



FSM Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project "Protect our Home, from Land to SEA"

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47th World Environment Day in Kosrae

Utwe, Kosrae — On June 5, 2019, the Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA), in collaboration with the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM), state government and NGO partners, conducted a coastal clean-up in Utwe in observation of the 47th World Environment Day (WED). This year's theme was "air pollution". The 200 participants include community members from Utwe Municipality, the Utwe Municipal Government, FSM-Ridge to Reef Project, Department of Transportation & Infrastructure, Department of Resources and Economic Affairs, Department of Health, Kosrae Conservation and Safety Organization, Kosrae Association of Tour Operators, Kosrae Women Association, International Organization for Migration and Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.



Funded under the R2R Project, the coastal cleanup is an effort that aims to support the protection of biodiversity through improved waste management and pollution control in Kosrae. At 8am, participants gathered at the Utwe Municipal Office for a brief opening remark from the Director of KIRMA, Mr. Blair Charley. In his remark, Mr. Charley stated that the observation of WED rotates every year around the different communities in Kosrae. This year's event in Utwe is intended to promote a safe and clean environment through discouraging the burning and disposal of trash into Kosrae's coastal and marine environment.



An overview of the main activities of the day was also shared to help guide and ensure the safety of the participants. Prior to being deployed, participants were provided with promotional t-shirts and bumper stickers to recognize their support for the event. The clean up included removal of car wrecks and tons of other types of solid

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waste found on the coastal areas of Utwe. A total of 16 car wrecks were removed in addition to 17 other car wrecks that were collected on May 31 - totaling 33 car wrecks removed from Utwe. Roughly 14,946 gallons of other types of solid waste were collected and transported to the dumpsite for proper handling and disposal.

Following the clean-up, a question and answer (Q&A) session was streamed live on the radio to raise more awareness among the general public around air pollution, its environmental impacts and how citizens can reduce their contribution to the issue.

The people of Utwe would like to acknowledge the support and assistance from KIRMA, DECEM and all partners including state government agencies and NGOs who participated in the cleanup. Additionally, KIRMA and the FSM Ridge to Reef Project would like to extend their sincere appreciation to all partners for their support and collaboration in ensuring the event was a success.

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