

Edmonton Valley Zoo Sustainability Plan

Scott B.

Report Summary

In light of global climate change, habitat loss and mass species extinctions, pollution, unethical production of goods and services, and other world issues, the Edmonton Valley Zoo (EVZ) and the City of Edmonton (CoE) are committed to reducing their ecological footprint and procuring ethically sourced goods and services, all while providing a happy and healthy community-focused environment for Edmonton's citizens and guests alike. Practices and procedures that were once deemed socially acceptable, like pouring chemical waste directly into our waterways, are now discouraged if not outright illegal. This is a result of people growing as a global community, and a deeper understanding of our connections to and interactions with local and global systems. This is a process of learning.

There are many professional and personal practices which are considered common ground, "normal", and sustainable by today's standards but will be taboo in the near future. As we learn and grow, opportunities to make positive impacts on the world will become more apparent and easier to adapt. This is also really exciting. There is ample opportunity for organizations the world over to not only integrate established sustainable practices into their operations but to also discover and develop practices that are completely unprecedented anywhere. A chance "to boldly go where no one has gone before". This is what is meant by being a sustainability leader.

Being a city facility, the EVZ is committed to the Envisio (ISO 14001) certification while simultaneously being committed to zoo specific sustainable practices. As such, this sustainability plan encompasses aspects of Envisio, AZA's Green Guides, and valuable sustainability lessons learned from other zoo and aquarium organizations. The EVZ has made some amazing steps towards a sustainable tomorrow including rain/run-off water capture systems, the use of onsite solar panels at multiple locations across the site, the Conservation Station, the LEED Silver certified EdVenture Lodge and plaza, amongst many others. This momentum should continue as the Zoo further distinguishes itself as a true sustainable leader.

This plan focuses on 10 categories of sustainability and how they relate to the EVZ: awareness, innovation, chemical management, purchasing, construction, waste management, energy management, ecological conservation, water management, and fuel management. All recommendations in this report fall under one or more of these pillars. The key recommendations consist of short term, mid term and long term goals that primacy should be given to.