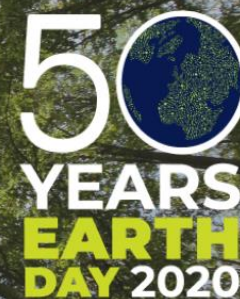


# ZOOS

**Earth Day 2020  
Menu of Engagement**



Zoos provide diverse, accessible spaces for people of all ages to come together to learn about the world's biodiversity. Zoos promote species conservation through experiential learning. These experiences help to create a sense of understanding as well as stewardship, inspiring further education and action. For **Earth Day's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**, utilize your zoo to engage your community in a variety of fun, educational and impactful learning opportunities!

## 2020 Program Engagement Ideas

### Global Teach-In

The first Earth Day was a nationwide [teach-in](#) for communities to learn about and discuss local environmental issues. Host an event on a 2020 campaign or Earth Challenge topic;

- Biodiversity loss
- Insect Populations
- Food Waste
- Plastic Pollution
- Endangered Species
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Local climate change impacts
- Show environmental documentaries and provide a panel discussion or Q&A
- Host a speaker series or panel discussion on local environmental issues

### Protect Our Species

[Countless species](#) on Earth are threatened by human development. A balanced ecosystem is dependent on all species to fully function! Use your zoo to help people connect with local species and ones around the world.

- Share a monthly call for action on endangered and threatened species
- Lead a zoo tour and highlight the connections between various species
- Host a teach-in on building habitat for local species
- Organize a camping experience in the zoo
- Maintain a seed bank for community members to use
- Host workshops on how to minimize residential impacts on wildlife

**Register your event at [EarthDay.org](https://www.earthday.org)**



## Artists for the Earth

[Art](#) is a powerful tool to communicate messages, trigger emotions and inspire action! Invite your community to participate in one of these activities;

- Host an art exhibition with an opening reception
- Invite artists to create pieces for visiting or new exhibits
- Eco-fashion show
- Interactive art workshop to make animal portraits using plant dyes
- Practice yoga with animals and embrace their natural beauty
- Paint a mural in the community

## Food and Climate

Only one thing can make communities coming together to learn even more enticing...[FOOD](#)! Host an event to bring people together to learn about the impacts of our food system and learn about delicious plant-based alternatives.

- Host a catering event and promote vegetarian/vegan options
- Organize a plant-based potluck
- Host a teach-in on climate change and provide sustainably sourced food and drinks
- Provide composting bins and host a composting workshop
- Implement meatless Mondays and offer more plant-based options in food stations

## Earth Challenge 2020

Citizen science is an amazing way for global citizens to contribute to valuable scientific research. Zoos can support [Earth Challenge](#) by serving as a community hub for people to access and learn about Earth Challenge data and local environmental issues.

- Serve as an Earth Challenge site where people can come to with Earth Challenge (citizen science) questions
- Provide materials and resources like tablets to collect, enter and review data
- Help participants with data analysis
- Organize Earth Challenge data collection days and events

## End Plastic Pollution

[Plastic](#) is a huge part of our daily lives, but there are tons of great alternatives to use to help the planet! Zoos can host events for the [Great Global Cleanup](#).

- Host an event for the Great Global Cleanup in the community
- Host a grocery bag repurposing workshop in marine exhibits
- Highlight effects of plastic pollution on wildlife on signage and in tours
- Host an arts and crafts night using recycled materials
- Ban or replace single use plastics in your facility
- Provide recycling bins and instructional signs



**Register your event at [EarthDay.org](https://www.earthday.org)**