Speaker's Bureau of Environmental Topics

Protecting the Environment is one of Rotary's seven areas of focus. Here is a speaker's bureau of 22 environmental presentations for District 5950 Rotary Clubs. The presentations are from Rotarians and non-Rotarians on a variety of environmental topics. These individuals have agreed to be listed in the speaker's bureau and are interested in giving presentations to Rotary clubs. They are all available for online presentations, and many would be interested in giving in-person presentations.

The first section on pages 1 and 2 gives the title of the presentation, the name of the presenter, and their Rotary or non-Rotary affiliation. Starting on page 3 you can get more details about the presentations along with contact information for the presenter. If you have questions, you can email Steve Solbrack at steve@solbrack.com.

Summary

1) Water Connects Us
   Kris Meyer – Senior Programs Manager, Freshwater Society and member of the Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub

2) Fire to Frost: A Prairie Story
   Angela Grill – Wildlife Biologist, Three Rivers Park District

3) Do You Like to Eat? – Operation Pollination Framework
   Chris Stein - National Park Ranger/Manager of National Heritage Area Program (Midwest) and member of Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub and Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)

4) Renewable energy – Options and Impacts for Individuals
   Tim Conners – Eden Prairie AM Rotary Club, District 5950 Environment Action Team, Director of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)

5) Our Plate and the Planet
   Dawn A. Byford – Co-chair of ESRAG's Plant-Rich Diet Taskforce, Rotary Club of Canmore, Alberta, Canada, Rotary District 5360, Plant-based Cook and Educator

6) Doing Well by Doing Good: Can Business Create a World of Sustainability, Health, Equity and Kindness?
   Terry Gips, President and Co-Founder, Alliance for Sustainability

7) Monarch Butterfly: The Ultimate Conservation Ambassador
   Wendy Caldwell, Executive Director, Monarch Joint Venture

8) Clean Energy and Climate Action in Minnesota: Create Jobs, Grow Our Economy, and Benefit Everyone
   Ms. J. Drake Hamilton is Senior Director, Science Policy at Fresh Energy

9) Planting Hope for a Sustainable Future
   Jared Smith - Executive Director & CEO of Tree Trust

10) Your Yard Can Bee the Change
   Alexandra Zerzan – Metro Blooms, Special Projects Manager

11) Cook With Sunshine: Stop Using Fossil Fuel, Halt Deforestation, Prevent Water-Borne and Pollution-Caused Diseases
   Luther Krueger – Director of Museum of Solar Cooking and Member of Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub

12) Electric Vehicles 101 – Welcome to the Electric Decade
   Alan Wernke is Chief Business Officer for EzGoEV

13) Collaborating With Partners to Implement Conservation That Benefits Pollinator Species
   Mara Koenig is Public Affairs Specialist, Center for Pollinator Conservation - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

14) Rotary's Protecting the Environment Area of Focus and the Challenges of Climate Change
   Alan Anderson – Northfield, MN Rotary Club – Rotary Climate Action Team (RCAT)

15) Challenges and Opportunities in Urban Watershed Management
   Abby Moore - Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Outreach Program Manager

16) Powering Forward: Fair Chances for People, Planet, and Technology
   Heather Walch, CEO of Repowered

17) Climate Solutions Workshop with the En-ROADS Decision Support Model
   Tim Conners – Eden Prairie AM Rotary Club, District 5950 Environment Action Team, Director of the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG)

18) BFF—Beyond Fossil Fuels
   Dawn Pape, Executive Director, CEO of We All Need Food and Water

19) Rethinking Urban Highways for Racial and Environmental Justice
   José Antonio Zayas Cabán, Executive Director, Our Streets

20) Get Involved with the Twin Cities Climate Resiliency Initiative
   Michaela Neu, Director of Programs & Operations, Green Cities Accord

21) Nursing for Planetary Health - Decarbonizing the Healthcare Sector and Beyond
   Teddie Potter PhD, RN, FAAN, FNAP, Director of Center for Planetary Health and Environmental Justice, School of Nursing, University of Minnesota
   Jo Bjorgaard, DNP, RN, PHN, LSSBB, Climate Change and Health Consultant, M Health Fairview, University of Minnesota

22) How Reuse Minnesota Builds Partnerships and Supports a Vibrant Reuse Network
   Carolyn Wieland – Reuse Minnesota

Details

1) Water Connects Us

Water connects us. It is vital for human health as well as the health of our ecosystems and economy. No matter where you live, work or play, everyone plays a role in protecting and restoring our freshwater. Learn how Freshwater, a member-supported nonprofit in Minnesota, is working to provide opportunities to consider our relationship with water and feel equipped and capable of taking action to ensure it remains healthy and sufficient for all.

Kris Meyer – Senior Programs Manager, Freshwater Society and member of the Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub kmeyer@freshwater.org

2) Fire to Frost: A Prairie Story

The changing seasons of a prairie offer an always changing perspective from fire to frost. Discover the diverse animal and plant life that call the almost 1,000 acres of restored prairie home at Crow-Hassan Park Reserve. Management is ongoing through prescribed burns, seed collecting, invasive species control, bumblebee surveys, and much more. Not only is Angela hands on in field work but shares a passion of storytelling through co-hosting The Wandering Naturalist podcast. Enjoy this virtual nature wandering through the prairie.

Angela Grill, Wildlife Biologist, Three Rivers Park District Angela.Grill@threeriversparks.org

3) Do You Like to Eat? – Operation Pollination Framework

Developed with Rotary in mind, you are invited to learn about the Operation Pollination framework; adopted by the Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group (ESRAG) in August 2020 (https://esrag.org/operation-pollination). ESRAG encourages Clubs everywhere to engage in this simple, inclusive habitat protection and education effort by collaborating with your Rotary partners. Learn about the 3-Easy Steps to get your Club on its way to implementing a 7th Area of Focus environmental project.

Chris Stein, National Park Ranger/Manager of National Heritage Area Program (Midwest) and member of Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub Chris_Stein@nps.gov (402) 881-1387

4) Renewable energy – Options and Impacts for Individuals

Moving from electrical energy generated via fossil fuels to renewables is an important step to address climate change. What can you do as an individual? Multiple options exist. This talk reviews the conversion and impact of varied approaches reducing your carbon footprint as energy innovation and transition picks up momentum. Does this engender a cost penalty for your pocketbook? In some cases, yes, and in others, it actually reduces the cost of your energy budget.

Tim Conners – Eden Prairie AM Rotary Club, Member of District 5950 Environment Action Team, Director of ESRAG timothyconners@gmail.com

5) Our Plate and the Planet

Explore one of the most impactful, simple, and delicious ways we can each mitigate climate change and improve human health… by the power of choosing what's on our plates! As a Plant-based Cook and Educator, Dawn will explain why Plant-Rich Diets are key to a sustainable future, with practical tips on how we as Rotarians, and as individuals, can begin to implement delicious and easy changes in our lives and in our communities. "*Plant-Rich Diets hold enormous potential for climate change mitigation if adopted on a global scale.*" Project Drawdown, ESRAG partner

Dawn A. Byford – ESRAG's Plant-Rich Diet Taskforce Co-Chair, Rotary Club of Canmore, District 5360. Alberta, Canada, C.H.N.C., Plant-based Cook and Educator, T. Colin Campbell Center for Nutrition Studies Plant-based Nutrition Professional, Food and Sustainability Professional dabyford@gmail.com

6) Doing Well by Doing Good: Can Business Create a World of Sustainability, Health, Equity and Kindness?

This informative, inspiring and interactive presentation explores the possibility of business to benefit people, planet and profit. Simple steps can save money, engage employees, improve performance, reduce risk, encourage innovation, build positive community partnerships and create a healthy, thriving future. We'll explore a new perspective on the Earth, the widely used Natural Step, a transformative understanding of fundamental needs, the business case for sustainability, cutting-edge business case studies and practical actions people can take, while answering your toughest questions about sustainability. You'll gain a positive, new perspective and sense of hope.

Terry Gips, President and Co-Founder, Alliance for Sustainability Terry@afors.org C – (612) 940-4939

7) Monarch Butterfly: The Ultimate Conservation Ambassador

Monarch butterflies and other pollinators have experienced dramatic population declines. Conserving pollinator habitat is important at large and small scales, from vast grasslands to marginal lands to backyard gardens. Learn from a leader in monarch conservation about monarch biology and their incredible migration, how organizations like the Monarch Joint Venture are leading the way in protecting this iconic species, and what you can do to be a part of the solution.

Wendy Caldwell, Executive Director, Monarch Joint Venture wcaldwell@monarchjointventure.org

8) Clean Energy and Climate Action in Minnesota: Create Jobs, Grow Our Economy, and Benefit Everyone

J. Drake Hamilton is an acclaimed national speaker about actions in Minnesota that benefit our economy while growing clean energy and making Minnesota a climate leader. She was appointed by Gov. Tim Walz to a 4-year term on the Advisory Council on Climate Change, and she contributes to a large number of working groups. J.'s household is now finishing a solarized garage. All the information is public, and she would love to share it with you. Minneapolis-Saint Paul Magazine named Hamilton as one of "100 Minnesotans Who Make Things Happen." Audiences leave her talks knowing how to help people across Minnesota to benefit; they also will be inspired and energized.

Ms. J. Drake Hamilton is Senior Director, Science Policy at Fresh Energy hamilton@fresh-energy.org

9) Planting Hope for a Sustainable Future

Trees play a vital role in our communities, reducing energy costs, providing clean water and air, and making our neighborhoods more inviting. However, drought and pests such as the emerald ash borer threaten the health of our urban canopy. Tree Trust is a local non-profit working to grow a thriving urban forest and ensure its benefits are available to all members of our community. Learn about Tree Trust's mission to transform lives and landscapes and how together we can live out the Rotarian values of service and stewardship in our community.

Jared Smith, Executive Director & CEO of Tree Trust jareds@treetrust.org

10) Your Yard Can Bee the Change

Metro Blooms provides resources through the Lawns to Legumes program to help residents convert some of their yard to flowering plants that provide habitat and forage to pollinators and other wildlife. Minnesota is home to over 500 native species of bees and many are suffering declining populations. As a resident of your

community, you can play an important role in helping the species rebound and support other pollinators and, in the process, create a beautiful, blooming, buzzing landscape!

Alexandra Zerzan, Metro Blooms, Special Projects Manager alexandra@metroblooms.org

11) Cook With Sunshine: Stop Using Fossil Fuel, Halt Deforestation, Prevent Water-Borne and Pollution-Caused Diseases

Solar cookers are a must-have appliance for environmentalists: In developing regions, sunlight cooking eliminates water-borne diseases, respiratory ailments caused by wood and dung smoke cooking and stops deforestation. Sunlight is FREE, fossil fuel production and use is catastrophic for the planet. Presentations from 30 minutes to an hour cover: How solar cookers work. Wide variety of cookers. Make your own or pick a commercial model that meets your needs. The many "third world" maladies that solar cooking addresses. How our use of fossil fuels, including for cooking, harms not only ourselves, but the rest of the world. Pledge to start cooking with sunlight today to eat better and help save the planet while you are at it.

Luther Krueger – Director of Museum of Solar Cooking and Member of Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub museum@bigbluesun.net (612) 290-9450

12) Electric Vehicles 101 – Welcome to the Electric Decade

As Electric vehicles move from 1% to 20% of the cars on the road (that is 1M in MN) by 2030, people are asking a lot of questions! In this presentation Alan Wernke will answer the top 10 questions he has been asked over the past 10+ years and 150,000 miles while driving 100% electric. How far does it go? How do you charge it? How much does it cost? Is it safe? Where do you charge it? How does it handle the snow and cold? What do you drive & why? When can I buy an electric pickup? What about the batteries? Hear all the answers to these and more in this session.

Alan Wernke is Chief Business Officer for EzGoEV Alan@EzGoEV.com

13) Collaborating With Partners to Implement Conservation That Benefits Pollinator Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Center for Pollinator Conservation promotes working together to address declining pollinator populations in North America. Learn more about their efforts on how working collaboratively with others to implement conservations benefits pollinator species and the importance that every person, everywhere makes an impact.

Mara Koenig is Public Affairs Specialist, Center for Pollinator Conservation for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service mara_koenig@fws.gov

14) Rotary's Protecting the Environment Area of Focus and the Challenges of Climate Change

Talk briefly describes the science of climate change, and then details the Rotary Protecting the Environment Area of Focus and how it gives clubs the green light to work on climate change issues, including projects large and small, and how this will help the most people possible and attract younger people to join Rotary. I will describe how individual Rotarians and clubs can help.

Alan Anderson – Northfield, MN Rotary Club - Rotary Climate Action Team (RCAT) luckyduck49@gmail.com

15) Challenges and Opportunities in Urban Watershed Management

Population density, impervious surfaces and pollution in the urban environment pose significant challenges for protecting the much-loved and depended-upon, Mississippi River. Join us to learn more about the ways in which the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) partners with local governments, organizations, and communities to protect and improve water quality and habitat in the watershed. Examples

of green infrastructure projects, partnerships and community engagement will demonstrate the variety of ways that we work to address these challenges.

Abby Moore - Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, Outreach Program Manager AMoore@mwmo.org

16) Powering Forward: Fair Chances for People, Planet, and Technology

Learn about the resources in the piles of unwanted technology in our homes/offices, as well as untapped talent that is being excluded from our employment market. Learn how one local organization proves that everyone and everything has value, combining both a business model with a positive environmental and social impact. As we as a community see the value, we can also create a positive impact.

Heather Walch, CEO of Repowered hwalch@getrepowered.org (651) 238-3927

17) Climate Solutions Workshop with the En-ROADS Decision Support Model

This model helps one understand how various initiatives impact the Climate challenge. During the workshop, participants identify a suite of solutions that keep global temperatures from rising more than 2oC, and preferably not more than 1.5oC, above pre-industrial levels by the year 2100. These could range from adjusting energy efficiency, carbon pricing, fossil fuel taxes, reducing deforestation, and carbon dioxide removal among many others. The solutions are tested in the En-ROADS Climate Solutions Simulator (Energy – Rapid Overview and Decision Support model, http://enroads.org) where their cumulative impact on global air temperature, sea level rise, ocean acidification, and air quality among other can be seen. The En-Roads simulator is a transparent, freely available policy simulation model that provides policymakers, educators, businesses, the media, and the public with the ability to explore, for themselves, the likely consequences of energy, economic growth, land use, and other policies and uncertainties, with the goal of improving their understanding. For a preview, view this 3-minute video [Link: https://player.vimeo.com/video/359091159].

Tim Conners – Eden Prairie AM Rotary Club, Member of District 5950 Environment Action Team, Director of ESRAG timothyconners@gmail.com

18) BFF—Beyond Fossil Fuels

We All Need Food and Water focuses on educating about climate change solutions because a stable climate drives all life on Earth and every human endeavor. Our unique and creative community events, puppet shows, and screenwriting are changing unhelpful doom narratives to cautious optimism while building community, connecting crowds with solutions, and spreading joy. One story and event at a time, we are reshaping paralyzing narratives into solution-based stories and adventures rooted in equity and kindness.

Dawn Pape, Executive Director, CEO of We All Need Food and Water dawn@weallneedfoodandwater.org

19) Rethinking Urban Highways for Racial and Environmental Justice

The construction of urban highways in Minneapolis and Saint Paul demolished thousands of homes and businesses, specifically targeting communities of color. The resulting pollution and disinvestment have continued to harm neighbors, exacerbating disparities in income, health outcomes and transportation access. A half-century later, many highways, including I-94 and Olson Memorial Highway, are nearing the end of their useful life. The Minnesota Department of Transportation is now in the process of determining what the corridors will look like for the next 50 years. This presentation will overview this history and discuss grassroots movements to repair the highway's harms and invest in reparative justice for impacted residents. To learn more, visit ourstreetsmn.org.

José Antonio Zayas Cabán, Executive Director, Our Streets jose@ourstreetsmn.org

20) Get Involved with the Twin Cities Climate Resiliency Initiative

Green Cities Accord focuses on increasing funding and investments to enhance the urban tree canopy, benefiting our cities and the people who live in them. We are committed to fostering public-private partnerships for the continued development and protection of urban tree canopy infrastructure, ensuring the growth and preservation of trees for future generations. Get involved with the Twin Cities Climate Resiliency Initiative or our Urban Tree Carbon Offset Program. Together, we can grow climate resilient communities!

Michaela Neu, Director of Programs & Operations, Green Cities Accord mneu@greencitiesaccord.org

21) Nursing for Planetary Health - Decarbonizing the Healthcare Sector and Beyond

Nurses are the largest Cadre of health professionals across the globe. They are responsible for caring for health at all levels, individual, family, public, global, ecosystem, and planetary health. The healthcare sector is responsible for about 10% of annual U.S. GHG emissions and nurses are increasingly becoming leaders in climate action. This presentation introduces Planetary Health, offers a case study of how one nurse developed an Individualized GHG emissions inventory tool for the largest healthcare system in Minnesota, measured all Scope 1 & Scope 2 emissions and conducted a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt project to reduce emissions from electrical sources by 21% within one year using a phase implementation approach to address institutional financial barriers, and finally, address why nurses should have a seat at the table across all sectors addressing climate change and planetary health and what nurses can bring to the table.

Teddie Potter, PhD, RN, FAAN, FNAP, Director of Center for Planetary Health and Environmental Justice, School of Nursing, University of Minnesota tmpotter@umn.edu
Jo Bjorgaard, DNP, RN, PHN, LSSBB, Climate Change and Health Consultant, M Health Fairview, University of Minnesota, bjorg029@umn.edu; johannahbjorgaard@gmail.com

22) How Reuse Minnesota Builds Partnerships and Supports a Vibrant Reuse Network

Reuse Minnesota is a nonprofit whose mission is to build partnerships and support a vibrant network of reuse practitioners through education, advocacy, and promotion. Discover how Reuse Minnesota has been educating the public and advocating for reuse-supportive policies since 2012. Learn about Reuse Minnesota's efforts to promote reuse, repair, and rental businesses across the state. We'll share about our initiatives, programs, and resources. Get inspired by our efforts and pick up some valuable insights into the world of reuse!

Carolyn Wieland, Communications Assistant, Reuse Minnesota carolynwieland@reusemn.org