

PROPOSED ENACTMENT

Regarding the global warming humanitarian crisis-"B"

(note: Proposed Enactment-"B" includes Proposed Enactment-"A";
if "B" is approved, "A" is not needed)

Proposed by the Rotary Club of Madison, WI, USA
FINAL DRAFT – November 3, 2014

IT IS ENACTED by Rotary International that the STANDARD ROTARY CLUB CONSTITUTION and the BYLAWS OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL be and hereby are amended as follows -

(Note: added words are underlined; added words that are different than Enactment "A" are double-underlined.)

STANDARD ROTARY CLUB CONSTITUTION

Article 13 Community, National, and International Affairs (p. 208 MOP)

Section 1 — Proper Subjects. The merits of any public question involving the general welfare of the community, the nation, and the world are of concern to the members of this club and shall be proper subjects of fair and informed study and discussion at a club meeting for the enlightenment of its members in forming their individual opinions. However, this club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure. This club may nevertheless support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis including supporting a revenue-neutral carbon tax and, as needed, carbon tax border adjustments.

Section 3 — Non-Political.

(a) Resolutions and Opinions. This club shall neither adopt nor circulate resolutions or opinions, and shall not take action dealing with world affairs or international policies of a political nature. This club may nevertheless support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis including supporting a revenue-neutral carbon tax and, as needed, carbon tax border adjustments.

(b) Appeals. This club shall not direct appeals to clubs, peoples, or governments, or circulate letters, speeches, or proposed plans for the solution of specific international problems of a political nature. This club may nevertheless support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis including supporting a revenue-neutral carbon tax and, as needed, carbon tax border adjustments.

BYLAWS OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Renumber Article 25 (Amendments) to 26 and add the following (p. 195 MOP)

Article 25 – Global Warming Humanitarian Crisis

To mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis, Rotary International supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions; this includes support for a revenue-neutral carbon tax and, as needed, carbon tax border adjustments.

Purpose and Effect for "B"

Final Draft – November 3, 2014

(297 words)

The global warming humanitarian crisis threatens to undo much of Rotary's good work. Polio eradication is being impeded by flooding, sewage contamination of water, and migration caused by global warming. This looming catastrophe potentially dwarfs polio, having already created climate refugees and contributed to war, food shortages and drought. The Millennium Project deems global warming humanity's biggest problem.

Average CO₂ concentrations in 2013 reached a historic high of 396 parts per million (ppm) - 141% of the 280 ppm pre-industrial level. The 10 warmest years since 1880 have occurred after 1997. May and August 2014 were the hottest in recorded history.

Worldwide, scientists are virtually unanimous that global warming is caused by human greenhouse gas emissions (GGEs). Prudent risk management dictates that we reduce GGEs rapidly. The longer we wait, the greater the human suffering, the higher the cost to slow the warming, and the greater the damage to world economies.

'Service Above Self' dictates that we work to reduce GGEs and inform others. Temperatures will continue to rise unless GGEs are significantly reduced – can we 'adapt' to global warming? While individuals can reduce emissions, and clubs can undertake worthy projects, these actions will not be sufficient. Economists agree that the most effective way to reduce CO₂ emissions is to enact a revenue-neutral carbon tax (RNCT) on fossil fuels and, as needed, implement border adjustments which can drive all countries to price carbon.

A RNCT is a phased-in tax shift; taxes on fossil fuels go up, other taxes go down. Energy conservation reduces taxes paid. Renewable energy becomes more economically viable.

Working to stop the global warming humanitarian crisis by enacting a RNCT will help the most people and will resonate with the next generation of Rotarians. We do this for our children, grandchildren and future generations.