

World YMCA's Resource Group for the Environment (RGE)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Revised: December 2014

Purpose of the Group

To provide an empowering, youth-led space where YMCA leaders from around the world will shape common advocacy messages, actions and strategies for the World YMCA around issues of the environment.¹

The primary goal of the RGE is strategic. It is responsible for helping the YMCA movement to increase its global engagement with environmental issues, by providing a more unified, relevant and collaborative way to tackle the issues and work with other key stakeholders.

The RGE² was formed in August 2012 after the United Nation's Rio+20 conference in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. It was created to improve global YMCA advocacy efforts on the environment by making them more visible, sustainable and inclusive in the YMCA movement.

4 Key Areas of Work

Like all other resources groups, the RGE focuses on 4 key areas of work to accomplish this goal:

1. *Consulting*: Providing advice and guidance to the World YMCA in the implementation of the global advocacy strategy on environmental issues and new initiatives.
2. *Coordinating*: Initiating and supporting green programmes, trainings, events and communications campaigns for the World YMCA movement.
3. *Connecting*: Helping leaders and movements in the YMCA work together and communicate more efficiently.
4. *Creating*: Designing innovative projects and tools that will help advance the group's main objectives and areas of work.

¹ This also includes climate change and sustainable development.

² The RGE is the 1st of 4 global resource groups which correspond to the 4 strategic areas defined in the World YMCA's OUR WAY strategy and were approved at the 18th World Council in Estes Park, Colorado (USA) in June 2014. The 4 areas are: health, environment, employment and civic engagement.

Participation & Membership

- The RGE is open to anyone in the YMCA that is interested in the environment and is already active in the YMCA (i.e. local, national, regional, global.)
 - New participants may attend RGE meetings for 2 months before they are expected to formalise a 1-year commitment to the group.
 - Members are expected to commit to a minimum 1 year of service.
 - Members must have the endorsement of their national movement in order to participate.
 - The resource group is led by 2 co-coordinators appointed and a support staff to be appointed by the World YMCA.
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- Members are expected to complete a free online introductory training course before they are allowed to join a specialised RGE task force or be appointed as an officer.

Guidelines for Meetings

- The RGE will hold general online conference meetings regularly (to be established by the coordinators. RGE currently meets every other week)
- Minutes and recordings of all meetings will be distributed to participants after each session.
- The RGE will maintain an updated contact list of all participants and members.

Scope

While the RGE is not a decision-making body of World YMCA movement, it plays an important role as *a consultative body of the World YMCA office in Geneva, Switzerland*, in the area of environmental advocacy.

The RGE—in conjunction with the World YMCA office—is responsible for conceptualizing, reviewing and streamlining the World YMCA’s global advocacy vision for a set period of time. It will be instrumental in supporting the movement-wide consultation processes by including key YMCA leaders at all levels of the YMCA, with special emphasis on young leaders,

Improved consultation around global advocacy will enable the World YMCA to make decisions regarding environmental issues³ with greater support from the movement through a more transparent and inclusive decision-making process.

³ These global consultation processes will also be implemented for the other 3 key strategic areas and their respective resource groups.