



# Supporting the Environment the Rotary Way

DeAnna Pursai, Climate Action Chair, 2024-2025

ESRAG BigWest Vice Chair, 2024-2025

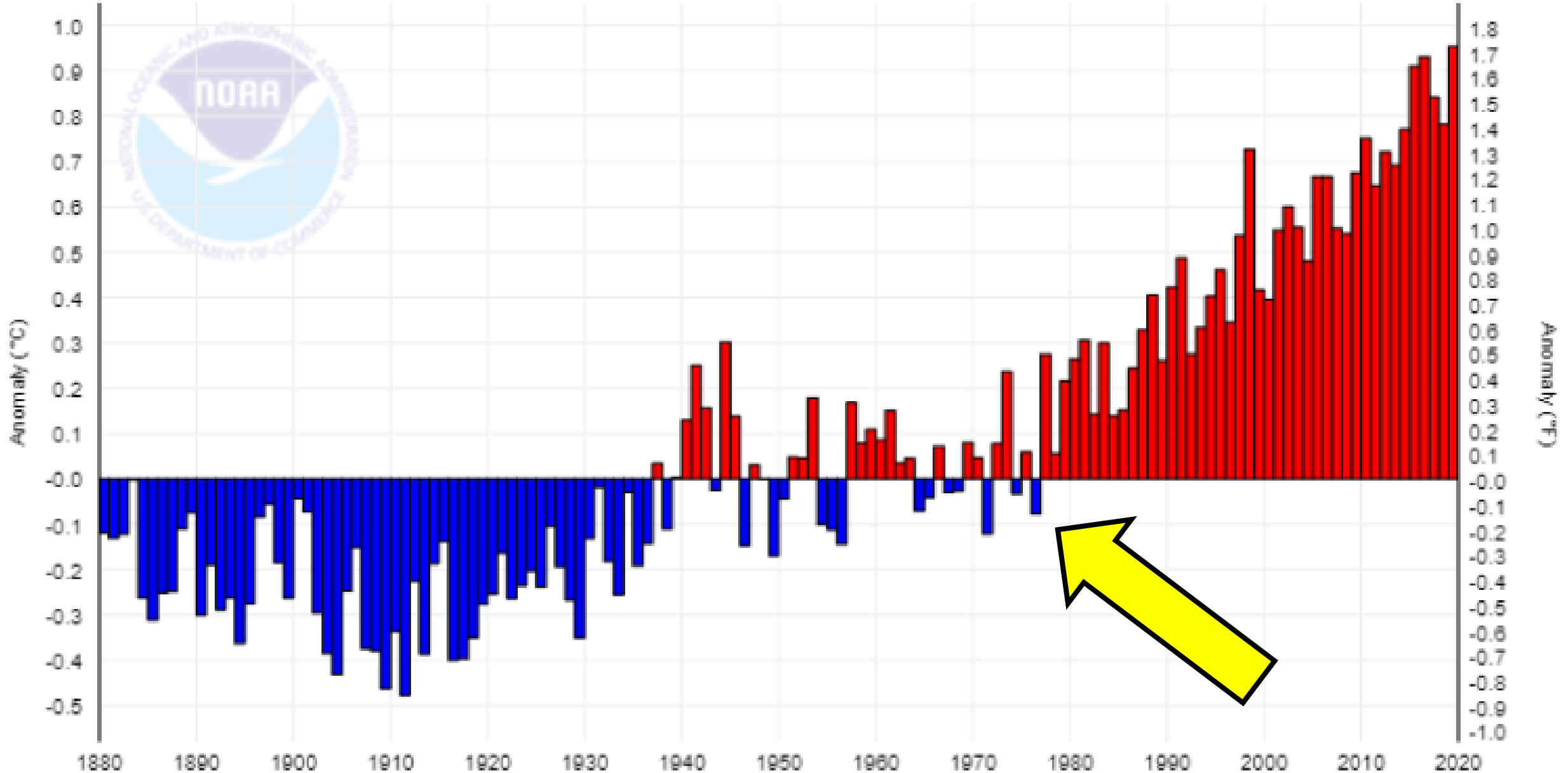




# My Story



# Global Land and Ocean Temperature Anomalies, June









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## LATEST NEWS AND ANALYSIS



**HOW DO RENEWABLES LOWER  
THE COST OF ELECTRICITY?**



**WANT TO SAVE THE US AUTO  
INDUSTRY? KEEP CLEAN  
ENERGY INVESTMENTS**



**KNOW YOUR ROOTS: BLACK  
HISTORY IN ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE**



**JOIN US FOR THE REALITY TOUR**



### MAKE AN IMPACT

[Join a Training](#)  
[Join a Branch](#)

### ABOUT US

[Our Mission](#)  
[Climate and  
Environmental Justice](#)

### OUR INITIATIVES

[Climate Reality Leadership Corps](#)  
[Youth Programs](#)  
[Opposing Petrochemicals in the Ohio River](#)





## THE FOUR-WAY TEST Of the things we think, say, or do

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships.

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

# People of Action & *Integrity*





# Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group ESRAG





Home

About ▾

Our Work ▾

Take Action ▾

Resources & Support ▾

News & Events ▾



# Rotary acts for the environment; ESRAG is the catalyst.

ESRAG: Environmental Sustainability  
Rotary Action Group.

Join ESRAG



**ESRAG**  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
SUSTAINABILITY  
ROTARY ACTION GROUP



### Biodiversity

The term biodiversity (from “biological diversity”) refers to the variety of life on Earth at all its levels, from genes to ecosystems, and can encompass the evolutionary, ecological, and cultural processes that sustain life.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### Circular Economy

Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Re-choose, Repair, Reuse, Recycle towards zero waste

[LEARN MORE](#)

### Climate

Rotary is uniquely placed to empower local communities around the world to implement Climate Solutions that help reverse global warming. If one Rotary International President could inspire millions of trees to be planted, imagine the opportunities that await.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### Food Systems

For humans to thrive, our Food Systems



### Pollution

Search for a solution to put an end to



### Sustainable Living

Living sustainably within the planetary



# Climate Action Summit 2025

## Los Altos Rotary Club

### January, 2025

**CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT**

Start a Climate Action Committee. Launch proven, scalable initiatives within your club's Climate Action Committee. Learn and network on Climate topics.



SPEAKERS	TOPICS	LOGISTICS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Yavuz Atilla</b>, Chair, ESRAG</li> <li>• <b>Steve Bender</b>, Director, Big West Region, ESRAG</li> <li>• <b>DeAnna Pursai</b>, Vice Chair, Big West, ESRAG</li> <li>• <b>Clari Nolet</b>, Vice Chair, ESRAG</li> <li>• <b>Tami Mulcahy</b>, Plastic Solutions Task Force, ESRAG</li> <li>• <b>Laura Fay &amp; Peter Landsberger</b>, Climate Action, Los Altos Rotary</li> <li>• <b>Steve Lefevre</b>, Climate Action Chair, Cupertino Rotary</li> <li>• <b>Joel Parrott</b>, Environmental Committee Chair, Rotary Club of Oakland #3</li> <li>• <b>Joyce Mercado</b>, Alameda Climate Action Chair</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESRAG People of Action</li> <li>• Connecting the Dots to Global Rotary Projects</li> <li>• Go Green Learning Communities and Native Pollinator Kits</li> <li>• Lithium-ion Battery Recycling</li> <li>• Reduce – Repurpose – Restore</li> <li>• NexTrex Plastic Recycling Challenge</li> <li>• Solar for Non-Profits</li> <li>• Urban Forestry: Rotary Oakland #3 Tree Planting Project</li> <li>• Taking Action in Your Own Home</li> <li>• Breakout Sessions</li> </ul>	<p>Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Avenue, Los Altos, CA</p> <p>Sat, Jan 11th 11:45 am – 4 pm PT</p> <p>\$25 Fee Snacks Provided. Bring your Water Bottle!</p> <p>Scan to Register</p> 

Register: <http://GiveButter.com/ClimateActionSummit> Contact: [Sauerbach379@gmail.com](mailto:Sauerbach379@gmail.com)



# Climate Summit 2025 Los Altos Rotary Club January, 2025





Rotary District 5170

**EARTH DAY 2025  
MINI GRANTS**

**\$500 - D. 5170 Club Environmental Committee Project**  
**\$1000 - Joint club project (2 or more clubs)**  
**\$1250 - Working with a new club just beginning an environmental committee**

**Potential Projects:** lithium-ion battery recycling, tree planting, sapling giveaways,  
**Grants Support:** Supplies, materials, marketing & collateral

**Due: Applications due: Friday, March 28**  
**Projects must be completed by June 15**



Email [deanna@esrag.org](mailto:deanna@esrag.org) for details



# Earth Day 2025 Mini-Grant Recipients





# Rotary Club of Alameda Environmental Committee, Joyce Mercado 2025 Earth Day Mini-Grant Recipient





# Rotary Club of STAR Silicon Valley Environmental Committee, Funda Erdin 2025 Earth Day Mini-Grant Recipient

## Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling with Redwood Materials





# San Jose Rotary Club 2025 Earth Day Mini-Grant Recipient: Alrie Middlebrook

Coyote  
Valley  
Agroecology  
Coalition  
River Clean-  
up Day &  
Regenerative  
Farming  
Initiative



# Gilroy Sunrise Rotary Environmental Committee, Marth Martinez 2025 Earth Day Mini-Grant Recipient

## Plastic-Free Gilroy Initiative



# Rotary Club of Piedmont-Montclair Environmental Committee, Saralinda Jackson 2025 Earth Day Mini-Grant Recipient

## Area 1 Cleanup of Lake Merritt





# Santa Cruz Sunrise Rotary Club Environmental Committee, Tiffany Wise-West 2025 Earth Day Mini-Grant Recipient

## Coastal Habitat Restoration





# District 5170 Club Projects 2024-2025





# Los Altos Rotary Club

## Environmental Committee, Sherry Auerbach

- Lithium Ion battery recycling
- Seed Collection-Bear Creek Redwoods Open Space--  
Mid Peninsula Open Space
- Beach Clean Up-Surfers Beach, Pillar Point, Montara  
Beach-Pacific Beach Coalition
- Habitat Restoration-Byrne Park Preserve, Redwood  
Grove-Grass Roots Ecology
- Fine Art in the Park-Elimination of plastics, promote  
alternative transportation with expanded bike park,  
educational signage on recycling
- Environmentally focused LARC speakers
- Nextrex plastic challenge





# Cupertino Rotary Club Environmental Committee, Steve LeFevre





# Cupertino Rotary Club

## Climate Action Committee, Steve LeFevre

### Cupertino Rotary - Climate Action Committee

- **Solar installations:**

- Funding for the non-profit, Delta Learning Center, in Antioch completed. Rotary club of Oakland and Hammond Climate Solutions also contributed to the funding for this project. GRID Alternatives will be performing the installation work for this project. We are projecting a 1 year payback for this project!
- Life Services Alternatives home in San Jose - installation completed in February and we are projecting a 2 year payback for the project. This was a 36 panel installation for the home which houses developmentally challenged individuals. SunWork provided the technical leadership for the project and installation. Funding provided by Cupertino Rotary and Hammond Climate Solutions.

- **Artistic Bike Racks:** Agreement reached with the City of Cupertino, bike rack designs completed and ordered. Delivery expected in June and installation to begin shortly thereafter.
- **Regenerative Farming:** MOU with the Guadalupe River Park Conservancy - Historic Orchard to be signed this week, so we are now moving into the planning stage and field preparation work. This will be a demonstration project with regular updates to local constituents, community leaders, Rotary on the progress and benefits of regenerative agriculture (carbon reduction and sequestration, reduced water usage, healthier crops).
- **Community Harvest:** Cupertino Rotary setup a fruit harvesting process in conjunction with Village Harvest and ran a pilot in Cupertino for gathering fruit and providing the harvested crop to our local food bank, West Valley Community Services. Pilot was a success so we are moving to the implementation phase and will begin planning regular harvest activities. We are developing social media and local newspaper communications to gather momentum for the project and ongoing activities. We are trying to develop a low cost project that can be replicated to other interested Rotary groups/cities.
- **Hunger at Home:** Monthly volunteer work at their food distribution in San Jose. Typically, we have 4 - 5 volunteers each month participating.





# San Jose Rotary Club Environmental Committee, Megan Fluke & Shawn Gerth





# San Jose Rotary Club Environmental Committee, Megan Fluke & Shawn Gerth



# Palo Alto University Rotary Club Environmental Committee, Don MacKenzie

**Environmental**  
**EPIC Day of Service - Cooley Landing**  
**Sat, May 17, 9:00am to 12:00pm**



We had participation from the Palo Alto/University Rotary, the Palo Alto Rotary, the East Palo Alto/Bayshore Rotary and the Palo Alto Kiwanians. We took out non-native plants, made 2000 stakes for new plants, made 100 gopher cages to keep new plants safe, and collected canned food for the Palo Alto Downtown Food Closet.





# Oakland Rotary Club #3 Environmental Committee, Dr. Joel Parrott





# Saratoga Rotary Club Environmental Committee, Nancy Shih & Phil Young

**\*NexTrex: Hard  
to Recycle Thin  
Plastics**





# D. 5170 Climate Action Council

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Weds of Each Month
- 4:30 – 5:30pm – Zoom
- Share resources, project ideas, and build camaraderie
- Possibly beginning a District-Wide GoGreen Team in 2025-2026



# Sharing Rotarian Authors & Speakers for the Environment



Joyce Mercado



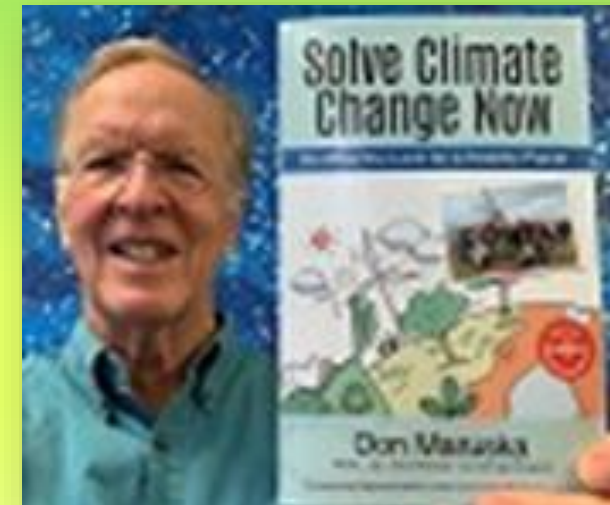
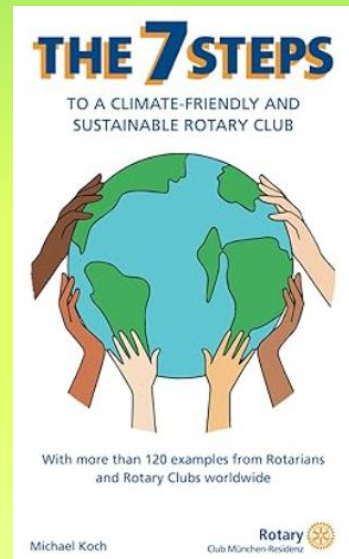
Rod Diridon, Sr.



Alrie Middlebrook



Tami Mulcahy



Don Maruska



# Environmental Websites & Resources

- [www.esrag.org](http://www.esrag.org)
- [www.projectdrawdown.org](http://www.projectdrawdown.org)
- [Environmental Awareness & Climate Action | Rotary Club of Livermore Valley \(livermorevalleyrotary.org\)](http://livermorevalleyrotary.org)
- [News+Views | Andrew Gunther - An Environmental Scientist who Speaks your Language](#)
- [Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling - ESRAAG - Environmental Sustainability Rotary Action Group](#)
- <https://www.svyouthclimateaction.org/>
- [Citizens' Climate Lobby | A Climate Change Organization](#)
- [Home - Mothers Out Front](#)



# Calls to Action





## The most important thing you can do to fight climate change: talk about it

4,184,101 plays ⓘ | Katharine Hayhoe | TEDWomen 2018 • November 2018





**All solutions are not created equal.**



**Reduction of Fossil Fuel Emissions  
is the key to a sustainable future.**





*We do not inherit the earth  
from our ancestors,  
we borrow it from our children.*

Native American Proverb







# Thank you



**DeAnna Pursai**

Disability Story Amplifier | CNN Hero |  
Championing a Revolution in Disability Inclusi...



Let's Connect! 😊

