

Environmental Services

“Lions Clubs International, recognizing the profound impact of man’s activity on the interrelations of all components of the natural environment, particularly high density urbanization, industrial expansion, resources, exploitation, and new and expanding technological advances, and recognizing further the critical importance of restoring and maintaining environmental quality to the overall welfare and development of man, declares that it is the continuing policy of Lions Clubs International to foster and promote the general welfare, to help create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony and to fulfill with social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of mankind’.

The Environmental Services Committee:

- Studies needs of the community and what is being done to meet those needs.
- Proposes one or more service activities to the club board of directors.
- Assumes responsibility, as directed by the board, for performance of the activities adopted.
- Cooperates with other committees whose work may be related.

Organizational Meeting

1. Chairman checks first with the president as to goals for the year and budget considerations, and with the vice president under whose responsibility the committee operates as to committee duties
2. Chairman sets date, time and place for meeting, notifies committee members at least one week in advance.
3. The first meeting is very important. Here achievements or any unfinished plans of the previous year’s committee are discussed, ideas and goals for the year are revealed, and ways of promoting and ensuring the success of these goals are discussed.
4. Chairman reads list of suggested activities from this source and leads discussion of community needs, emphasizing the club’s role.
5. Goes over those activities in which committee members have shown interest.
 - a) Type of activity.
 - b) What will be the reaction of the community to this activity?
 - c) What will be the reaction of club member?
 - d) How greatly will the community or the individual benefit?
 - e) How long will it take to complete this activity?
 - f) How much will it cost, and how will it be financed?
6. After thorough discussion, committee narrows choice to two or three activities, long-range or short-range as seem best for club plans.
7. With assistance of committee members, chairman prepares a written report for the board of directors. It should include project recommendations and project cost estimates.

Correcting The Imbalance

The work of a Lions club can serve as an example to others and thus encourage community action in solving various environmental problems.

Air Pollution

1. Be informed about air pollution
 - a. What it does to your health how it affects your life.
 - b. What the sources of pollution are in your community.
 - c. Who the local officials are that have responsibility for controlling pollution.
2. Contact citizen groups working against air pollution and cooperate with them. If none exists, form such a community group.
3. Distribute information to people interested in learning about air pollution and fighting for clean air.
 1. Prepare fact sheets or kits on air pollution problems in your locality. Distribute to officials, news media, organizations and the general public.
 2. Urge local utilities and industry to use low-pollution fuels and install pollution screens on furnaces and incinerators.
 3. Support legislation that seeks to reduce air pollution.
 4. Encourage student and youth organization interest: essays, debates, posters.
 5. Be sure you do not contribute to air pollution:
 - a. Keep automobile in good condition. Poor combustion adds to pollution.
 - b. Have home furnace checked regularly and cleaned periodically.
 - c. Eliminate open burning in dumps, building sites, backyards. Do not burn refuse.
 - d. Be conscious of the effect which tobacco smoking can have on non-smokers.

Land Pollution

1. Be informed about land pollution.
 - a. What are the types of land pollution? Solid wastes, litter, chemical fertilizers, industrial wastes, etc.
 - b. What are the specific sources of land pollution in your area?
 - c. Who are the local officials that have the responsibility of controlling this pollution and planning for future methods or disposal?
 - d. What local organizations are concerned with this problem and what are they doing to combat it? If none exists, consider forming one.
2. Secure and distribute brochures, pamphlets and fact sheet on the health hazards of polluted area as breeding places for vermin, bacteria, etc.
3. Enlist the support of the local news media in your campaign against land pollution. Provide them with facts on the cost of disposal, possible health hazards from improperly supervised landfills and haphazard dump sites.
4. Select a given area suffering from land pollution, clean it up and beautify it with grass, trees and plants. Use this control area as the basis for a before

- and after exhibit. Provide pictures and descriptions of what was done, the cost involved and the future uses of the land that it is now free of garbage.
5. In order to keep your community free from discarded junk, consult with community officials for the purpose of providing and servicing strategically placed trash receptacles and sponsor an "Anti-Litter Campaign."
 6. Check scrap dealers and glass container and aluminum can manufacturers for reclamation centers in your area and the possibilities for a community recycling program.
 7. Volunteer to plant grass, shrubs and provide mulch or other stalk residue to cover the ground.
 8. Help dispose of junked autos.

Noise Pollution

Noise is a danger to our health. The noise level we experience daily, has increased so gradually that we fail to see its danger. The only real solution to the damage of noise pollution will come through a rising public awareness of the dangers of noise and a demand for machines, standards and laws that regulate noise pollution.

Water Pollution

1. Become informed about the condition of the public waters in your area: their beneficial uses today, the expanded uses which they can permit in the future if their quality is improved.
2. Inform other citizens and organizations of the water quality in your area.
3. Locate possible sources of pollution to streams, rivers and lakes such as industrial operations, construction, inadequate sewage facilities. Find out what steps are being taken to treat these wastes.
4. Locate the water intakes for your community and find out what steps or treatment is necessary before the water is fit for human consumption.
5. Cooperate with organizations working for clean water and aim for a community-wide concern for water which is fit for human consumption.
6. Develop exhibits or displays for schools, assemblies or stores which show how local water supplies were originally used, how they were abused, what must be done to make them clean and how clean water will be used in the future.
7. Clean up streams and ponds. Remove the garbage from the shallows and the shoreline and drag out the weeds that cause a body of water to slowly "die".
8. Contact local officials and express your concern for water pollution and promise your support in programs to clean up streams, rivers and lakes.
9. Emphasize conservation and wise use of water.

Urban Development

1. Promote good lighting of streets, parks, play grounds.
2. Develop or improve transportation service, public utilities.

3. Assist in planning and building or contribute funds, labor, materials for community centers or to other civic facilities.
4. Promote well-thought city planning and zoning ordinances; assist with community surveys, inventories.
5. Conduct and cooperate in community surveys of resources, manpower and other potentials available to attract industry to your community.
6. Plant and/or maintain trees, shrubbery, flowers in parks, parkways and other public areas.

Community Betterment

1. Form a volunteer cleanup patrol to remove litter from commercial, residential, recreational and rural areas. Invite participation of Leo clubs or other youth organizations as a youth outreach project.
2. Undertake a program to restore a historical landmark in your community. Provide the manpower, funds or equipment for such a project.
3. Combat moral corruption, especially among the young, by advocating and supporting wholesome community programs.
4. Initiate programs to educate the public on alcohol and drug abuse.
5. Emphasize the need to find a rational balance between population and resources to improve the quality of life for all.
6. Encourage and support recycling.
7. Educate the public about energy conservation.
8. Educate the public about wildlife preservation.
9. Distribute food supplies to the needy.
10. Make sure there are adequate water and sanitation facilities.
11. In general. REDUCE (usage) and RECYCLE.