

To: Board of Management

From: Dr. William Rapley
Executive Director
Conservation, Education & Research

Subject: **2009 ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES REPORT**

Date: 2010-04-23

Summary:

This report updates the Board on the Zoo's environmental initiatives and activities undertaken in 2009.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Background:

The 2009 Environmental Initiatives Report for the Toronto Zoo, prepared by Dr. William Rapley, Executive Director, Conservation, Education & Research and Mr. David Ireland, Curator of Conservation Programs demonstrates the dedication and leadership of Zoo staff and volunteers toward improving the environmental management of Zoo operations and processes.

Although the CER Division oversees the Toronto Zoo environmental and green programs, staff and volunteers throughout the Zoo play a role in the comprehensive approach to be leaders in the field. The purpose of this report is to communicate environmental actions and achievements made by Zoo staff and volunteers on projects underway or completed in 2009 that support short- and long-term action steps described in the Toronto Zoo Green Plan 2007.

Since 1989, the Zoo has cultivated an active program to reduce waste on site and encourage public and staff awareness of environmental issues. The first Environmental Initiatives Report was submitted to the Board of Management in November 1995. This annual report summarizes current activities and items initiated or completed during 2009.

Comments/Discussion:

The report is organized into 3 sections, as outlined in the Toronto Zoo Green Plan: *Green Corporate Culture*, *Green National Leadership*, and *Green Operation Management*. Activities and projects that were started in 2009 and ongoing initiatives are described in the relevant section (e.g. a greenroof project would be detailed in *Green Operation Management*, and environmental objectives in staff professional management plans in *Green Corporate Culture*).

The *Green Eco-Zoo Team* (GEZT) is a non-technical advisory committee reporting to the Chief Executive Officer. The “Green Team” addresses the environmental impacts of Zoo operations, policies and procedures, and makes recommendations that will lessen our ecological footprint in the Rouge Park and on the earth. Dr. Rapley and Mr. Ireland co-chair the GEZT. Members appointed to the Team are from across the Zoo. Zoo staff and volunteers are encouraged to address issues concerning our environmental impacts on the site with a GEZT member.

William A. Rapley
Executive Director
Conservation, Education & Research

List of Attachments:

1. 2009 Environmental Initiatives Report