

## Scouts Worldwide Tackle Climate Change

Copenhagen, 7 December 2009 marked the start of the world's most important and anticipated United Nations Climate Change Conference. COP15 was opened by the Danish Prime Minister Lars Rasmussen who set the tone and stakes of the conference, to set a strong, ambitious, just, equitable, effective, operational, exclusive and transparent agreement at the end of the two week period. World Scouting, recognizing that the environment plays a key role in the education of youth in the Movement and to the world at large, sent a delegation to Copenhagen with a clear message: **Climate Change: Scouts are part of the solution.**

Climate change is the world's biggest environmental challenge. It will affect the young people of today and future generations. Scouting develops young people to be good citizens able to play a constructive role in society, with the vision of 'Creating a Better World'. It is essential that everyone contributes to the challenge of climate change and we are committed to ensuring that Scouts are part of the solution.

In addition to the official COP15 delegation, 32 Scouts from around the world came together for the inaugural Scouts for Climate Summit, which ran from 14 to 18 December. These international Scouts participated in a series of workshops and training to enable and empower them to mobilise their own National Scout Organisations to engage in climate projects.

The Climate Summit Scouts brought with them projects that are to be initiated on their return home, to enable Scouts to work as one to reduce our impact on the climate.

Angela Petrow, Branch Commissioner Environment, Western Australian Branch represented Australia at the Scouts for Climate Summit. Australia's project is to install solar panels on Scout facilities across the country, in a bid to reduce energy use and therefore reduce our contribution to climate change.

To learn more about projects that are taking place around the world, view the Scouts for Climate Summit video at youtube or visit [www.scout.org/environment](http://www.scout.org/environment).