

**GREEN SUMMIT AGENDA**  
**Saturday, March 16 – Sunday, March 17**  
**&**  
**Tuesday, March 19**

**Day 1: Saturday, March 16**  
**Lower Level, Room 3**

8:00 am – 10:00 am

**Welcome & Opening Session**

This session sets the stage for three days of content and conversations around sustainability, regenerative practice, and climate change - and how our profession is uniquely obligated to catalyze and accelerate action.

10:00 am – 10:30 am – **Networking Time**

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

**Reimagining Waste**

In this session we'll dive into the ins and outs of the waste industry, waste reduction as a sustainability strategy, and breaking the culture of disposability to build a regenerative one. Rethinking waste is not just a necessity but an opportunity for innovation and sustainability. Our speakers will guide you through the intricacies of waste diversion strategies, showcasing how we can shift from a linear "take-make-dispose" model to a circular approach that aims for net zero waste.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – **Lunch Time**

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**Sustainable Procurement Resources**

*Why should we care about procurement throughout our organizations?* This session will help answer and provide new resources for this critical question. Procurement typically represents the single largest contributor to your institution's GHG emissions - and likely the least understood and acted on. A key objective of this session will be for participants to feel confident discussing the complexity of sustainable procurement decision making. Attendees will better understand the role their purchasing decisions have on not only their greenhouse gas emissions but other sustainability goals and priorities, such as plastic pollution, equity, and critical ecosystems. The session will include a workshop to support participants having the tools they need to start, or continue, the conversation with their colleagues around setting organizational sustainable procurement priorities.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm – **Networking Time**

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

**Uncovering Sustainability Funding for Your Facility: Learn more about Local and Federal Programs**

This session will highlight the urgency of facilities taking advantage of sustainability focused funding provided by legislative developed programs including the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) as well as your local city opportunities. It will illustrate the processes to jump-start engaging with these financially beneficial programs. In addition, this session will touch on state regulations and requirements. The panel will also discuss examples within institutions across the country and will offer unique perspectives including a speaker from the Memphis Office of Sustainability and Resilience. An audience engaged discussion with the panel will support next steps for all attendees.

## **Day 2: Sunday, March 17**

### **Lower Level, Room 3**

8:00 am – 8:15 am – **Welcome and Review**

8:15 am – 9:45 am

#### **Organization-Wide Engagement in Sustainability Through Organizational Culture and Staff Training**

Join us for this interactive session to learn about the importance of culture, engagement, and training across all departments to ensure institution-wide sustainability culture and engagement in and support of environmental initiatives. We will share best practices from multiple institutions, and have time for group discussion and brainstorming around wins, failures, and opportunities. The session will also touch on the DEIA lens of training and organizational culture, and how a robust learning, growth, and development culture is needed to ensure teams have the time to prioritize training and the motivation to grow as a result of training.

9:45 am – 10:00 am – **Networking Time**

10:00 am – 10:30 am

#### **Green Awards**

This brief session will review the annual Green Award guidelines, criteria, and examples of previous winners. This award, established in 2011 is provided at the AZA Annual Meetings and recognizes institutions for their leading sustainability work and their efforts to further develop more resilient and regenerative operations. This award is intended to recognize green programs that exist institution-wide in AZA member zoos and aquariums to reduce the environmental impact of the organization from a business operations standpoint. The session will touch on recent revisions to the Award criteria. The GSAG representatives will be reinforcing that qualified institutions should put forth an application for the award to be recognized.

10:30 am – 12:00 pm

#### **GSAG Green Guides Workshop**

As GSAG works to update and revise the current AZA Green Guides, there is an opportunity to identify the current knowledge and gaps within our community of sustainability practitioners. This workshop will be the start of a process that will result in the accumulation and development of a suite of resources tailored to the unique needs of our industry and profession.

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm – **Lunch Time**

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

#### **GSAG Data Dashboard**

In response to community member requests to be able to visualize their green practices data over time, or be benchmarked with peers on certain metrics, GSAG has collaborated with two of our commercial member partners to pilot an interactive dashboard. Attendees will have an opportunity to review the tool and provide feedback on its value to their organization and work.

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

#### **ACP Greenhouse Gas Tool: Measure Your Emissions with a Tool Designed Specifically for Aquariums and Zoos**

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions tracking is an essential component of any organization's decarbonization strategy. Whether you're looking to complete your first GHG inventory or continue annual tracking, measuring your emissions on a regular basis supplies you with key metrics for climate action planning and performance. With the support of the Aquarium Conservation Partnership (ACP)'s

Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, Verdis Group developed a GHG inventory tool specifically for aquariums and zoos, designed to put the power of measuring emissions and tracking progress towards decarbonization targets in the hands of zoo and aquarium staff. In this workshop, you will learn how to approach GHG accounting at your organization and gain hands-on experience using the new GHG calculator tool. At the end of the session, you will be equipped to enhance GHG emissions tracking at your organization and leverage the suite of resources available through the ACP's GHG inventory toolkit.

4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

**Botanical Garden Sustainability Tour**

Botanical Garden staff will provide a sustainability tour of one or two local facilities - depending on time taken at the first location. Transportation to the sites are not being provided. A meet up location will be shared at Summit. Be prepared for some walking and socializing outside.

**Day 3: Tuesday, March 19**

**Lower Level, Room 7**

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

**Collaborative Thinking Session: Integrating Sustainability into our Conservation and DEIA Work**

As stewards of biodiversity and advocates for conservation, zoos and aquariums play a pivotal role in shaping attitudes and behaviors towards environmental sustainability. However, true progress cannot be achieved without addressing the interconnected issues of diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within our institutions and communities.

This session will provide a platform for attendees to share insights, challenges, and best practices in integrating diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility into their sustainability commitments. Through interactive discussions, case studies, and collaborative exercises, participants will:

- Explore the intersections between environmental sustainability and social justice, recognizing the disproportionate impacts of environmental degradation on marginalized communities.
- Identify strategies for fostering diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility within zoo and aquarium operations, programs, and initiatives.
- Discuss the importance of centering diverse voices and perspectives in conservation decision-making processes.
- Share practical tools and resources for promoting inclusivity and accessibility in visitor experiences and educational outreach efforts.
- Collaborate on developing actionable steps to advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility goals within the broader conservation community.
- By coming together to address these critical issues, we can strengthen our collective commitment to environmental sustainability while fostering more inclusive and equitable practices within our organizations and beyond.

Join us in shaping a future where conservation efforts are truly accessible and beneficial to all.