

AZ Week of Service Week of Focus: Environment April 22-29

Rotary Club of Tucson Verde challenges all other D5500 rotary clubs to undertake with energy and excitement enviro focused practices and projects to make a difference in your area...

Firstly, remember Earth Day may be recognized globally on April 22 **but** that *Earth Day IS every day!*

Plan to make a difference that is not a “one off”/“one day” event or action. Plan actions that can be sustained or done quarterly, monthly or weekly by your club and individual members & families. Perhaps choose an activity to benefit the surrounding environs where your Rotary Club meets or choose multiple options to positively affect areas within your municipality, town or county. Consider partnering with other area rotary clubs to increase numbers and impact. Embrace an attitude to change and improve some part of the natural environment & outdoors in your area.

Some possible suggestions/ideas to target/plan/implement:

- Focus on sustained practices to make your rotary club meetings “GREEN” (see Tips for Green Meetings at <https://www.rotarytucsonverde.com/greenevents>)
- Volunteer as docent/greeter in keystone event “ Home and Building Sustainability Tour” on April 27 in Tucson, hosted by Rotary Club of Tucson Verde
- Contact your local city/town council office or parks dept. For options to clean up parks and streets
- Do tree plantings in areas in need of shade/reduce heat island effects- work with city/neighborhood groups to do this; get trees via utilities’ tree programs or plant nursery donations. See Tucson Clean & Beautiful Million Trees Initiative, etc.
- Donate electronics for Refurbishment or recycling/collect durable usable medical equipment & medical supplies to/for TucsonCares or other community entity in your area
- “Adopt a School” for school perimeter/playground/fields clean up and enviro talks or garden projects with school children
- Collect/repurpose supplies for teachers & donate to Treasures for Teachers and other groups
- Fundraise/donate or volunteer for Cooper Center for Environmental Learning or any other enviro focused groups like Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection, Watershed Management Group, Sky Island Alliance, Sustainable Tucson, Tucson Clean & Beautiful as a few examples- many others found with online search for your area
- Undertake “upcycling” of household items/clothing/furniture to use or resell
- Hold a textile recycle drive of fabrics at end of life/donate to SAVERS or other entity that recycles rather than throw away
- Harvest citrus/other fruits in neighborhood and donate to food agencies, refugee networks or churches for distribution

- Hold a neighborhood repurpose/swap event with guest speakers on how to reduce waste
- Do neighborhood cleanups wearing Rotary shirts, vests or display of Rotary signs
- Host an educational table while promoting Rotary work at local Earth Day or environmental/community events
- Teach homeless groups and others how to recycle
- Volunteer/set up Rotary info & assist/educate people to recycle properly at city/town recycle drop points each weekend for the month of April
- Undertake a recycling project at a local community event for one or more days to divert recyclables from the landfill, instead to recycling services
- Yard cleaning for senior residents and Veterans
- Educate local restaurant groups about recycling/composting/reducing waste going to landfills
- Host a local environmental symposium on enviro issues
- Lobby managers/owners/HOAs of condos/apartment complexes to offer recycling containers/roll-offs on premises for renters/residents
- Undertake a Lithium battery or other material collection for recycling for the month of April or longer
- Use Rotary ESRAG website to learn more about enviro focused projects globally
- Carpool to Rotary meetings and events and use other transport alternatives the entire month of April
- Practice reduce/reuse/recycle and composting in your own home
- Lobby airport authorities and sports venue management groups to ban single use plastics
- If in the city of Tucson, hold a FoodCycle presentation in a club meeting to learn to compost & receive a countertop compost bucket
- Educate neighbors about options for electronics recycling in your area- i.e. NetZero waste events in Tucson
- Plant a home or neighborhood garden/ assist local schools/youth groups to participate in community gardens
- AVOID personal plastics use for one week, same for club but for one month
- Collect aluminum cans and #1 plastic bottles from neighbors for 1-2 months then use funds for a club enviro project
- Remove grass lawns and non native plants to reduce water waste, beautify with native plants and xeriscape
- Focus on littered neighborhood wash/arroyo/street cleanups for April and attempt to sustain efforts at least quarterly- engage youth and neighbors to participate in the effort

Finally, remember that we can each impact our environment with small sustainable actions. Be people of “eco-action”, and continue to do good in our world ”One profits most who serves best!”