



The Sustainability Trust – *Rotarians for Sustainability and Carbon Reduction*
www.TheSustainabilityTrust.org

From Peter Sephton
Chair of The Sustainability Trust

President Elect Ray Klinginsmith,
Rotary International
One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Ave.
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May 14th 2010

Dear President-elect Ray

Building Sustainable Communities - Bridging Continents.

First, congratulations on becoming our next international President, which is a much deserved honor after your distinguished career in Rotary. We are hopeful that, after the passing of positive Environmental Resolutions* at the Council on Legislation at the end of April, you will be supportive of our innovative environmental project that a growing number of Clubs world-wide are now backing.

The Sustainability Trust is a global Rotary Club project. It is a charitable foundation formed three years ago and funded initially by eleven founding member Rotary Clubs from five continents. This opening level of support showed the desire of many Rotarians to kick-start a project that aims to get all 33,000 Clubs linked into a forum to develop sustainable principles in all we do.

In fact, the question we will be asking on Booth 2611 in Montreal will be “Do you know the 5th Test in the Four-Way Test? ... Is it SUSTAINABLE?”

We ask this vital question because today humanity needs the equivalent of 1.4 planets to continue to provide the resources we use. Moderate UN scenarios suggest that if current population and consumption trends continue, by the middle of the next decade we will need the equivalent of two Earths to support us.

Obviously that is not sustainable and we believe Rotarians have a responsibility to understand the issues, seek solutions and devise strategies to help solve the challenges. In particular we have a duty to apply sustainable principles to all our humanitarian Rotary projects.

I have to point out that your otherwise excellent new slogan of ‘**Building Communities - Bridging Continents**’ has one important word missing – ‘**Sustainable**’. The Trust would respectfully recommend a small but vital change, so that it becomes ‘**Building Sustainable Communities - Bridging Continents**’

It is the Internet that has made it possible to connect Clubs all over the world into the forum of The Sustainability Trust. We have created a web-based project where Club ideas can be discussed and exchanged between members and made available on the Web for everyone to read. For example, R.C. Fresno in California has developed a solar cooking system, which the Trust successfully took in March via the Rotary Club of Kirstenbosch Cape Town to South African townships, where there is extreme fuel and financial poverty.

R.C. Dabolim in Goa has recently sought advice on how batteries can be recycled to avoid pollution of water supplies from dumping in land-fill. The Trust can offer excellent guidance, having recruited pro-bono advice from Arizona State University's Global Institute of Sustainability.

If you can draw attention to our aims - through the influential platform you will occupy from July onwards - the Trustees will be most grateful. We encourage all Clubs to click on the **RED BUTTON** on the front page of our website at www.TheSustainabilityTrust.org and link into the Trust. That way they can learn about adopting sustainable principles and share best practice. We owe it to future generations to devise new strategies that will create a sustainable planet. Sadly those in a position to make this happen have hardly scratched the surface of the problem, which is why we believe Rotarians should take the initiative.

Call and see us on Booth 2611 in Montreal, where you will be extremely welcome and can see what we have been doing. Enjoy the Convention, have great success with End Polio Now, and set some new trends that will take our movement forward into a sustainable future.

Yours in Rotary service

Peter Sephton

Peter J Sephton

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You can learn more about the Trust objectives in our **10 Minute Talk** at www.co2offsettrust.org/downloads.htm

*** Relevant Resolutions Approved by Council on Legislation April 2010:**

- **Resolution 10-76 Approved** - To request the RI Board to consider raising awareness of environmental issues
- **Resolution 10-78 Approved** - To request the RI Board to consider supporting sustainable clean energy projects

The Sustainability Trust - www.TheSustainabilityTrust.org - is a charitable foundation that promotes sustainable principles to 1.22 million Rotarians around the world. Our aim is to link all 33,784 Rotary Clubs world-wide into a network that shares ideas on how to introduce sustainable principles into our own lives, our communities and our humanitarian Rotary Club projects.

Terms and Conditions of The Sustainability Trust - The CO2 Offset Trust and all communications are available at <http://www.co2offsettrust.org/tandc.htm>
The trust is a charitable foundation registered by the Charity Commission in England and Wales, REGISTRATION NO: 1122835