

TZNet0: Environmental Sustainability Plan

Date: March 28, 2022

To: Toronto Zoo Board of Management

From: Director, Facilities & Infrastructure

Wards: Ward 25, Scarborough-Rouge Park

SUMMARY

To align the Zoo's sustainability objectives with the Toronto Zoo Strategic Plan 2000 and Capital Master Plan, as well as the City of Toronto's TransformTO Report, the Zoo drafted a new TZNet0: Environmental Sustainability Plan (TZNet0 Plan). The new plan sets more aggressive targets for water consumption, waste generation and greenhouse gas emissions and includes biodiversity and community engagement as key objectives for 2021 to 2024. Looking long term, the TZNet0 Plan also sets net zero objectives for waste, water and greenhouse emissions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Director of Facilities & Infrastructure recommends that:

1. The Board of Management approves the TZNet0: Environmental Sustainability Plan as shown in Attachment 1.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact at this time. Business cases for the TZNet0 Plan initiatives will be brought forward and incorporated into the annual operating and capital budget processes.

DECISION HISTORY

The Toronto Zoo adopted its first sustainability plan, The Green Plan, in 2007. Since its adoption, the Toronto Zoo has been implementing projects to achieve the targets set in 2007, and reporting those efforts annually in the Environmental Initiative Report.

In 2017, the City of Toronto published its TransformTO Report and recently revised it in 2020.

COMMENTS

Since 2007, the Toronto Zoo has been actively implementing operational projects and changes to meet the targets set in the 2007 Green Plan, the Zoo's first sustainability plan. The Green Plan established 20-year targets to reduce water consumption and greenhouse gas emission (a representation of energy consumption) by the Zoo. In 2008, the Zoo added waste diversion targets to the objectives of the Green Plan. The Zoo reports annually to the Board activities taken to achieve these targets in the Environmental Initiatives Report.

With the Zoo's new strategic direction, we believe it is important to re-establish our commitment to the environment through sustainable operations and to expand our actions to be inclusive of climate resiliency, biodiversity and community so that our environmental sustainability objectives align with this new direction. The plan also includes climate change mitigation and climate resiliency planning which the previous plan did not address. The City of Toronto's TransformTO Report, Biodiversity Strategy and Climate Resiliency Plan, as well as the United Nations Sustainability Development Goals were used as a framework to develop this plan.

The TZNet0 Plan has set more aggressive water consumption, waste diversion and greenhouse gas reduction targets for the period of 2021 to 2024:

- 1) Reduce water consumption 75% below 1990 levels by 2024;
- 2) Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% below 1990 levels by 2024; and
- 3) Divert 90% of waste from landfill by 2024.

The Plan also incorporates action to improve biodiversity both locally and globally, and has objectives to improve community and partner engagement in conservation and sustainability action both at the Zoo and within our community. We have also set long term targets; net zero waste to landfill by 2027, and net zero greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption by 2030.

The TZNet0 Plan has three sustainability priorities

1) Creating an environmentally sustainable zoo modelling best practices - Supporting the TransformTO Report and climate resiliency, this priority escalates transition to more sustainable operational practices, such as procurement, renewable energy, waste diversion and behaviour, and a more sustainable infrastructure such as upgrading mechanical systems, utilizing innovative technology to reduce consumption and planning for climate resiliency.

2) Improving biodiversity for a sustainable planet - Supporting the City of Toronto's Biodiversity Strategy, this priority addresses wildlife and wild spaces. We have set a target to restore 200 acres of wild spaces by 2030. This target includes restoration of

the Zoo grounds, local community initiatives and wild spaces associated with the Zoo's conservation programs globally.

3) Communities, Partners, and the Zoo working together - Supporting the communities surrounding the Zoo, partnering communities and global zoo community to improve climate resiliency and engage others in conservation action.

The TZNet0 Plan sets the stage for the next four years of sustainable action at which point the Zoo's sustainability objectives will be embedded within the Zoo's Strategic Plan, and prepares the Zoo to achieve its long term goals of net zero environmental impact.

CONTACT

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ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - TZNet0: Environmental Sustainability Plan