



Rotarians Mitigating Climate Change

RMCC Letter - December 2024 Edition

Welcome to the December 2024 edition of the Rotarians Mitigating Climate Change (RMCC) newsletter. This month, we share updates on recent events and news related to our ongoing mission to raise awareness and combat climate change.

1. News

Environmental Community Council Zoom Meeting Organized by MP Majid Jowhari

On December 10, 2024, MP Majid Jowhari, an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill, organized an Environmental Community Council Zoom Meeting. The meeting, attended by approximately 30 participants, featured Minister Kevin Guilbault, Federal Minister of Environment and Climate Change, who answered questions posed by attendees. RMCC Board Members, Rotarians Eric Nejat and Fabrizio Burrone, were among those present. The meeting covered various topics, including:

1. Carbon Tax - Price on Pollution
2. Eliminating usage of Coal
3. Controlling & Reducing usage of Natural Gas
4. Preparing a Net Zero National Building Code, which will serve as a guideline for Provincial Building Codes under the jurisdiction of provinces and territories
5. COP29, the 2024 United Nations Conference on Climate Change
6. United Nations University

COP29: 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference Held in Baku, Azerbaijan

The 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference, also known as COP29, took place in



Source: By President.az, CC BY 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=155674286>

Baku, Azerbaijan, from November 11 to 22, 2024. Azerbaijan, an oil-producing country, is located on the Caspian Sea, a landlocked body of water fed by the Volga and Ural rivers but with no natural outflow other than evaporation.

It was reported that due to climate change and global warming, excessive evaporation has caused the Caspian Sea water level to drop by three meters, a change previously predicted to occur by the end of this century. The rapid evaporation of freshwater lakes worldwide could result in reduced freshwater availability for consumption and contribute to heavy, short downpours of rain, flooding, and related disasters.

A delegate from the host country stated that "Fossil Fuels are Gift of God," a sentiment echoed by representatives of other oil-producing countries, suggesting that the elimination of fossil fuels as energy sources may not happen in the near future.

After extensive discussions and negotiations, the conference concluded with an agreement calling on developed countries to deliver at least \$300 billion per year to developing countries by 2035 to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate the impacts of climate change. UN Climate Change Executive Secretary Simon Stiell emphasized that the new finance goal serves as an "insurance policy for humanity" but noted that "any insurance policy only works if the premiums are paid in full, and on time."

UN Secretary-General António Guterres expressed his hope for a more ambitious outcome on both finance and mitigation but acknowledged that the agreement provides a foundation for future progress



2. Climate Change Facts

Arctic Sea Ice Continues to Decline

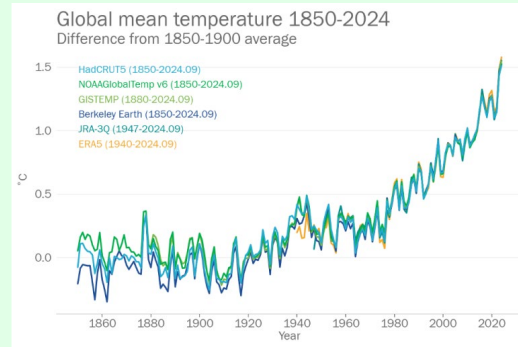
The National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) reported that Arctic sea ice extent for November 2024 was the second lowest in the 45-year satellite record. The average extent for the month was 6.28 million square kilometers (2.43 million square miles), which is 1.68 million square kilometers (649,000 square miles) below the 1981 to 2010 average. This rapid decline in sea ice extent is a stark reminder of the ongoing effects of climate change on the Arctic region.



Photo source: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center from Greenbelt, MD, USA, CC BY 2.0
<<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons

2024 on Track to Be One of the Warmest Years on Record

According to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), 2024 is on track to be one of the five warmest years on record. The global mean temperature for January to October 2024 was about 1.15°C above the pre-industrial average (1850-1900). This finding underscores the urgent need for global action to mitigate the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



3. Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for updates on upcoming RMCC events in the new year. We look forward to continuing our efforts to educate, engage, and inspire action on climate change in 2025.

RMCC (Rotarians Mitigating Climate Change) is a group of dedicated Rotarians working together to combat climate change. We collaborate with community leaders, raise public awareness, and implement effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote sustainability.

Join us in our mission to create a greener, more resilient future. Together, we can drive significant, lasting change and build a better world for generations to come.

For any questions or inquiries, please contact:

Rotarian Fabrizio Burrone, P.Eng. Telephone: 416-505-0278 email: fabrizioburr@yahoo.ca
Rotarian Eric Nejat, Ph.D., P.Eng. Telephone: 437-912-0079 email: eznejat@gmail.com
Rotarian Mehrzad Hosseini Telephone: 647-852-3404 email: mehrzadh3@gmail.com