



GLOBAL GRANTS COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Use this form to report community assessment findings to The Rotary Foundation when you apply for a global grant.

Assessing the strengths, weaknesses, needs, and assets of the community you plan to help is an essential first step in designing an effective and sustainable global grant project. See [Community Assessment Tools](#) for full instructions and helpful tips.

This form will help you report the results of your community assessment, and it's required when you apply for any humanitarian or vocational training team grant. Complete a separate form for each beneficiary community (e.g., school, health care system, or village), using information that is both current and specific to each community. Remember, you can't use global grant funds to cover the cost of doing an assessment, but you can use district grant funds.

Beneficiary community or institution

Cheyenne, Wyoming (60,000 residents) and the Crow Creek watershed within Laramie County, WY

Groups in the community that would receive a clear, direct, and immediate benefit from the project

The general public within Cheyenne, the adjacent FE Warren Airforce base residents, and downstream county water users including the agricultural community, would receive direct benefit from a cleaner watershed.

Beneficiaries' demographic information, if relevant to the project

Cleaner watersheds encompass all demographics.

Who conducted the assessment? (check all that apply)

Host sponsor members

- International sponsor members
- A cooperating organization
- University
- Hospital
- Local government
- Other - Local Conservation District representative

Assessment dates

Starting in early 2017, partners of this project conducted several community assessments and information sessions throughout the City of Cheyenne. These assessment/information sessions were mainly conducted by the Laramie County Conservation District as part of the Crow Creek Revival committee work.

What methods did you use? (check all that apply)

- Survey
- Community meeting
- Interview
- Focus group
- Asset inventory
- Community mapping
- Other Information sessions with Q&A

Who from the community participated in the assessment?

The focus group meeting that we held included a city council member, a county commissioner, a Board of Public Utilities representative, two Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality representatives, a member of the Laramie County Conservation District, and a representative from Frog Creek Partners. This meeting was held on April 13th, 2017 at the Laramie County Public Library. We also interviewed the City of Cheyenne's stormwater manager about how this project would help their stormwater pollution problem. Mr. Mike Vinson suggested several potential Gutter Bin sites that could benefit the city's stormwater network. Finally, our partners presented the project and received feedback from multiple organizations including Audobon Society, Mayor Orr's office and Kiwanis Club. All question and answer feedback was positive.

List the community needs you identified that your project would address.

1. Cheyenne needs a cleaner watershed. Crow Creek is listed on Wyoming's impaired streams list for E. coli, sediment, and selenium. This would provide cleaner drinking and agricultural water for the communities downstream of Cheyenne and those who depend upon groundwater that is recharged by Crow Creek.
2. The Gutter Bin project would provide a safer place to recreate in and around Crow Creek with decreased pollution related risks and skin irritation from dirty water. The aquatic life and habitat within the watershed would only benefit from the reduced urban pollution from stormwater discharges.
3. Greater education and awareness towards stormwater pollution. Cheyenne has some very filthy streets and one of the project goals is to increase stormwater pollution awareness. 70% of Americans are unaware that most stormwater is not treated prior to discharging into local waterways. The filth on our streets is washed directly into the local river each time it rains or snow melts.

List any needs you identified that your project would not address.

1. We need a long term commitment to the Clean and Measure Pollution (CAMP) Service. Like any good filter, the Gutter Bin's filter bag needs replacement every 4 to 6 weeks depending upon pollutant load, stormwater infrastructure, and weather. We have multiple options to explore including a partnership with the City.
2. Martin Luther King Jr. Park is adjacent to Crow Creek. It is a high polluting area that could also benefit from Gutter Bins but we focused on downtown.

List the community's assets, or strengths.

1. Crow Creek – Water is our greatest natural resource. Crow Creek is the only major watershed that flows through Cheyenne. Increased urbanization has increased stormwater pollution and runoff from within the City. There is a strong movement in the community to revitalize the health of this valuable watershed for future recreational use and enjoyment.
2. Cheyenne Frontier Days – The annual “Daddy of ‘em All” rodeo attracts over 100,000 visitors from across the nation and world. These visitors will frequent the sites being sought for Gutter Bin installation. This visibility will bring national, if not international, recognition to Rotay's efforts in water quality.
3. A strong revitalization effort to clean up Cheyenne and “Fight the Blight” as Mayor Marian Orr has stated.
4. The “West Edge” of Cheyenne is a part of town with a massive potential to be something truly great for the community. The West Edge includes the Cheyenne Depot Plaza. City officials are making strides to revitalize this part of town and our project will help the cause. These downtown areas are very prone to trash and pollution during public events, thus the reason we chose this area as our pilot project location for the Gutter Bin stormwater filtration system.

Considering the needs and assets you listed, explain how you determined the project's primary goal.

Our primary goal is to clean up Crow Creek. Over the years, Crow Creek has become polluted and needs our help. All three Cheyenne Rotary clubs (plus Rotaract and Interact) have agreed that the Gutter Bin project achieved the primary goal of reducing direct urban pollutants from entering Crow Creek plus the added benefits of: 1. Aligned with Rotary's mission of clean water & sanitation, 2. Satisfied the requirement of the 4-way test, 3. Had an educational component about stormwater pollution, 4. Offered an opportunity to place a functioning piece of artwork in high visibility locations that showcases the efforts of Rotary International.

How would your project's activities accomplish this goal?

The patent pending Gutter Bin stormwater filtration system is designed to remove trash, cigarette butts, hydrocarbons and roadway pollution from stormwater. Because stormwater flows directly from the streets to the watershed via a stormwater network, the only way to remove this pollution is through an inline filtration or detention system. We rationalized that by placing stormwater filters in one of Cheyenne's highest polluting areas we could reduce the amount of pollution conveyed to Crow Creek, thus helping with the Crow Creek Revival (CCR) community project. Furthermore, because of the Gutter Bin's unique design, we believe that by getting people to "put their mind into the gutter", they would start to be more aware of their polluting activities. This awareness would make people think twice before polluting.

What challenges have prevented the community from accomplishing the project's goals?

We have received very good feedback from everyone we have spoken to. Everybody seems to understand the value of Crow Creek and the need to clean it up. I suppose our greatest challenge has been allocating the time to meet with all the stakeholders plus getting grant money to perform the work needed in the actual watershed. The Laramie County Conservation District (LCCD) has received word from their major donors that funds are more likely to be granted if something is done about all of the trash that flows into Crow Creek from Cheyenne's streets each time it rains. Hence the reason we want to install Gutter Bins. This will help LCCD get funds to pay for the larger CCR project. Therefore, grant monies from Rotary International would help leverage a larger clean water project within the community.

How is the community addressing these challenges now?

Minimal effort is applied by the city to clean storm drain infrastructure and prevent stormwater pollution from affecting Crow Creek. A million dollar detention pond was installed at stormwater discharge point, but it only affects a small portion of Cheyenne's water pollution problem.

Why are the project's activities the best way to meet this community need?

It gets the ball rolling. Rotarians are people that can recognize a problem and work to solve it. We see this Gutter Bin project as a way to get the community to start thinking about water pollution and help solve the problem at the same time. The Gutter Bins are a lower cost implementation system that meets stormwater pollution at the earliest point of contact, stopping it before even entering the stormwater system. We are hoping this is just the beginning of a massive revitalization effort to clean up our local watershed for the enjoyment of future generations.