind or geo-thermal.
- 11 **Encourage the building of low-energy homes**. Ask construction companies what they are doing to help. Ask whether there is a Green Building Code locally. Get local planners to insist on its adoption.
- 12 **Advocate building designs that use natural resources**, such as low water consumption, natural light and solar power and by appropriate design, reduce the need for air conditioning.
- 13 **Ask politicians** to effect energy saving measures, such as introducing sustainability into building codes.
- 14 Find out who are **the largest users of energy** in your area. Ask what they are doing to help.
- 15 **Help your community understand sustainable power sources**. Investigate grants to help them install renewable energy like solar, geo-thermal and wind power.
- 16 **Ask how your electricity is made....** and remember, there is **NO** such thing yet as 'Clean Coal'....!
- 17 **Ask the Power Companies** how they plan to **increase sustainable energy sources....** and when.
- 18 **Encourage Car-pooling**. Consolidate your car trips. Ask **'Is this journey really necessary?'**
- 19 **Switch off everything not being used**. An estimated 5-15% domestic energy cost is for units on standby.
- 20 **Re-use your plastic bags**. e.g. The U.S.A. annually uses 100 billion plastic shopping bags, made in China from 430 million gallons of oil. Better still, buy old-fashioned string bags online to use over and over....

<sup>(2)</sup> An accredited CO<sub>2</sub> reduction project is one that has been approved by the Trust's independent assessors as removing a pre-determined amount of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. Project suitability for a Trust grant will be governed by the Terms, Conditions and Bylaws of the Trust, available online at [www.CO2OffsetTrust.org](http://www.CO2OffsetTrust.org), of which accreditation is one part.

The CO<sub>2</sub> Offset Trust, UK registered charity number 1122835, is a non-profit organization whose application for 501(c)(3) status in the U.S. is pending. Once the application is approved, U.S. tax-payer donations to the Trust will be tax-deductible. For UK tax-payers, donations that are Gift-aided will benefit the Trust. Check out our Website for the latest data.