



# District 7620 EnviroClub Awards 2024

## *Information Pack*

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### **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 2023-2024 will be the fourth year that the D7620 EnviroClub Awards will be distributed. Last year's Gold Award and Silver Award winners are eligible to apply for a Gold Award this year, Bronze Award winners are eligible to apply for Silver Award. For our District Clubs who didn't get a chance to submit their applications during the first three years, 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 “Club 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 Committees’ 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 who reviews the submissions 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.



**BRONZE  
AWARD**



**SILVER  
AWARD**



**GOLD  
AWARD**

### **Beginning Commitment to the Environment**

- Club Environmental officer (suggest join ESRAG)
- Club environmental committee
- Review existing environmental initiatives
- Plan new ones
- Annual statement to District Envnt Coordinator

### **Continuing commitment to the Environment**

- Hold a current **BRONZE** Award
- Launch ONE new major environmental initiative
- Or
- Improve an existing one
- Communicate environmental initiatives

### **Significant commitment to the Environment**

- Hold a current **SILVER** Award
- Launch TWO major environmental initiatives
- Or
- Improve TWO existing ones
- Communicate environmental initiatives

## Three levels of the Awards

### Bronze Award

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

#### Steps

- Appoint a Club 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
- To retain the award, send an annual statement of environmental initiatives to the District Environment Committee

#### Examples of initiatives

##### *Club actions*

- Stream, Neighborhood or Street clean-ups (e.g., World Water Day 22<sup>nd</sup> March; World Environment Day 5<sup>th</sup> June; World Clean-up Day September 18<sup>th</sup>; World Climate Action Day October 24<sup>th</sup>, Rotary Ecology Day, November 1)
- Build a monarch/pollinator garden or a vegetable garden at local schools. Or build a community garden for the community.
- Participate in tree planting events
- Start a local recycling project in your community, educate club members on recycling
- Sell native 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
- 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 achieve one of the below actions:

1. Sign [Rotary Club Pollinator Resolution](#) and [Pollinator Activity Pledge](#)
2. Enter information on Club's environment projects into the global Rotary environmental projects database named i-ROTREE. For more information on i-rotree, visit

<https://irotree.org//> and create a user id. Please contact District Environment Committee in case you may need help with user id. For learning how to enter data, [Click here](#) (Data can be entered by any club member)

3. Have at least one (1) Club member joined the Rotary Action Group on Environment and Sustainability; ESRA. For membership visit: <https://esrag.org/membership/>
4. Reach 25% of Club members (or min 10 members for big Clubs) to 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 Environment 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 Committee

### 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 achieve one of the below actions:

1. Sign [Rotary Club Pollinator Resolution](#) and [Pollinator Activity Pledge](#) (if not signed earlier in 2023). Clubs that signed the pledge in 2023 and have built a garden since then will also be eligible for the “+” in 2024.
2. Enter information on Club’s environment projects into the global Rotary environmental projects database named i-ROTREE. For more information on i-rotree, visit <https://irotree.org//> and create a user id. Please contact District Environment

Committee in case you may need help with user id. For learning how to enter data, [Click here](#) (Data can be entered by any club member)

3. Have at least two (2) Club members joined the Rotary Action Group on Environment and Sustainability; ESRAG. For membership visit: <https://esrag.org/membership/>
4. Reach 50% of Club members ( or min 20 members for big Clubs) to report that they **measured their ecological footprint using a calculator** (here is one that we suggest: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/> )

## Gold Award

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 Environment 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 achieve one of the below actions:

1. Sign [Rotary Club Pollinator Resolution](#) and [Pollinator Activity Pledge](#) (if not signed earlier in 2023). Clubs that signed the pledge in 2023 and have built a garden since then will also be eligible for the “+” in 2024.
2. Enter information on Club’s environment projects into the global Rotary environmental projects database named i-ROTREE. For more information on i-rotree, visit <https://irotree.org//> and create a user id. Please contact District Environment

Committee in case you may need help with user id. For learning how to enter data, [Click here](#) (Data can be entered by any club member)

3. Have at least three (3) Club members join the Rotary Action Group on Environment and Sustainability; ESRA. For membership visit: <https://esrag.org/membership/>
4. Reach 75% of Club members ( or min 30 members for big Clubs) to 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 at [d7620nvironmentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:d7620nvironmentcommittee@gmail.com)
- For questions visit D7620 Environment Committee meeting on dates below at the link below:
  - Mar 12<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 6 PM  
Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85232811343>  
Meeting ID: 852 3281 1343

## 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 Environment Committee Chair
- Established an Environment Committee that meets 2 to 3 times per year
- Provided a statement of current environmental initiatives by the club or individuals
- Provided a list of planned environmental initiatives
- We will add a plus (+) to every Club for their Bronze EnviroClub Award if they achieve one of the following:
  1. Sign [Rotary Club Pollinator Resolution](#) and [Pollinator Activity Pledge](#)
  2. Enter information on Club's environment projects into the global Rotary environmental projects database named i-ROTREE. For more information on i-rotree, visit <https://irotree.org//> and create a user id. Please contact District Environment Committee in case you may need help with user id. For learning how to enter data, [Click here](#) (Data can be entered by any club member)
  3. Have at least one (1) Club member join the Rotary Action Group on Environment and Sustainability; ESRAG. For membership visit: <https://esrag.org/membership/>
  4. Reach 25% of Club members (or min 10 members for big Clubs) to 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 Environment Committee Chair
- Environment 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)
- We will add a plus (+) to every Club for their Silver EnviroClub Award if they achieve one of the following:

1. Sign [Rotary Club Pollinator Resolution](#) and [Pollinator Activity Pledge](#) (if not signed earlier in 2023). Clubs that signed the pledge in 2023 and have built a garden since then will also be eligible for the “+” in 2024.
2. Enter information on Club’s environment projects into the global Rotary environmental projects database named i-ROTREE. For more information on i-rotree, visit <https://irotree.org//> and create a user id. Please contact District Environment Committee in case you may need help with user id. For learning how to enter data, [Click here](#) (Data can be entered by any club member)
3. Have at least two (2) Club members joined the Rotary Action Group on Environment and Sustainability; ESRAG. For membership visit: <https://esrag.org/membership/>
4. Reach 50% of Club members ( or min 20 members for big Clubs) to 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 Environment Committee Chair
- Environment 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)
- We will add a plus (+) to every Club for their Gold EnviroClub Award if they achieve one of the following:
  1. Sign [Rotary Club Pollinator Resolution](#) and [Pollinator Activity Pledge](#) (if not signed earlier in 2023). Clubs that signed the pledge in 2023 and have built a garden since then will also be eligible for the “+” in 2024.
  2. Enter information on Club’s environment projects into the global Rotary environmental projects database named i-ROTREE. For more information on i-rotree, visit <https://irotree.org//> and create a user id. Please contact District Environment Committee in case you may need help with user id. For learning how to enter data, [Click here](#) (Data can be entered by any club member)
  3. Have at least three (3) Club members join the Rotary Action Group on Environment and Sustainability; ESRAG. For membership visit: <https://esrag.org/membership/>
  4. Reach 75% of Club members ( or min 30 members for big Clubs) to 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 be presented by the District Governor at the District Conference. 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 (please contact [d7620environmentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:d7620environmentcommittee@gmail.com) ) and online at the District 7620 website <https://rotary7620.org/enviro/>

## For more information

Contact D7620 Environment Committee

Email: [d7620environmentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:d7620environmentcommittee@gmail.com)

Chair: Hande Apaydin at [handeapaydin@icloud.com](mailto:handeapaydin@icloud.com)

Below D7620 Clubs are eligible for a Gold EnviroClub Award in 2024:



### Gold EnviroClub Award Winners of 2022-2023

RC Baltimore Sunset+	RC Lake Shore Saverna Park
RC Carroll Creek +	RC Lexington Park +
IC Charles County+	RC Metro Bethesda
RC College Park+	RC Mt Airy
RC Columbia Patuxent +	IC Oakdale High
RC Columbia Town Center +	RC Parole (Annapolis) +
RC Downtown Silver Spring +	RC Rockville +
RC Ellicott City	RC Smoketown+
RC Gaithersburg +	RC Southern Frederick +
RC Glen Burnie	RC Towsontowne-Hunt Valley
RC Greenbelt +	IC Urbana High
	RC Washington DC +

**23** D7620 Clubs



### Silver EnviroClub Award Winners of 2022-2023

IC Airtigers +  
RC Capitol Hill  
RC Dupont Circle +  
RC New Market +  
RC Potomac +  
RC Washington DC+

**6** D7620 Clubs

Below D7620 Clubs are eligible for a Silver EnviroClub Award in 2024:



### **Bronze EnviroClub Award Winners of 2022- 2023**

RC Annapolis +  
IC Broadneck HS  
IC Richard Montgomery HS  
RC Skysville-South Carroll

**4** D7620 Clubs

All other D7620 Clubs are eligible for a Bronze EnviroClub Award in 2024 as long as they send an application by March 31, 2024, and commit to work on environmental projects in the upcoming periods.

# Appendix:

## The Success of D7620 Rotary Clubs during past years

Please notify us at [d7620environmentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:d7620environmentcommittee@gmail.com) if your Club has a project in one of the below topics and may be missing out from the list. We will add immediately and update our totals.

### Stream/Street/Community Cleanup Projects



# 22

**D7620 Clubs**

- IC Airtigers
- RC Carroll Creek
- IC Charles County
- RC College Park
- RC Columbia Town Center
- RC Columbia Patuxent
- RC Downtown Silver Spring
- RC Dupont Circle
- RC Ellicott City
- RC Greenbelt
- RC Lake Shore-Saverna Park
- RC Lexington Park
- RC Metro Bethesda
- RC Mt. Airy
- RC North Bethesda
- RC Parole (Annapolis)
- RC Potomac
- RC Rockville
- RC Smoketown
- RC Skysville-South Carroll
- RC Southern Frederick (Urbana)
- Rotaract Washington DC

### Reuse/Recycle Circular Economy



# 21

**D7620 Clubs**

- IC Airtigers
- IC Charles County
- RC Annapolis
- RC Carroll Creek
- RC Columbia Patuxent
- RC Columbia Town Center
- RC Downtown Silver Spring
- RC Ellicott City
- RC Gaithersburg
- RC Lake Shore-Saverna Park
- RC Metro Bethesda
- RC Mt. Airy
- RC New Market
- IC Oakdale High
- RC Parole (Annapolis)
- RC Rockville
- RC Smoketown
- RC Southern Frederick (Urbana)
- RC Towsontowne-Hunt Valley
- IC Urbana High
- Rotaract Washington DC

## Monarch/Pollinator/Community Gardens



# 19

**D7620 Clubs**

- IC Airtigers
- RC Baltimore Sunset
- RC Charles County (La Plata)
- RC Columbia Town Center
- RC Columbia Patuxent
- RC Downtown Silver Spring
- RC Dupont Circle
- RC Ellicott City
- RC Gaithersburg
- RC Lexington Park
- RC Mt. Airy
- IC Mt. Hebron HS
- RC New Market
- RC Parole (Annapolis)
- RC Potomac
- RC Rockville
- RC Townsontowne
- Rotaract Washington DC
- RC Washington DC

## Planting Trees



# 16

**D7620 Clubs**

- RC Carroll Creek
- IC Charles County
- RC Charles County (La Plata)
- RC College Park
- RC Downtown Silver Spring
- RC Ellicott City
- RC Glen Burnie
- RC Lake Shore-Saverna Park
- RC Lexington Park
- RC Metro Bethesda
- RC Parole (Annapolis)
- RC Rockville
- RC Smoketown
- RC Southern Frederick (Urbana)
- RC Townsontowne
- RC Washington DC

## Measuring our Carbon/Ecological Footprint



# 14

D7620 Clubs

- IC Airtigers
- RC Baltimore Sunset
- IC Charles County
- RC College Park
- RC Columbia Town Center
- RC Downtown Silver Spring
- RC Gaithersburg
- RC Glen Burnie
- RC Greenbelt
- RC Parole (Annapolis)
- RC Rockville
- RC Smoketown
- RC Southern Frederick (Urbana)
- RC Rockville

## Lunch Out of Landfills



# 8+

D7620 Clubs

- RC Southern Frederick (Urbana)**
- RC Carroll Creek
- RC Gaithersburg
- RC New Market
- IC Oakdale High
- IC Richard Montgomery HS
- RC Rockville
- IC Urbana High

## International Environmental Service



# 8

**D7620 Clubs**

RC Capitol Hill  
RC Carroll Creek  
RC College Park  
RC Columbia Patuxent  
RC Columbia Town Center  
RC Parole (Annapolis)  
RC Rockville  
RC Washington DC

Please notify us at [d7620environmentcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:d7620environmentcommittee@gmail.com) if your Club has a project in one of the above topics and may be missing out from the list. We will add immediately and update our totals.