

## Lions and the Environment



**Quarterly  
News Bulletin  
December 2017**

*Recycling of each  
ton of paper saves  
17 trees and 7,000  
gallons of water.*



*If we recycled  
every plastic  
bottle we used,  
we would keep 2  
billion tons of  
plastic out of  
landfills.*



*Take a bag with  
you on your walk  
to pick up litter.  
Recycle all that  
can be recycled  
including the  
plastic bag!*



## Green Christmas Tips to Keep the Season Eco-Friendly

Christmas is coming and it can be overwhelming and sometimes, staying environmentally friendly can be hard to do. Try some of these easy and fun green tips that will help you stay green this Christmas season.

**Green Holiday Gift Ideas** – Shop local. Not only are you supporting your community, your money is supporting the local economy. Plus you know of the little unique stores where to find that perfect gift that is one of a kind and one person doesn't end up with two of the same gift.

**Re-use wrapping paper.** There is nothing wrong with keeping the pretty paper for use again next year. Chances are, if you thought the paper looked nice, someone else will too. If you still think that's too taboo, then use a fabric gift wrap. Use newspaper, junk mailers

or leftover paper. Decorate it and have fun with it!

**Cut up old greeting cards** to use as gift tags or place cards, or tape the front of old cards to inexpensive, plain-color gift bags.

**Charity gifts.** If there is a hard to buy for person on your list who is also a green enthusiast, try making a monetary donation in their name to a charity.

**One gift rule.** If you're concerned about the "useless junk" you're going to have cluttering up the house come June, have your family stick to the one gift rule. Draw names and each person gets one thoughtful gift. No one goes without and the giftee knows there was genuine time and effort spent picking out their gift.



**Purge your house of unwanted items** and take them to a consignment store or donate them. Re-gifting is no longer a faux pas. Why sit on something that you know you will never use again? As it's in good shape, it's better off going to someone who will enjoy it.

Sometimes making dinner, **spending some one-on-one time** (theater tickets, coffee and dessert, movie and popcorn), making a photo album or other personalized gift (a nature wreath, a bouquet of flowers, candle holders, etc) can mean much more than a store-bought gift.

*Have a Merry Eco-Friendly Christmas!*

# Centennial Service Challenge–Update



The Environment is one of the 5 Lions Centennial Service Challenge areas. To date, **59,585,795** people have been served by **25,807** Lions clubs who have reported that they are protecting the environment.



The Baggao Lions Club in the Philippines organized a coastal clean-up activity. This “Protecting Our Environment” project not only helped clean up the beach, but also raised awareness for the importance of having clean coastal areas.



Iloilo Host Lions Club members in the Philippines, participated in the Protecting Our Environment campaign by organizing a “Fun Ride” bicycle ride. The activity promoted clean, green living through biking. Riding your bike to work or school instead of driving can have a great impact on the environment by reducing pollution and saving fuel.

**An environmental project is a perfect opportunity for your club to invite family and friends to join in the service and show them how Lions are truly making an impact in the community. Consider planning one of these following family-friendly projects that helps protect the environment:**

Plant trees, flowers or grass at a local park; organize a beach or river bank clean-up project; host a recycled trash fashion show; remove debris and trash from the community’s nature trails, walking/bike paths and/or roadsides; sponsor a nature camp to teach youth and parents about environmental preservation; clean up a park or playground; remove graffiti from public buildings, bridges or fences.

**Plan your service project at a local park in the morning and having a community picnic afterward!**



# ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

We have all heard the expression “ecological footprint”, but what does that mean?

The simplest way to define ecological footprint would be to call it the impact of human activities measured in terms of the area of biologically

productive land and water required to produce the goods consumed and to assimilate the wastes generated.

More simply, it is the amount of the environment necessary to produce the goods and services necessary to support a particular lifestyle.

## What is YOUR Ecological Footprint?

Everyone of us has an ecological footprint. To find out how far YOU have put your foot in it, visit:

<http://www.myfootprint.org>,

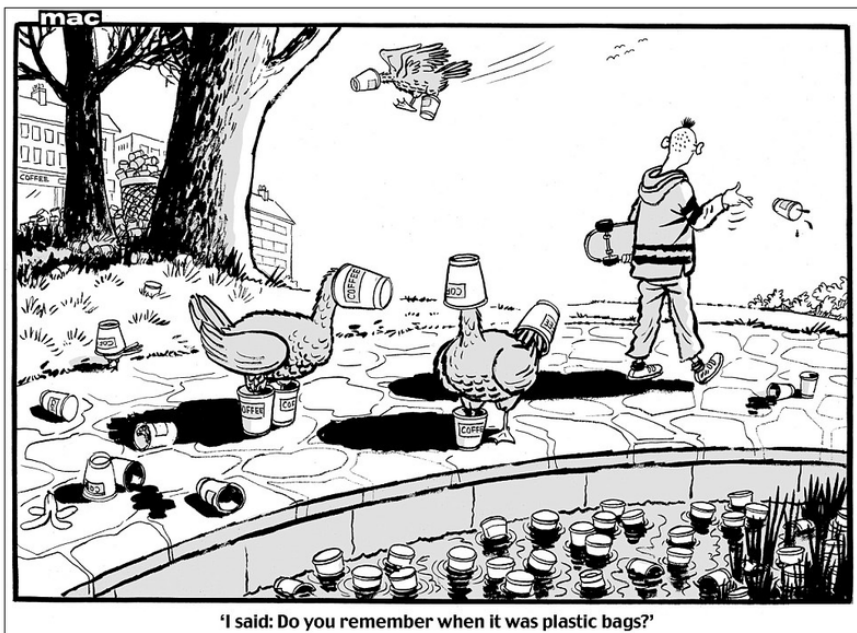


The Ilan Sanhsing Lions Club (Taiwan) improved their community environment by pulling weeds.

The Pretoria City Lions Club, Benoni Host Lions Club and Roodepoort Clearwater Cyber Club helped send 25 students to an environmental awareness camp situated at the Mogale's Gate Environmental Education Centre within the Cradle of Humankind, a World Heritage site in South Africa. The weekend started off by setting up the camp site and tents, followed by an environmental lecture and educational walk through the bushveld. The weekend camp ended with a formal game drive on open vehicles, where students could observe all the common wild animals in their natural surroundings. Each student took home a potted plant to take care of.



“Lions Club is a voluntary service organization that does not expect something in return, and its strength will increase with every single person. That’s why I wanted to join this community,” said Nazan Sagir, Head of District 118-T Environmental Awareness Committee and member of the Samanyolu Lions Club in Turkey. The Environmental Awareness Committee of District 118-T prepared a children’s book with the belief that environmental awareness should be developed during the early stages of childhood. “Multiple clubs from District 118-T, members from our community, teachers from the elementary schools, and my family gave their support to this project,” says Nazan. The book has been distributed to 6,000 children since the beginning of this year. Their goal is to reach a total of at least 10,000.



## Keeping Your E-waste Down This Christmas

Christmas time is when we get the latest gadgets. While there is nothing wrong with getting the newest tech, most of our old cellphones, batteries and other electronic gadgets fall by the wayside and end up collecting dust because we don't know what to do with them.

For those looking to try and keep their e-waste down this time of year, here are a few things you can do!

### **Greener electronics**

Organizations like Greenpeace have compiled a list evaluating electronic companies' commitment and progress on reducing their environmental footprint.

### **Think twice before you throw your gadget in the bin**

Properly dispose your items through disposal hazardous waste facilities and see if your mobile phone provider

conducts a mobile recycling program. Alternatively, ask your electronics manufacturers if they have a take-back policy or trade-in programs.

### **Reconsider whether you need new gadgets**

If your electronics is still within its functional capacity, the latest update might not be worth the added social and environmental cost.

## What Can YOUR Club Do About E-Waste?

Many clubs in District A-3 have taken part in the Ontario Electronic Stewardship (OES) program collecting e-waste from their community and raising funds at the same time! Its simple and takes very little effort. Simply go to: <http://ontarioelectronicstewardship.ca> and register as a service provider. You will sign a contract, agree on a date for your event and they will deliver an appropriate bin for you to collect e-waste, an advertising kit, and a collection site manual. Get the word out to everyone in your community that you will be collecting e-waste on that day and gather a few Lions to be at the collection site. When the event is over, OES will pick up the bin, weigh the material collected and pay the Lions Club a fee per tonne. OES collects and sorts the items, then sends them to an OES approved recycling facility to remove substances of concern for proper downstream management. All other materials are separated to recover recyclable elements such as metals, plastics and glass so they can be processed into new products. What a great way to reduce e-waste in the landfill, raise awareness in the community and raise funds to go back into the community. A great Day of Service project!





## Touchstone Story #62—Forever Green

Lions have been planting trees to help save the environment since the organization's earliest days. But in 2011 International President Wing-Kun Tam of Hong Kong, China, challenged the association to join in the effort as never before by asking Lions to plant 1 million trees within one year. "We want to wrap the earth in greenery," Tam told members in *LION Magazine*.

Lions, known for going above and beyond expectations when presented with a challenge, took Tam's goal and blew it sky high.



**In August 2011, Lions and partner volunteers in India planted 3.4 million trees in a single day**

Multiple District 324 in Southern India played a large role in the initiative's success. On August 25, 2011, more than 100,000 Lions from 2,855 clubs coordinated with local governments, schools, police, family and friends to plant 3.4 million trees in just 12 hours—a world record. In total, from July 2011 to June 2012, Lions worldwide planted 15 million trees.

The challenge helped address a critical environmental problem. Due to human activity, the Earth's forests have been disappearing at alarming rates, especially since 1980. Deforestation impacts the whole planet. Converting carbon dioxide to oxygen, trees provide fresh air and stabilize many ecosystems. At the same time, they give shade from the sun, provide a livelihood for millions and beautify the landscape. Trees are the breath of life.

Lions' monumental effort took much preparation. In fact, Multiple District 324 had been planning the event ever since hearing then-Second Vice President Tam mention the idea at Lions Day at the United Nations in 2009. The Lions of Southern India took time to identify locations—such as school campuses, private farms, major roads and protected forests—where trees were needed and worked with the Indian government to obtain some of the saplings for free.

India's Lions put just as much effort into what would happen to the young trees after the big event. For about two years, the saplings would need to be cared for by volunteers. In many cases, the Lions turned to the students who had assisted in planting the trees for help. For example, students in a village near Hyderabad took charge of 1,450 saplings, making sure the trees had enough water and care to thrive. In return, the youth received an education in ecology and experienced the joy of watching their trees grow.

Lions in India helped take Tam's tree planting to new heights in 2011. By sharing the excitement of helping the environment with the next generation, they also planted seeds of stewardship and volunteerism that will grow for years to come.



*We would love to share your club's environmental efforts with others. Send a description of your event with a picture or two, or tell us what your club plans to do this year and I will include it in the next edition of the Lions Environmental Bulletin scheduled to be published in March.*

*Email to Lion Kathy at: [kathrynnanne51@yahoo.ca](mailto:kathrynnanne51@yahoo.ca)*

## Save the Date–Start Planning Now!

**Earth Hour** – March 24, 2018 (<https://www.earthhour.org/>)

**LCI Worldwide Week of Service to Protect Our Planet** – April 17 – 23, 2018 (<https://www.lionsclubs.org/>)

**Earth Day** – April 22, 2018 (<https://www.earthday.org/about/>)

**World Environment Day** – June 5, 2018 (<http://worldenvironmentday.global/>)

### HELP-SAVE-THE-ENVIRONMENT - Changing Your Daily Habits

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Switch off anything that uses electricity when not in use      | 7. Make your yard friendly to wildlife                              |
| 2. Avoid using disposable items.                                  | 8. Avoid pesticides, herbicides, and man-made chemical fertilizers. |
| 3. Don't waste food.  | 9. Plant a tree.  |
| 4. Walk or ride a bicycle when your destination is close to home. | 10. Donate or share usable household items.                         |
| 5. Switch to compact fluorescent or LED light bulbs.              | 11. Join an environmental organization.                             |
| 6. Plant a garden.  | 12. Donate to an environmental cause.                               |
|   | 13. Volunteer your time.  |

[www.whatsappguru.in](http://www.whatsappguru.in)

Test your club members knowledge of environmental facts with the questions below.

**1. What is the biggest consumer of power in your home?**

A. Clothes Dryer B. Refrigerator C. Iron or D. Hairdryer?

**2. Which saves more energy?**

Turning off your computer at night or putting it in "sleep" mode?

**3. Where does the majority of plastic waste end up?**

A. Oceans B. Burned for energy C. Landfills or D. Recycled

**4. How much water does it take to produce one bottle of water?**

A. 1 bottle of water B. 3 bottles of water or C. 6 bottles of water

**5. More than half the breathable oxygen comes from where?**

A. Forests B. The Ocean C. Flowering plants or D. Clouds

**6. A glass bottle made in our time will take how many years to decompose?**

A. 100 years B. 750 years C. 1,000 years D. 4,000 years

**Answers will be in the March edition of Lions and the Environment.**

## Green Lifestyle Quiz

