



## Protecting our Environment

Protect and improve the environment to make your community a healthier place to live for everyone.

### 2018 Winter Council of Governors Committee Report Multiple District 19 Environment Committee Report by Dr. Nancy Messmer & Dr. Enoch Rowland-Chairpersons

As the Environment Chairpersons for Multiple District 19, we work to encourage Lions to include environmental projects in their array of service projects, and to highlight the good work that Lions are doing. We are working to create Environment Teams in our District, to best meet our goals. We ask District Governors to include seminars or work projects at conferences and meetings that inform Lions of great service ideas and projects. We hope to engage Lions throughout our Multiple District of Washington, British Columbia, and N. Idaho in activities throughout the year.

**Protecting Our Environment** is a service goal that represents countless hours of work currently for Lions, Lioness, and Leos. It is also a bridge to more members in the future as Lions work together and in partnership to ensure that future generations inherit a livable world. The LCI website is being constantly updated to be more responsive to member needs. It presents a cornucopia of project ideas, media, and support materials to assist Lions in planning and reporting Environment projects:

<http://www.lionsclubs.org/EN/member-center/planning-projects/community-environment/index.php>



Here's a quick picture of progress to date on Centennial Goals. See the back page of this report for a handout from LCI. Please share these Project Ideas with Lions.

**Contact Us. We will assist with project planning, displays, workshops, connections, newsletter articles, Facebook entries, ideas, and links.**

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## PROJECT IDEAS ENVIRONMENT

### LEARN

- Tour a recycling and waste management facility with your club.

### ACT // BEGINNER

- **Plant trees. Consult your local environment authorities to determine the type and number of trees needed, as well as the location for planting.**
- Meet on a monthly basis and clean up a beach, community space, or roadside area as a club.
- Hold an environment themed photo contest at a local school. Reward the winner with a tree planted in their honor or another green form of recognition.
- Challenge all Lions in your club or district to add at least one green habit to their daily lives. Inspire others by sharing your actions on social media. Habits might include:
  - Using a reusable water bottle or coffee mug rather than disposable products.
  - Changing to energy-saving lightbulbs.
  - Setting a time limit for your shower to reduce water consumption.
- Develop a Green Living Tip Sheet and share it electronically with members of your community or network.
- Recognize a local organization or community leader for their efforts in environmental conservation.
- Calculate your carbon footprint with an online calculator. If your footprint is bigger than you would like, purchase carbon credits that are Gold Standard Certified and brainstorm ways you can lower your carbon input.
- Volunteer with your local park service to maintain trails. You will help more people access and enjoy nature!
- Commit to “Meatless Mondays”, or not eating meat one day each week.
- Collect used cellphones and donate them to individuals in need.

### ACT // INTERMEDIATE

- Lead an after school nature walk for young students. Encourage them to make observations and ask questions, then have them draw a picture of their experience afterwards.
- Host a community viewing of an environmental film or documentary.
- Save water by surveying your homes and community for leaks in sinks, communal spigots or water fountains. Contact relevant officials if repairs are needed.
- Work with city officials to paint “no dumping” signs near road drainage areas.
- Identify where to recycle toxic items and share/advertise its schedule of collection campaigns.
- **Organize an environmental mural competition. Paint the winner’s artwork in an appropriate area to beautify your community and promote environmental awareness.**
- Implement a community recycling drive where people donate gently used items to charity organizations.
- Share a meal with students at your school. Afterwards, teach them how to sort their recyclables and trash.

### ACT // ADVANCED

- Develop a demonstration garden or landscaping plot using native plant species to encourage restoration of the local natural habitat and water conservation.
- Sponsor a training program for small farmers on how to make and use organic fertilizers and pesticides.
- Produce a monthly nature program on the local public radio station. Feature environmental topics of local interest, interview environmental activists in your community and promote Lions environmental projects.
- Host a public debate on controversial environmental issues in your community. Share the results with government officials.
- Partner with a local carpenter (or use a DIY tutorial) to build a rain barrel. Then, hold a training with community members to promote using barrels for watering and irrigation.
- Organize an alternative transportation incentive program in your community to encourage walking, biking, public transportation and carpooling.
- Work with local schools to establish organic school gardens and a composting program to improve the quality of school meals and reduce waste.

