

Be A Hero, Go Net Zero!

The ESRAG supported initiative BHAGNZ (pronounced Baggins for ease) is partnered with ECCF - (Every Club Climate Friendly).

We don't inherit the Earth from our ancestors we borrow it from our children.

When we visit the natural world, we are encouraged to leave with nothing but footprints.

In our personal lives, our work, our communities and our clubs, it is critical for the benefit of all, that we do our utmost to reduce our carbon footprints as much as possible and then offset our residual CO₂e emissions, leaving essentially, no footprint at all!

The Be a Hero Go Net Zero initiative provides a simple methodology to be as sure as we can, that as individuals having done everything within reason to minimise our footprint we compensate for the residual and self-declare as Net Zero for the 12 months prior to declaring.

Though carbon calculators are imprecise tools, using them is a classic case of not letting the perfect be the enemy of the good.

For club environmental footprints see ESRAG's <https://esrag.org/every-club-climate-friendly/> initiative.

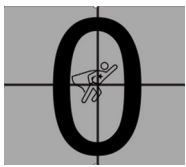
Process

In order to self-declare as a Net Zero Hero

1. Run through two or three calculators, a range is suggested in Appendix I. Typically these take about five minutes each.
2. Take the average.
3. Add a 30% margin of error.
4. Compensate that amount.
5. Once you are happy you are Net Zero, email either Mohammed or I, self-declare as Net 0 and if you are a Rotarian include your Rotary Club and District.

This does not need to be expensive. Several Rotarians running environmental themed projects have calculated the donation that will offset a tonne of CO₂e. A range of organisations and projects that you may wish to use to offset your footprint are given in Appendix II.

We suggest you overcompensate as above, but as a self-declaration it is down to whatever you are comfortable with. If you use Treekly, it is possible to achieve offsetting without cost.



We will assign you a Net Zero Hero number and send you a certificate of achievement valid for one year from submission. Towards the end of the year we will write to ask if you are happy to renew your declaration.

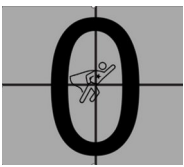
We suggest you use your Net Zero Hero number in your email signature in the form 'Net Zero Hero xxxxxx' where x is your unique number.

Please send your self-declaration to either:-

Chris Davies email:- chrisdavies300@outlook.com or

Mohammad Armahi email: m.aramahi@esrag.org





Appendix I

Carbon CALCULATORS:

Largely self-explanatory. Calculates a household footprint.

[United Nations online platform for voluntary cancellation of certified emission reductions \(CERs\) \(climateactionnow.org\)](https://climateactionnow.org/)

ESRAG Flight offset Calculator

<https://www.esrag.org/flight-carbon-offset-calculator>

Comprehensive, based on annual metrics and expenditure

<https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx>

Ecotricity

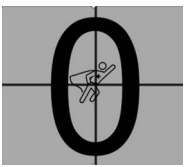
<https://www.ecotricity.co.uk/carbon-footprint-calculator>

Swiss based – a little vague at times – more subjective

https://co2.myclimate.org/en/footprint_calculators/new

World Wildlife Fund - Total Lifestyle Carbon calculator

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk/#/>



Appendix II – BAHGNZ recommended options for offsetting your carbon footprint. These are either Rotary or Rotary supported initiatives. Their leaders are themselves self-declared Net Zero Heroes. You may wish to support one or a range of initiatives local, district, national, international.

Stoves for schools

ESRAG's [Cleaner Cookstoves Task Force](#) provides the opportunity for clubs and individuals to fund ecological stoves to communities which are still cooking over open fires. Rotarian and ESRAG GBI member Maya Smeulders can give you more information: email her at mayasmeulders@hotmail.com The stoves they provide are highly efficient, reduce the need for wood or charcoal, and have tremendous impact in reducing carbon emissions and exposure to deadly particulates from smoke. £250 provides a school stove which prevents 10.2 tonnes CO₂ per year. £25 for a household stove will prevent 1 tonne CO₂ per year.

Sol Malawi

ESRAG member Bob Leaper of the Rotary Club of Danetre, Daventry says, "We are working with a UK charity – SolarAid – on a new project to replace kerosene lamps and candles (which generate CO₂), with solar-powered home lighting systems. The lighting system, called Sun King Home 60, can be installed in one dwelling for £100. It uses a solar panel and battery to provide power to 3 LED lights, enabling users to study in the evenings, work, provide medical aid, power mobiles and more.

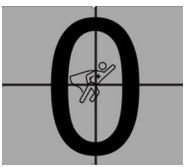
The saving in CO₂ and black carbon equivalent of one system is around 1.8 tonnes per year. Each system is guaranteed for 5 years, equating to a saving of 9 tonnes CO₂ equivalent over the lifetime of the system. Thus 1 tonne of CO₂ is offset with £100/9 = £11.10/tonne.

Account Name: Rotary Club of Danetre Daventry, Sort Code 30-99-50, Account No. 38759260, Account Type Business. Please use as a reference; **SoL Malawi**. The project was officially launched at District Assembly in May 2024, and donations will then be directed to a specific carbon-offsetting solar project in Malawi - of which you will be kept fully informed.'

Bob Leaper: bob.leaper@mail.com

Sustainable Global Gardens

SGG is run by Rotarian & ESRAG member Paul Keeley, paul_keeley@hotmail.com. "SGG has a stock of trees that are 5+ years old planted in 2017-2018," he says. "SGG pay farmers £10 per year to maintain 50 trees which will offset 1 tonne of CO₂ equivalent per year. Mature trees are planted rather than newly planted trees. They currently have 20,000 trees that are mature enough, with more maturing each year. CO₂ offset is £10/tonne."



Treekly

Work with planting partners such as Eden Reforestation, Treekly plants trees. Co-founded by Keith Mortimer (CEO), RGBI backs the relationship. Treekly has users in over 180 countries, the app is in English, please email team@treekly.org

In GBI accounts have been set up for all RGBI clubs based on the 5-digit club code. It need not cost anything. Once you've downloaded the Treekly App, registered and linked your step counter, you click bottom right 'together', then the '+' top right, then 'join a group' and enter your 5-digit club code (in the District handbook). All you then need to do is refresh your step counter (e.g. Google Fit) and then open Treekly once a day and your personal steps and trees planted will show in your club League and your clubs' steps and trees planted in the RGBI league.

To plant a tree for free, you need to walk 5000 steps a day for 20 days in a month. There are subscription options, one such subscription, plants 1 tree for every day you complete 5000 steps.

Based on a conservative estimate of 1 mangrove tree capturing 50kg during the first trimester of its growth stage (eg 7 years), the number of trees required to counterbalance 12t of CO2 emissions over the first semester is 240. This is a method of future compensation. If you wish to plant sufficient mangroves now to offset this year's footprint at 12 tonnes then around 1700 Mangrove whips are needed. Over to you!