

JOIN US ON THE **Green** Journey



DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY®



DETROIT ZOO • BELLE ISLE NATURE ZOO

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The Detroit Zoological Society (DZS) is helping to create a healthier environment for our animals, our visitors and the planet. We are continuing our journey to environmental sustainability – which began with critical species conservation work – by reducing our environmental impact while advancing regenerative solutions. *Greenprint* is our unique green strategic plan that aligns with DZS's commitment to progressive resource management and environmental leadership. It is the map for our journey toward environmental sustainability.

**“Green”** is widely used to describe environmentally conscious actions and programs. The Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo define green as a fundamental value that moves us toward our goal of environmentally responsible operations. The DZS is committed to being a green leader, an active educational resource and a showcase in the community for the best environmental policy and action by integrating literacy, awareness and responsibility in all operations.




#### Awards

- Top Honors, 2015 Green Award with the Association of Zoos & Aquariums
- 2015 Advocate of the Year with the Michigan League of Conservation Voters







## The Journey:

Follow us through the steps we continue to take on our journey:

### Energy and Water

- Installed LED lights in the parking structure and we continue to make energy-efficient lighting upgrades throughout the Detroit Zoo
- Replaced gas-powered golf carts with solar/electric hybrid carts
- Switched diesel vehicles to biodiesel
- Providing bicycles for staff to use on the grounds at the Detroit Zoo
- Installed zoo-wide water bottle refill stations
- Using two propane-powered mowers on the grounds at the Detroit Zoo
- Installed touchless sensor faucets and low-flow toilets in restrooms
- Replacing traditional hot water heaters with tankless hot water heaters
- Installed rain barrels and planted rain gardens at the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo
- Eliminated the sale of bottled water, preventing over 62,000 single-use plastic bottles from entering the environment every year.
- Invested over \$3 million into energy efficiency projects, saving the Zoo \$275,000 in annual utility costs
- Installed permeable pavement along the new Cotton Family Wolf Wilderness



### Materials Choices and Recycling

- Constructed a boardwalk with a material made of 50% plastic bags, 45% recycled hardwood and 5% polymers
- Recycling metal, glass, plastic, paper, cardboard, light bulbs, clothing, IT equipment, cell phones, inkjet cartridges and batteries
- Composting animal waste at an urban agriculture site for urban gardens and farms
- Using Green Seal cleaning products throughout our grounds
- We use no fertilizers on our 47-acre lawn
- Enacted a green purchasing policy that promotes investment in sustainable goods

### Operations

- Operating a Tier 3 Green-Certified Restaurant at the Arctic Cafe
- Created a Green Team that suggests and acts on green initiatives
- Using electronic communication and documents instead of paper, and printing on both sides of office paper
- Created the position of Manager of Sustainability, dedicated to developing and managing current and future green initiatives



### Education

- Developed Shades of Green, a guide to personal practices to help people reduce their ecological footprint
- Providing educational programs discussing our place in the natural world and how our choices can make a difference and improve the lives of wildlife and humans alike

## Next Steps:

### Green Goals at the Detroit Zoo and Belle Isle Nature Zoo

- Energy efficiency improvement programs will continue to be evaluated and implemented as new exhibits are developed and old exhibits are maintained
- Incorporating green and smart design features into all our new and ongoing construction projects
- Improve storm water management by incorporating permeable surfaces into new and ongoing maintenance projects
- Convert animal and food waste into energy through the development and construction of an anaerobic digestion system
- Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity use by 20-25% below 2009 levels
- Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from natural gas consumption by 20-25% below 2009 levels
- Reduce water consumption by 20-25% below 2009 levels
- Zero waste to landfills by 2020
- Continue to build awareness through engagement of staff, guests and community
- To model innovations in sustainability, reducing our impact and inspire others

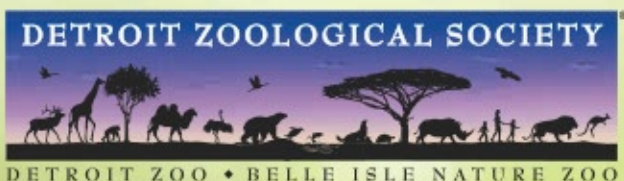


## Bringing You Along, Too:

### *Learning as a Community to be More Sustainable*

Our journey so far has taught us that we know what sustainability looks like, but that we will never be done learning how to be more sustainable. As an educational institution, the Detroit Zoological Society is committed to sharing this learning experience with our colleagues and the community so that all of southeast Michigan can join us on our journey to find ways to improve regional sustainability. We are working with like-minded environmental organizations to lead an assessment of green literacy in the community. With that information we will work to build awareness around environmental issues among our visitors and all our neighbors. Together we can reduce the environmental impact of our community and grow ourselves closer to a sustainable future.

To support the Detroit Zoological Society's green initiatives or for more information, please visit: [www.detroitzoo.org](http://www.detroitzoo.org) or contact Rachel Handbury, DZS Manager of Sustainability, at (248) 336-5838 or [rhandbury@dzs.org](mailto:rhandbury@dzs.org).



[www.detroitzoo.org/about/greenprint](http://www.detroitzoo.org/about/greenprint)

