



District 7620 EnviroClub Awards 2022

Information Pack

Introduction

The District EnviroClub Awards have been adapted from a successful environmental awards program in the United Kingdom. In this program, clubs register environmentally sustainable (ES) initiatives (activities, projects, programs, and events) and are encouraged to improve these through a series of awards, starting with a Bronze Award and moving on to Silver and Gold Awards. Individual Rotarians are also encouraged to be catalysts for environmental action in their communities.

D7620 launched EnviroClub Awards by the Rotary Year 2020-2021. Current Rotary year 2021-2022 will be the second year that the D7620 EnviroClub Awards will be distributed. In 2020-2021 Rotary year, [nineteen \(19\) District Clubs received the Bronze award](#) and they are: Rotary Clubs of Baltimore Sunset, Carroll Creek, College Park, Columbia/Patuxent, Columbia Town Center, Downtown Silver Spring, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, Lake Shore-Severna Park, Lexington Park, Metro Bethesda, Mt. Airy, Parole Annapolis, Rockville, Smoketown, Southern Frederick, Washington DC and Interact Clubs of Charles County and Oakdale High. We expect all of our nineteen 2020-2021 Bronze EnviroClub Award Winner Clubs to submit applications for the Silver Award in 2021-2022 believing that they all have launched at least one new major environmental initiative or have improved an existing one. For our District Clubs who didn't get a chance to submit their applications last year, it is going to be their chance to start with a Bronze Award this year.

We should all be aware of the many environmental problems facing the world, such as loss of biodiversity, habitat and ecosystem services, security of energy, food and water, management of waste, pollution and factors leading to climate change. Rotary is in an ideal position to take leadership to ensure that the world we leave to the next generations is no worse, if not better, than that which we inherited. Rotary may soon want to become a Net Zero and Zero Waste organization.

Benefits of being an EnviroClub

- It will give recognition to your club for its existing environmental initiatives and the incentive to further develop them.
- Environmental sustainability is an important and current issue worldwide, affecting everyone. Being a recipient of an EnviroClub Award may help to make your club more relevant to your members and in better engaging and retaining them.
- Recognition of your environmental initiatives through the EnviroClub Award may also attract new members, increase income to your club through community grants and lead to new partnerships with Rotary clubs, businesses, and community groups in your local community.

Aims and objectives

The aims of these awards are to encourage clubs to undertake environmental initiatives and by publicly presenting the Awards, encourage other clubs to explore their own environmental initiatives.

Who can take part?

Any Rotary, Rotaract or Interact club in District 7620.

How does it work?

The process begins with the Clubs appointing a Club Environmental Sustainability Officer (ESO) or Environment Committee Chair. It is recognised that environmental initiatives can span many avenues of service such as Community Service, International Service and Youth Service, therefore one of these Committee's Chairs or Members can assume this role as well.

The Awards Scheme is a progressive criteria-based system, where clubs must first work for a "Bronze" Award before progressing to a "Silver" Award and finally a "Gold" Award.

To encourage innovation by clubs, there are no specific initiatives in which a Club should participate for any level of Award. Applications for an Award are forwarded to the District Environment Committee Secretary who reviews the submission with members of the District Environment Committee (with input from the District Governor, Assistant Governors or District Chairs). The final decision to approve the award will be made by the District Governor.

While the requirements for the Bronze Award are relatively straightforward, they become progressively tougher for the Silver and Gold Awards.

Three levels of the Awards

Bronze Award

This is the basic award, simply requiring a club to register its ESO or Environment Committee Chair and document its current and planned initiatives.

Steps

- Appoint a Club ES Officer or Environment Committee Chair (Suggest that they join ESRAG <https://www.esrag.org/>)
- Form a small committee or working group of 2 or 3+ members with the aim to meet either formally or informally several times a year to review the environmental initiatives of the club and to consider future possible projects
- Have these initiatives recognised by the club Board and shared with the rest of the club members
- Once this has been achieved, submit an application for the Award to the District Environment Committee Secretary
- To retain the award, send an annual statement of ES initiatives to the District Environment Committee Secretary

Examples of initiatives

Club actions

- Litter clean-ups (e.g., World Water Day 22nd March; World Environment Day 5th June; World Cleanup Day September 18th; World Climate Action Day October 24th, Rotary Ecology Day, November 1)
- Build a vegetable garden at local schools
- Participate in tree planting events
- Sell bee-friendly plants at local markets
- Install renewable energy systems in schools or community centres in developing countries
- Support projects that build water tanks for homes in developing countries
- Collect foreign coins and notes and return to UNICEF
- Include an environmental column in your club newsletter
- Organise a club social night to attend a movie with an environmental focus

Individual actions by club members and/or their families

- Install environmentally friendly systems in their homes, such as solar PV systems, solar hot water, water tanks, composting systems, or vegetable gardens
- Use public transport or cycling or drive low carbon emission vehicle such as hybrid or electric cars
- Use a carbon footprint or an ecological footprint calculator to assess their carbon or ecological footprint, with goals to reduce their carbon footprint by 25% annually to Net Zero within four years.

We will add a (+) to every Club for their Bronze EnviroClub Award if they reach 25% of their members report that they **measured their ecological footprint using a calculator** (here is one that we suggest: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>)

Silver Award

To qualify for a Silver Award, a club will need to demonstrate that it is continuing with and improving an existing initiative **and** launching at least one new one.

Steps

- The Club ES Committee or working group meets either formally or informally several times a year and, where possible, includes other Club members in discussions of potential environmental projects.
- Launch **ONE** new major initiative **OR** continue an existing major one and explore ways to increase its effectiveness
- Register the continued activity and the new environment initiative with the District Environment Officer

Examples of initiatives

- Collect unwanted clothes, toys, or household goods to donate to an opportunity shop
- Conduct your initiatives to coincide with special days, such as Maryland Day, Good Neighbor Day, Earth Day (April 22), World Bee Day (May 20), or World Environment Day (5 June) <https://www.esrag.org/esrag-unep-handbook>
- Conduct community/club seminars on contemporary environmental issues, such as Net Zero Rotary, Zero waste Rotary, recycling, or the use of plastics
- Organise or participate in a community environmental festival (perhaps as a cluster project)

We will add a (+) to every Club for their Silver EnviroClub Award if they reach 50% of their members report that they **measured their ecological footprint using a calculator** (here is one that we suggest: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>)

Gold Award (Please note that Gold Awards will start as of the 2022-2023 Rotary year which will be the 3rd year of this new Award that is progressive by design)

A Gold Award signifies a significant commitment to the environment. To qualify for a Gold Award, a club will need to demonstrate its involvement in a minimum of **TWO** major initiatives in the Rotary year.

Steps

- The Club ES Committee or working group meets either formally or informally several times a year and, where possible, includes the whole club in discussions of potential environmental projects.
- Launch **TWO** new major initiatives **OR** continue **TWO** existing major ones and explore ways to increase their effectiveness
- Look for opportunities to build partnerships, for example with:
 - other clubs or cluster of clubs in District 7620
 - a multidistrict or global initiative
 - the wider community, local schools, businesses, or churches
 - environmental groups

Examples of initiatives

- Work with a local school to support students to monitor the energy performance of their school or assess its carbon footprint or to measure its water use
- Encourage schools to work together, for example, students from a middle or secondary school could assist children from an elementary school to plant trees in parks or forest reserves. Such activities are best done in coordination with the relevant local government ES department.
- Organise a major clean-up of a beach or stream
- Organise a clothing swap day
- Collect unwanted hospital equipment and ship these to needy communities in the United States and overseas

We will add a (+) to every Club for their Gold EnviroClub Award if they reach 75% of their members report that they **measured their ecological footprint using a calculator** (here is one that we suggest: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>)

How to apply

- Applications can be made at any time in the Rotary year, but before March 31, to allow time for processing prior to the District Conference.
- Complete the application form and forward to the District Environmental Committee Secretary at hande@apaydins.com

Assessment criteria

The awards assessment team will use the following criteria for the awards. Keep in mind that the standards required for the Silver and Gold Awards will be higher than those for the base level Bronze Award. The term initiative applies to any activity, project, or event of your club.

Research

- Has your club undertaken research about the need for this initiative in your community?

Club engagement and involvement

- What process did you use for choosing, designing, and undertaking the environmental initiative?
- How did you involve the whole club?

Effectiveness

- What were the aims of the initiative?
- What were (or are proposed to be) the outcomes for the environment? Can these outcomes be measured?
- Is the initiative a one off or can it be sustained into the future?

Beneficiaries

- Who will benefit from this initiative?
- How many people will benefit?

Communication

- How have you communicated the initiative to your club, the District and local community?

Innovation

- Is the initiative original or new?

Lessons learned

- Did you experience any problems with this initiative and what strategies did you use to overcome them?
- What have you learnt from this initiative that might help your club with any future environmental initiatives?

Checklist for each award

To ensure that you qualify for each level of the award, make sure you have completed each of the steps in the checklist below. The term initiative applies to any activity, project, or event of your club.

Bronze

- Appointed a Club ES Officer or Environment Committee Chair
- Established an ES Committee that meets 2 to 3 times per year
- Provided a statement of current environmental initiatives by the club or individuals e.g., tree planting
- Provided a list of planned environmental initiatives
- A plus (+) to every Club for their Bronze EnviroClub Award if they reach 25% of their members report that they **measured their ecological footprint using a calculator** (here is one that we suggest: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>)

Silver

- Holds a current BRONZE Award

In addition

- Has a current Club ES Officer or Environment Committee Chair
- ES Committee continues to meet 2 to 3 times per year
- Engaged with other clubs in your District
- Demonstrated that the initiatives described in the BRONZE Award application have been improved
- Engaged in at least ONE additional environmental initiative to those reported in the application for the BRONZE Award or significantly improved an existing one

- Provided evidence of communicating the environmental initiatives reported in the application for the BRONZE Awards (e.g., in the club/District newsletters and/or the media/significant social media)
- A plus (+) to every Club for their Silver EnviroClub Award if they reach 50% of their members report that they **measured their ecological footprint using a calculator** (here is one that we suggest: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>)

Gold

- Holds a current SILVER Award

In addition

- Has a current Club ES Officer or Environment Committee Chair
- ES committee continues to meet 2 to 3 times per year
- Engaged with other clubs in your District/other districts
- Demonstrated that the initiatives described in the BRONZE and/or SILVER Awards applications have been improved
- Engaged in at least TWO additional environmental initiatives to those reported in the application for the SILVER Award or significantly improved existing ones
- Provided evidence of communicating the environmental initiatives reported in the application for the BRONZE and/or SILVER Awards (e.g., in the club/District newsletters and/or the media/significant social media)
- A plus (+) to every Club for their Gold EnviroClub Award if they reach 75% of their members report that they **measured their ecological footprint using a calculator** (here is one that we suggest: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>)

Certificates

The Awards, in similar form with all other District Awards, will normally be presented by the District Governor at appropriate District functions such as District Presidents' Meetings, District Conference, or District Assembly. Accompanying the certificate will be a citation which will be read out and featured in the District Newsletter immediately following the function.

Application form

Available from the District Environment Committee Secretary (hande@apaydins.com) and online at the District 7620 website <https://rotary7620.org/enviro/>

For more information

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