



# Pre-Summit

## OPTIONAL PARTICIPATION

### ZOO DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

**2:00 to 4:00 PM**

#### **Sustainability Open House at Zoo Atlanta**

Join this exclusive sustainability sneak peak with Zoo Atlanta's Green Team! Please indicate your participation in the Green Summit registration: <https://bit.ly/GreenSummit2026> or scan the following QR code.



# March 25 & 26

## GREEN SUMMIT SCHEDULE

### DAY ONE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

**9:30AM**

#### **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

**10:00AM**

#### **Green Teams as a Pathway to Staff Engagement**

*Green Teams exist in many AZA institutions, but how effectively are they driving meaningful change? Together we'll explore the fundamental philosophy of workplace Green Teams: their purpose, potential, and pitfalls. We'll examine critical questions facing sustainability and staff leaders.*



The 2026 Green Summit is hosted by the Green Summit Planning Committee from AZA's Green Scientific Advisory Group. We thank Georgia Aquarium and Zoo Atlanta for spotlighting sustainability in the Capital of the South.

We're here to help! Reach out to the Green Summit Planning Committee co-leads with any questions: Claudia Pineda Tibbs ([cptibbs@mbayaq.org](mailto:cptibbs@mbayaq.org)) & Allie Tilson ([atilson@aqua.org](mailto:atilson@aqua.org))



# March 25 & 26

## GREEN SUMMIT SCHEDULE

### DAY ONE

### CONTINUED

#### 11:00AM

##### **Featured Presentation: Waste Eliminator**

*Atlanta's premier sustainable waste management company will discuss compost-focused sustainability programs as well as comprehensive recycling, specialty material recovery, and product disposition services - demonstrating how strong customer support translates sustainability goals into real-world results.*

#### 12:00PM

##### **Lunch**

#### 1:30PM

##### **Sustainability Tour at State Farm Arena**

*State Farm Arena has reached an impressive sustainability milestone by diverting more than 10 million pounds of waste from landfills since the start of their zero-waste journey. Together we'll participate in a guided sustainability tour with State Farm Arena's Sustainability Manager. RSVP required. Carpool will be coordinated for attendees who are from out of town.*



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# March 25 & 26

## GREEN SUMMIT SCHEDULE

### DAY TWO

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

##### 8:00AM

##### **Day One Reflection**

##### 8:30AM

##### **Zoo and Aquarium Waste Challenges**

*This interactive session explores the similar challenges Zoos and Aquariums with waste management while navigating different barriers. We'll hear from representatives of both facility types before breaking into facilitated discussions to identify common ground, share regional resources, and explore how our efforts impact wildlife both within and beyond our organizations' walls.*

##### 10:10AM

##### **Don't Recreate the Wheel: How Denver Zoo Inspired Monterey Bay Aquarium to Pursue Waste Signage and Bin Standardization**

*At Green Summit 2025, the Denver Zoo shared how they took standardization to a whole new level engaging the entire city to provide waste signage consistency to its residents and visitors. Learn about this case-study and hear how Monterey Bay Aquarium has been inspired to follow a similar process. This session explores the benefits of coordinated efforts and the opportunities for collaboration within an organization. We'll discuss the potential for broader adoption across the AZA community and consider how collective action can strengthen our impact.*

##### 11:00AM

##### **Waste Diversion Strategy Planning**

*Through facilitated discussions and scenario-based activities, we'll examine strategies for initiating and advancing waste diversion efforts at your organization. At the end of this session you'll walk away having established a waste strategy that can be vital in gaining organizational buy-in. Learn how others have structured this work and spend some time brainstorming with others.*



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# March 25 & 26

## GREEN SUMMIT SCHEDULE

### DAY TWO

### CONTINUED

**12:00PM**

**Lunch**

**1:00PM**

#### **Artificial Intelligence in Public-Facing Venues**

*AI is starting to show up in more public-facing sustainability settings, from smart sorting stations to interactive guest engagement tools, and many zoos and aquariums are beginning to explore what responsible, mission-aligned use can look like. This session will look at how guest-facing AI can support waste diversion and sustainability goals while also enhancing the visitor experience through education, entertainment, and real-time engagement. Grounded in real-world deployments, we'll discuss what these systems measure, how venues can protect guests and staff, and how AI can be designed as a force for good, strengthening public trust while inspiring positive environmental behavior. The goal is to offer practical clarity on how mission-driven organizations can adopt AI confidently, ethically, and effectively, creating meaningful impact for both guests and the planet.*

**3:15PM**

#### **To Dashboard, or not to Dashboard, is that a question?**

*GSAG has worked recently to address community interest in consistent access to their sustainability data, particularly focusing on their ability to benchmark across peers. While participating in AZA and RTC efforts to gather user interest across ARCS surveys, they also developed an interactive digital dashboard for sustainability practitioners. This session will detail the development process, showcase current interface functions, and gather feedback from potential users on features desired in future iterations.*

**4:05PM**

**Green Summit Wrap Up**



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