

Empowering Women and Community through Climate Action and Service

What can Zonta clubs do?

These community service projects effect the lives of women, men and children. With women as the economic drivers of consumer spending it very much effects their lifestyle and can spark more action by more women in the community. This spark can become more service, advocacy, and climate action leadership. All of these empower women to act in the best interest of our planet which saves humanity.

Ideas:

- **Reduce:**

- Encourage water conservation in your community by hosting a water conservation clinic run by a conservationist
- Host an alternate energy fair or a vendor table at an alternate energy fair
- Have a contest with members or your community to see which home uses the least energy
- Encourage carpooling, bicycling, and walking more – host a speaker on each subject to share their expertise and encourage new healthier habits (for you and the planet)
- Encourage your community leaders to improve public transportation, public safety (reducing violence) by ensuring lighting at bus stops and on streets at night are functional, removing snow on sidewalks/bus stops (reduces injury and loss of workdays)

- **Recycle:**

- Host a recycling clinic run by your local recycling agency
- Host a community flea market
- Contact Terra-Cycle or other plastic recycling company and host a plastic recycling station or community plastic clean up event

- **Reuse:**

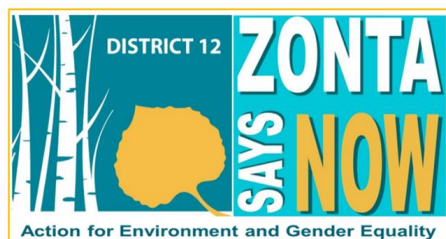
- Run a 'cloth bag' roundup, wash and distribute to families in need
- Have a make a cloth bag event with donated fabric

- **Repair:**

- Host a repair clinic for small appliances or a mending clinic for torn clothing.
- Encourage girls to learn how to repair machinery, appliances, heat and A/C systems, bicycles, and vehicles as a career path. This is a growing industry.
- Coordinate a Habitat for Humanity building volunteer opportunity
- Ask repair shops to offer discounts to single mothers

- **Regift:**

- Host a regift swap or an event that takes gifts and donates them to needy families (adopt a family or neighborhood)



- **Repurpose**

- Gather old items and friends to repurpose old items (repair, upcycle into something completely different, or paint and refresh)

- **Reconsider**

- Have an educational talk or seminar about the value of saving money rather than purchasing (this can include the cost savings of new vs used, repair vs replace, and overspending on items that end up in the trash including food, plastics and textiles)

- **Improve**

- Work with community partners to improve the community parks with low water grasses and proper drainage
- Ask HOAs to encourage xeriscaping in your communities and host a xeriscape garden class with gardening experts or landscape companies
- Promote Say NO to Idling vehicles in your community and around schools to improve air quality by hosting a community forum with ways to further reduce air pollution which reduces respiratory disease which improves public health and reduces absences from school and work (supports parents)
- Conduct a survey about waste (plastic, food, textiles, and other) in your community then work with community officials to offer more education in this area
- Improve awareness about gender inequality and disadvantaged (better term – ignored) communities in your community through service and advocacy.
- Look at your community – nature and energy – and develop connections with city leaders to create campaigns for improvement
- Feature a speaker on any climate and/or gender equality topic that affects the local community in one of your monthly program meetings. Consider opening the meeting to the public.

- **Manage**

- Educate how to manage climate events and other life altering situations:
 - In case of emergency such as no heat or electricity, layoff, disability, or food shortage manage your money with a personal food bank with up to a year supply of stored foods with a class or seminar in storing food by a local food storage expert, farmer, or college extension program
 - Engage in a community activity to learn to plan for evacuation
 - Work with community leaders to ensure safety in shelters in case of evacuation and teach your communities how to manage in this situation
- Hold a CPR class in your community for single moms
- Host a retirement seminar to provide retirees the tools for emergency management, financial management, and personal health management (contact lists, exercise, food)
- After a climate disaster in your community enlist neighboring communities and other Zonta clubs in a clothing, food, furniture, and necessities drive
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