

Woodland Park Zoo hosts Strawless in Seattle wrap party

SEATTLE—Over 2 million plastic straws have been eliminated from Seattle through the [Lonely Whale Foundation's "Strawless in Seattle"](#) campaign during the month of September. To celebrate this milestone, the Lonely Whale Foundation, actor and UN Environment Goodwill Ambassador Adrian Grenier, who also serves as Dell's Social Good Advocate, Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson and Strawless in Seattle supporters gathered at the Seattle wrap party on September 26 at Woodland Park Zoo.



The Strawless in Seattle campaign drew support and participation from over 150 local institutions who incorporated sustainable alternatives to plastic straws in their establishments. The campaign was part of the Lonely Whale Foundation's [Strawless Ocean's](#) effort to remove 500 million plastic straws from the U.S. waste stream in 2017.

During the wrap party, the Lonely Whale Foundation revealed the local celebrity athlete behind Seattle's disappearing plastic straws. The guessing game, launched by the [Strawless in Seattle](#) PSA, encouraged both Seattleites and supporters nationwide to vote for the local celebrity athlete behind Seattle's disappearing plastic straws. Athletes in the running consisted of: Mitch Haniger (Seattle Mariners, MLB), Russell Wilson (Seattle Seahawks, NFL), Breanna Stewart (Seattle Storm, WNBA), Beverly Yanez (Seattle Reign, NWSL), and Brian Schmetzer (Seattle Sounders, FC). While all five participants have committed to [#StopSucking](#) on plastic straws, Russell Wilson was announced as the celebrity athlete behind the Strawless in Seattle campaign.

In addition to hearing from Grenier and Wilson, those at the party heard from Chef Tom Douglas and Lonely Whale Executive Director Dune Ives, as well as Seattle Public Utilities CEO Mami Hara, who announced the Utilities will make all of Seattle strawless in 2018, and Woodland Park Zoo's President and CEO Alejandro Grajal, PhD, who kicked off the event.

"Woodland Park Zoo is honored to be a part of Strawless in Seattle," said Grajal. "The zoo has been a strawless institution since the early 1980s, and we're thrilled the rest of Seattle is joining in on this great cause. We care about what is best for all animals on this planet and we know that in order to protect them, we have to protect their habitats from the devastation of deforestation and harmful pollutants such as plastic. By phasing out plastic straws at the zoo, and in the city of Seattle, we are demonstrating how simple actions we take can help save animals both here at the zoo and all over the world."

Since phasing out plastic straws in the 1980s, Woodland Park Zoo has saved more than 10.2 million straws from going to a landfill; that's the equivalent in weight to 330,000 plastic bottles—or the amount of plastic garbage 80 American adults generates in one year. As the region's premier zoo, and in keeping with Seattle's climate partnership goals, Woodland Park Zoo seeks to raise the bar of

environmental performance and become the community's most hands-on, living showcase of sustainability.

Woodland Park Zoo demonstrates its environmental commitment every day through: the sustainable building and living roof in Zoomazium which became the first building among zoos nationally to receive gold certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED), the popular Zoo Doo compost; extensive zoowide recycling; backyard habitat workshops; sustainable food concessions; solar panels on the Historic Carousel and in the Family Farm; employee transportation alternatives and dozens more.

Woodland Park Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums and certified by the rigorous American Humane Conservation program. The Humane Certified™ seal of approval is another important validation of the zoo's long-standing tradition of meeting the highest standards in animal welfare. Woodland Park Zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats through more than 35 field projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. By inspiring people to care and act, Woodland Park Zoo is making a difference in our planet's future ecological health and sustainability. Free Wi-Fi is available for zoo guests, made possible through products donated by Cisco. For more information, visit www.zoo.org.

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