

Combatting Climate Change: 10 Things We Do at the Zoo

To coincide with the United Nations Climate Summit today, Woodland Park Zoo wants to share 10 ways it's working to address climate change. The zoo is committed to unlocking nature's potential as a climate solution, while empowering individuals, communities and networks of change-makers to do more within their spheres of influence.



1. Support youth

Participate in Seattle Youth Climate Action Network, attended last Friday's student-led Climate Justice Fest and March to support Seattle youth leading climate action, and host ZooCorps Climate Action Team for teens to engage zoo visitors and the community about climate action.

2. Wildlife conservation

Created Papua New Guinea's first community-managed protected area for the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program and supports land use planning, biodiversity monitoring, wildlife research and improved livelihoods. In the Pacific Northwest, the zoo deployed remote cameras and harness technology for conservation of climate-sensitive species in the Cascade Mountains, including wolverines and lynx.

3. Divert waste

More than 80% of Woodland Park Zoo waste is diverted from landfill thanks to on-the-ground sorting efforts from staff, guests and Zoo Doo program. The Zoo Doo yard's compost system turns approximately 625 tons of animal manure and bedding materials into about 750 cubic yards of nutrient-rich Zoo Doo compost each year.

4. Sustainable food

Provide sustainable, organic food for Woodland Park Zoo's animals (more than 10,000 pounds a year!) and healthy menu options for guests.

5. Advocacy

Engage in advocacy around public policy including protection for the Endangered Species Act and support the carbon fee initiative.

6. Procure sustainable vendors

Established qualifiers for sustainable procurement by purchasing products and selecting outside vendors that have a clearly demonstrable commitment to responsible material and labor sourcing, resource consumption and conservation, and packaging and shipping practices.

7. Contribute to neighborhood ecosystem

Last year, zoo staff and volunteers planted 43 trees, offsetting 216.5 tons of carbon emissions. The zoo's forest canopy and dense tree coverage is vital to the neighborhood urban ecosystem that helps sequester carbon, produce oxygen and serve as habitat to local wildlife.

8. Support conservation training

Support ranger training in Kyrgyzstan's Tien Shans Mountains to prevent hunting and protect endangered snow leopards, and train local volunteers in surveying for

amphibian eggs in nearby ponds and wetlands to gather data on amphibian breeding and ecosystem health.

9. Eliminating single-use plastic

Working towards a goal of zero waste by 2030, the zoo has worked to eliminate single-use plastic, such as plastic bottles and straws, from material streams.

10. Invest in green energy

Added a solar thermal unit to the zoo's greenhouse to pre-heat hot water from the sun, maintain a fleet of alternative fuel vehicles including hybrids, pure electric and propane-powered, purchase green electricity from the City of Seattle from 100% renewable resources, and installed 12 stormwater run-off retention structures, which manage outflow and help prevent flooding and erosion in rivers and streams. The zoo's West Entrance infiltration system was built to prevent the runoff of ~975,000 gal./year.

What can you do?

If you want to get involved, here are five ways you can help fight climate change by protecting the environment and wildlife:

1. Protect orangutan forests by choosing candy made by companies committed to certified **sustainable palm oil**. Find a forest-friendly shopping list at zoo.org/palmoil
2. Bring your old cell phones and handheld electronic waste to the **ECO-CELL** bin at the zoo entrances. The zoo recycles the minerals inside to decrease demand for mining in gorilla habitats.
3. Purchase **coffee for a cause** at the zoo or any Seattle-based Caffe Vita to support farmers who protect tree kangaroos in Papua New Guinea.
4. Garden with compost and native Northwest plants to avoid pesticides and provide **healthy gardens for pollinators**.
5. Choose **animal-friendly travel** souvenirs while traveling that do not harm wildlife, such as avoiding elephant ivory, rhino horn and turtle shell. Find travel tips at zoo.org/traffic

To support Woodland Park Zoo's sustainability efforts, please consider participating in **All for Animals Giving Day on Oct. 2, 2019**, to protect wildlife, inspire future generations and care for animals. Your donation matters, and for the zoo's first-ever Giving Day, eight campaigns give *you* the option of how you want to support your zoo. Visit givingday.zoo.org to make your gift and make a difference. Early giving is now open.

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