

Celebrate Earth Day the Woodland Park Zoo way

Small actions make a big impact on the planet

Earth Day is right around the corner on Monday, April 22, and Woodland Park Zoo is encouraging the public to join in and celebrate the annual event by making choices and taking actions that help save wildlife every day.



How to Help at Home

- **Reduce plastic waste.** One of the biggest ways to support conservation at home is by reducing waste, and ditching “single use” for more durable, sustainably sourced products. Being mindful of plastic waste is a great place to start. As many as 30 billion water bottles are disposed of in U.S. landfills each year, where they take approximately 450 years to break down. Single use plastic items now make up much of the trash in oceans. Instead of drinking water from disposable plastic bottles, consider buying a reusable water bottle and refilling from the tap.

Woodland Park Zoo recently stopped selling single-use plastic beverage bottles and completed installation on 10 water bottle refilling stations across the zoo, thanks to funding provided by the Seattle Public Utilities Waste-Free Communities Matching Grant.

- **Shop wisely.** From [coffee](#) to [seafood](#), from [paper](#) to [palm oil](#), consumers can choose products that reduce pressure on the environment and help save animals.

When shopping for new electronics, consider recycling the old ones—it can help [save gorillas](#) and their habitats! Each cell phone or handheld electronic (e-reader, MP3 player, hard drive, etc.) dropped off at Woodland Park Zoo is turned over to [ECO-CELL](#), which reuses mineral ore from these devices to reduce the demand for unsustainable coltan mining in the Congo that destroys habitat for critically endangered gorillas.

- **Help backyard habitats.** It’s simple to keep plants healthy and protect wildlife: reducing or eliminating lawn and garden chemicals helps [protect water](#) in local streams, rivers and lakes. [Planting native plants](#) helps provide food and shelter for wildlife. Using compost transforms waste into a valuable gardening resource—to get the scoop on

Woodland Park Zoo's wildly popular compost Zoo Doo or learn how to make your own compost, [click here](#).

- **Stand up for wildlife conservation.** From elephants and orangutans to otters and pond turtles, Woodland Park Zoo supports more than 35 wildlife conservation projects both in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. Learn more about the zoo's conservation partners and how to help them [here](#).

Take the challenge!

Woodland Park Zoo and Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium are thrilled to help mobilize people across the Seattle-Tacoma metropolitan area (all of Snohomish, King and Pierce counties) to join the City Nature Challenge— a friendly nature-observation competition. City Nature Challenge 2019 runs from April 26 - 29, 2019. Learn more [here](#).

Green Zoo

Woodland Park Zoo's [award-winning sustainability efforts](#) can be seen across the entire zoo. Animal exhibits are designed with the zoo's mission in mind— like the Humboldt penguin exhibit, which saves more than 3 million gallons of water every year! Additionally, more than 75% of Woodland Park Zoo's waste is diverted from landfill thanks to zoowide recycling and the Zoo Doo composting program. When it comes to energy and carbon, the zoo has committed to reducing carbon emissions by 25% below 2009 levels by 2022.

Earth Day 2019

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22. It was first celebrated in 1970, and has now expanded into a worldwide environmental movement, coordinated globally by the [Earth Day Network](#).

Founded in 1899, Woodland Park Zoo engages more than a million visitors of all ages, backgrounds, abilities, and walks of life in extraordinary experiences with animals, inspiring them to make conservation a priority in their lives. The zoo is helping to save animals and their habitats in the wild through more than 35 wildlife conservation projects in the Pacific Northwest and around the world. 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. Visit www.zoo.org and follow the zoo on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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