



The Resource Advisory Group



The Resource Advisory Group provides advice and information to help Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary members make a positive impact on the environment.

The Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Programs (ACSP) are education and certification programs that help businesses, golf courses, and other organizations protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them. Members receive resources and guidance from Audubon International, as well as from Resource Advisory Groups, who offer advice and information locally to help members implement environmental management practices. This fact sheet offers basic information about the program and the role of the Resource Advisory Group to help you get off to a successful start.

What does the ACSP involve?

ACSP members begin by completing a Site Assessment to take stock of environmental resources and any potential liabilities. They then develop an environmental management plan that fits the organization's unique setting, goals, staff, budget, and time.

Audubon International provides members with a site-specific report, based on the organization's Site Assessment, and works with each member to implement its plan.

By implementing standard management practices in a variety of environmental performance areas and documenting its efforts and results, a member is eligible for designation as a *Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary*. Certification demonstrates the organization's leadership, commitment, and high standards of environmental management.

Who serves on the Resource Advisory Group?

Employees and managers or board members that oversee the property, clients or members, and people from the local community with expertise in wildlife, water, or environmental management typically make up the group.

It is up to each member to decide who will serve on the group. There is no required minimum or maximum number of members.



Resource Advisory Group members contribute their skills to help ACSP members. Karen Shragg, director of the City of Richfield's Wood Lake Nature Center in Minnesota, conducted a bird survey at Braemar Golf Course and discovered that golf and the environment do not have to be at odds with each other.

What is the role of the Resource Advisory Group?

Members of Resource Advisory Groups serve four main functions:

- **Technical knowledge**— Group members offer technical expertise to assist the ACSP member. For example, they may develop species lists, provide wildlife information, consult on chemical reduction strategies, or provide on-site consultation.
- **Volunteer work**— Group members may volunteer time to implement and monitor specific projects. They may check nest boxes, record wildlife species, or develop an educational brochure or display.
- **Publicity**— The Resource Advisory Group may help to publicize the positive environmental efforts of the ACSP member.
- **Continuity**— Conservation efforts often falter when staff assignments on ACSP properties change. The Resource Advisory Group provides continuity and helps to ensure that long-term goals are achieved.

How often does the group meet?

The time commitment involved in Resource Advisory Groups varies greatly among ACSP members. Some meet on a regular basis to organize and plan projects, while others are available via telephone to answer questions and serve as a reference for technical information.

Where do I go for more information?

Audubon International's website, www.auduboninternational.org, is an excellent source of environmental resources and program information. You should also feel free to call Audubon International staff at (518) 767-9051 or email us at acss@auduboninternational.org with questions or to receive more information.

Audubon International is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3), organization dedicated to educating, assisting, and inspiring millions of people from all walks of life to protect and sustain the land, water, wildlife, and natural resources around them.

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