

# Walking the Green Walk

Being sustainable means that none of our actions will prevent others from living healthy, productive lives. Here is how the Zoo practices what we teach:

## Our plan

The North Carolina Zoo was the first in the United States to employ an ISO 14001 environmental management system to examine our impacts on the environment and develop plans to address and manage them.



## Reducing Pollution:

### Fighting bugs with...Bugs

We use the least toxic, but effective methods to control plant pests. Predatory insects remove bugs that damage plants, reducing chemical use and pesticide contamination of soil and water.

### Green fuel

Oil from Zoo restaurants is recycled into fuel for our vehicles! The blend of 80% petroleum diesel and 20% bio-diesel fuel burns cleaner, reducing both air pollution and petroleum use.

## Our team

Representing all departments at the Zoo, the Conservation Captains work to reduce, reuse and recycle. This group sponsors employee awareness programs, Earth Day, Big Sweep and Adopt-A-Highway cleanups.



## Good for plants, good for people

Organic fertilizers derived from natural sources of plant nutrients release into the soil more slowly than conventional chemical fertilizers, reducing nutrient runoff and water pollution.

## Catching the rain\*\*

Constructed wetlands catch rainwater from our parking lots that may contain motor oil or other toxins. By slowing the flow of water, wetlands filter pollutants before they enter lakes and rivers.

## Reducing Waste:

### Good and rotten

Each year we compost over 1500 tons of organic waste materials, keeping it out of the landfill, and saving thousands of dollars waste removal costs and topsoil expenditures.

### We don't toss it

The Zoo recycles paper, cardboard, tires, batteries, oil, antifreeze, pallets, and other items to minimize our waste and keep toxic chemicals out of landfills.

## Managing Resources:

### Watching our water

It takes over 40 million gallons of water per year to maintain Zoo exhibits. Meters monitor water use and detect leaks, while irrigation water comes from two on-site lakes.

### Sun Power\*\*

Electricity generated with solar panels on our picnic shelters is returned to the local power grid, reducing the need for coal or nuclear power.



## Waste not, want not

Computerized temperature and humidity controls help reduce electricity use. Rangers and staff save fuel by using hybrid automobiles and bicycles for travel around the park.

