

Protecting The Environment

District 7390
Monthly Learning Event

October 27, 2026

Joe McNally
Rotary Club of West Shore

Mark Tillman
Rotary Club of Carlisle-Sunrise

Rotary

Today's Talk Covers

- Rotary International and the Environment
- Why we have a District Environment Committee
- What we've accomplished
- Some initiatives and project examples
- A call to action

Our History

- Rotary has a long history of working to protect the earth's physical environment
- Several clubs in District 7390 started Preserve Plant Earth (PPE) groups in the early 1990s
- Rotary's 7th Area of Focus, "Protecting the Environment," was adopted in 2020



Rotary's 7th Focus Area: Protecting the Environment

Rotary International, Adopted 2020



"We are committed to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities and the environment."

"We empower communities to access grants and other resources, embrace local solutions, and spur innovation in an effort to address the causes and reduce the effects of climate change and environmental degradation."

Why a District Committee?

- To be a resource center, share project resources, and connect with others who have completed something you're considering
- To increase awareness of volunteer opportunities
- To encourage clubs to participate in environmental projects if they are not already doing so
- To celebrate club environmental projects
- To introduce new projects and run pilot projects

Meeting Time and Club Involvement

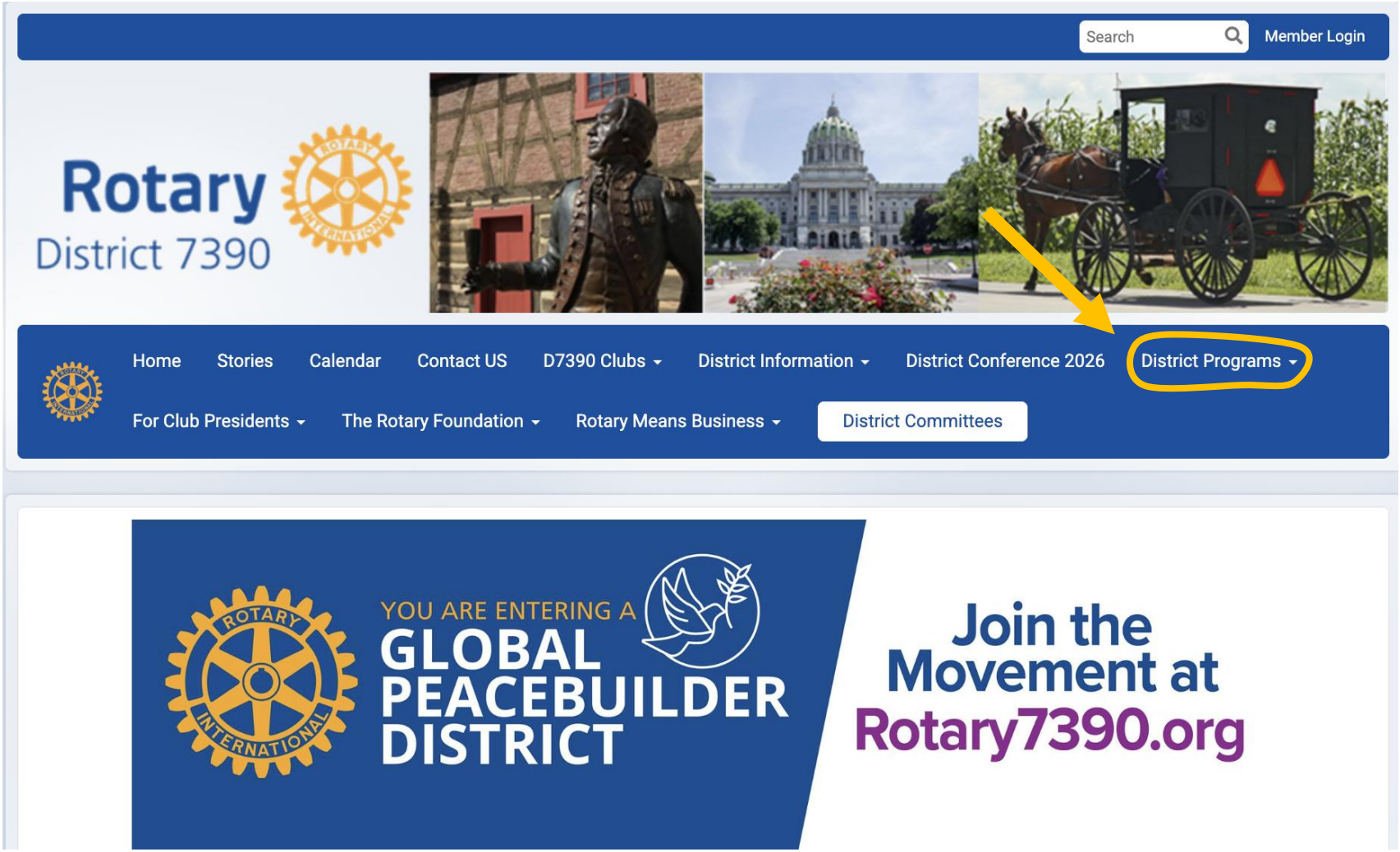
- The Environment Committee meets via Zoom on the 3rd Tuesday of every month between 7 and 8 PM. It is an open meeting, and no registration is required.
- Participating clubs:

Carlisle	Hershey	Lebanon	Palmyra
Carlisle-Sunrise	Gettysburg	Mechanicsburg North	West Shore
D7390 Passport	Lancaster	Palmyra	York
Harrisburg	Lancaster Sunrise	Red Lion-Dallastown Area	
Harrisburg Keystone	Lancaster - South	Uptown York	

Stop in sometime!

Be a Resource Center

Visit the District Website and Go to District Programs



Be a Resource Center

Visit the District Website



On the webpage

There are links to …

- Help your local stream
- Take a hike/maintain a trail
- Recycle
- Plant a tree
- Start a pollinator garden





Encourage Participation

- Exhibit at District Conferences, National Night Out, StormFest
- Handouts at District Learning Assembly
- Promote District-wide Environment Day of Service near Earth Day

Celebrate Projects

- Publish project stories on the webpage and newsletter
- Obtain project-related press and TV coverage

Some Recent District Projects

Not nearly all

- Plastic recycling and benches
- Tree planting
- Clean up projects (trails, roads, streams)
- Riparian buffer
- Pollinator gardens



Example of a Resource



Penn State Extension and the Master Watershed Steward Program



What is Penn State Extension?

- Outreach arm of Penn State
- Delivers research-based education to communities
- Focus areas: agriculture, natural resources, community and youth, and more
- Mission is to translate university research into practical programs for local residents



Master Watershed Steward Program Overview

- Launched in Pennsylvania in 2013 in partnership with local watershed groups
- Trains community volunteers in watershed and water-resource management
- Volunteers return service hours to educate the public and improve local streams, rivers, and watersheds

What Do Master Watershed Stewards Do?

- Organize rain barrel and stormwater workshops
- Teach adults and children about watershed-friendly practices
- Assist with stream restoration and habitat improvement
- Coordinate stream cleanups and litter pickups
- Help municipalities meet stormwater permit requirements
- Plant and maintain trees and other best management practices (BMPs)

Training and Commitment for Master Watershed Stewards

- Initial training: ~40 hours of instruction in watershed science, stormwater, policy, and outreach skills
- Certification requires:
  - 65 hours training + 20 hours volunteer service in the first year
  - Must complete within 18 months
- Ongoing requirement:
  - At least 20 volunteer hours
  - 10 hours of continuing education each year



Impact Across Pennsylvania



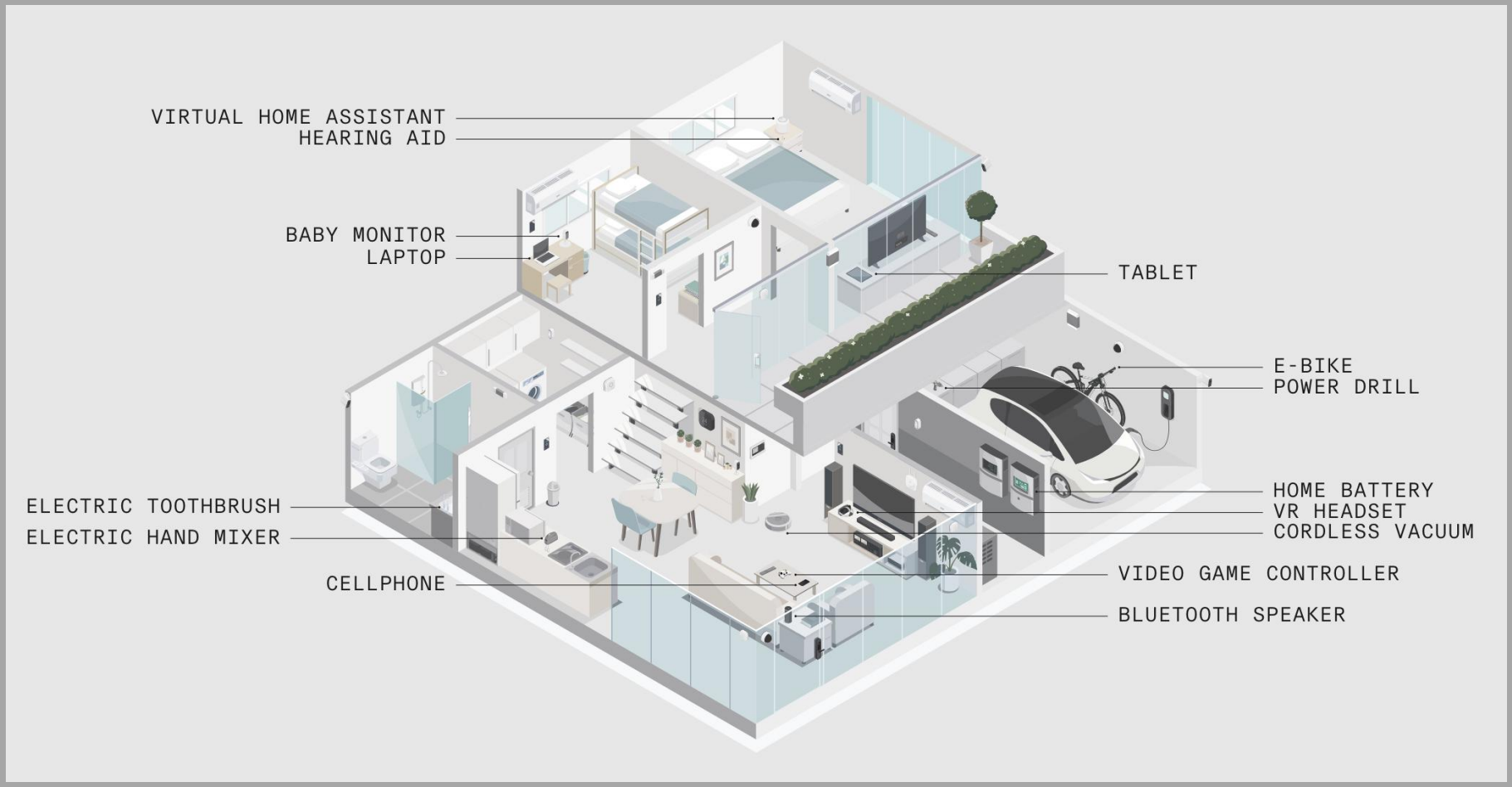
- Program currently active in 55 Pennsylvania counties
- 1,080 Master Watershed Steward volunteers statewide (2025)
- Since 2013, volunteers have logged over 255,000 hours of service, valued at about $8.9 million
- Collectively:
  - 136,000+ trees planted
  - More than 624,000 adults and youth reached with watershed education

Opportunities for Rotary Clubs

- Restoration Projects:
  - Planting riparian buffers
  - Volunteer at tree plantings, stream cleanups, and restoration days
- Community Clean-ups: Organizing stream and local park litter removal
- Educational Outreach: Co-host public workshops on rain barrels, stormwater, or watershed-friendly yards with local Stewards
- Water Monitoring: Conducting stream research and measuring chemicals (chloride, oxygen, acidity) to track local water health

Example of a Pilot Project
Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling




VIRTUAL HOME ASSISTANT
HEARING AID
BABY MONITOR
LAPTOP
TABLET
E-BIKE
POWER DRILL
ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH
ELECTRIC HAND MIXER
HOME BATTERY
VR HEADSET
CORDLESS VACUUM
CELLPHONE
VIDEO GAME CONTROLLER
BLUETOOTH SPEAKER

Rotary
Carlisle-Sunrise

From Your Junk Drawer to America's Supply Chain

The Problem & The Opportunity



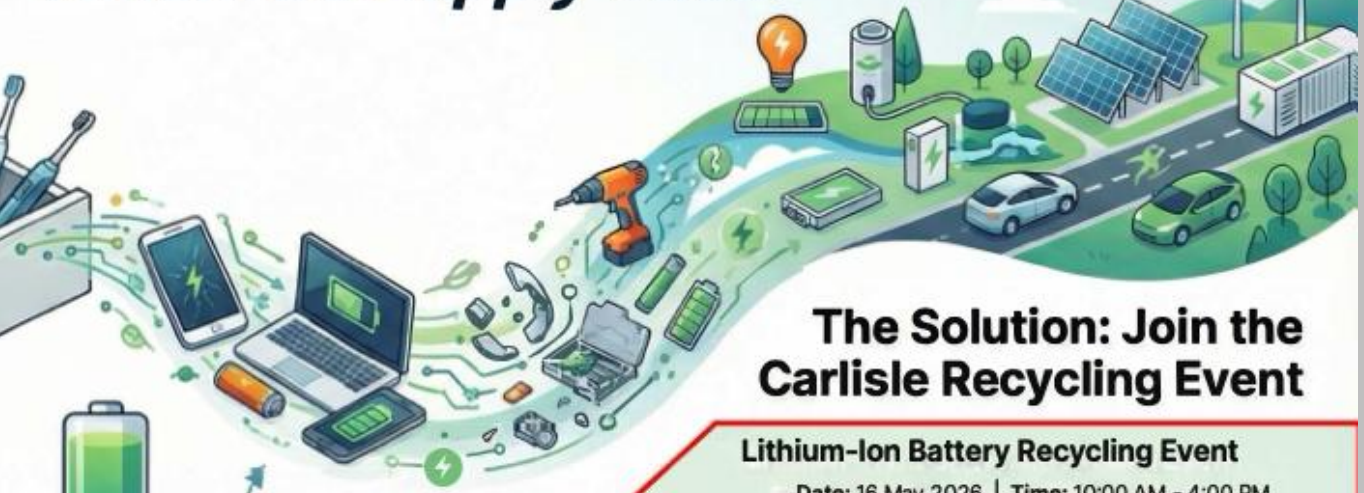
A 90% Opportunity Gap Exists in Battery Recycling

5%
Today's national Li-ion recycling rate

95%+
of materials can be recovered

Your Old Devices are a Valuable Resource

They contain critical minerals like iithium, cobalt, and nickel needed for our electric future.



Shift from Overseas Reliance to Domestic Circularity

Recycling creates a secure US supply chain, reducing dependence on foreign mining.

The Solution: Join the Carlisle Recycling Event

Lithium-Ion Battery Recycling Event

Date: 16 May 2026 | **Time:** 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Location: 950 Soldiers Dr., Carlisle, PA

What to Bring:
Devices with Li-ion Batteries



Includes smartphones, laptops, power tools, electric toothbrushes, and wireless headphones.

What to Leave at Home:
Other E-Waste



We cannot accept alkaline batteries (AA/AAA), TVs, printers, or power cords.

NotebookLM











Call to action

If your club already has an environmental project:

- Think about how to keep the project strong
- Expand into new environmental areas

If your club doesn't have a project yet:

- Set a date for this Spring (or sooner) to complete a project
- Look at our resource center for ideas and pick an area
- Reach out to the committee with questions

Next Environment Day of Service - Saturday, April 24, 2027

Put April 24 on your calendar!
Let us know about your project so we can share it on the webpage.
Last year: 18 + club projects

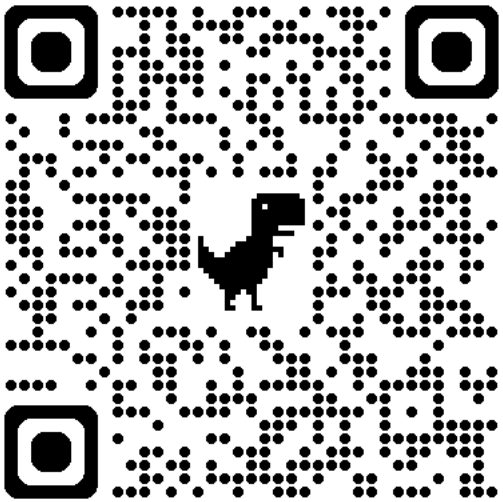
- Tree planting, PennDOT, road and city cleanups, trail maintenance, lithium-ion battery recycling



Additional resources

Environment Committee Webpage on the District 7390 website:

https://www.rotary7390.org/page/environmental-committee



Additional resources

- Penn State Extension: https://extension.psu.edu (AI-assisted problem solving and skill development)
- Master Watershed Steward Program Resources https://extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-stewards
- Stream Monitoring FISH Protocol: https://extension.psu.edu/first-investigation-of-stream-health-fish-program
- Dickinson College ALLARM Program: https://www.dickinson.edu/homepage/754/alliance_for_aquatic_resource_monitoring_allarm
- Master Well Owner Network and Resources: https://extension.psu.edu/MWON
- Redwood Materials and Rotary: Lithium-Ion recycling program

https://www.redwoodmaterials.com/news/redwood-and-rotary-collaboration/


Thank you!
Comments and questions