

# Aquarium Conservation Partnership (ACP) Climate Change Goal & Joint Commitment



## ACP Goal: Combat Climate Change & its Impact on People, the Ocean, and Freshwater Ecosystems

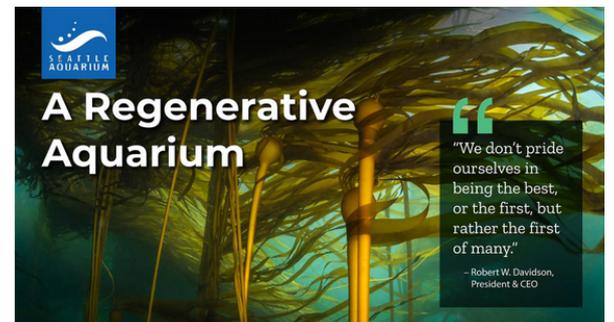
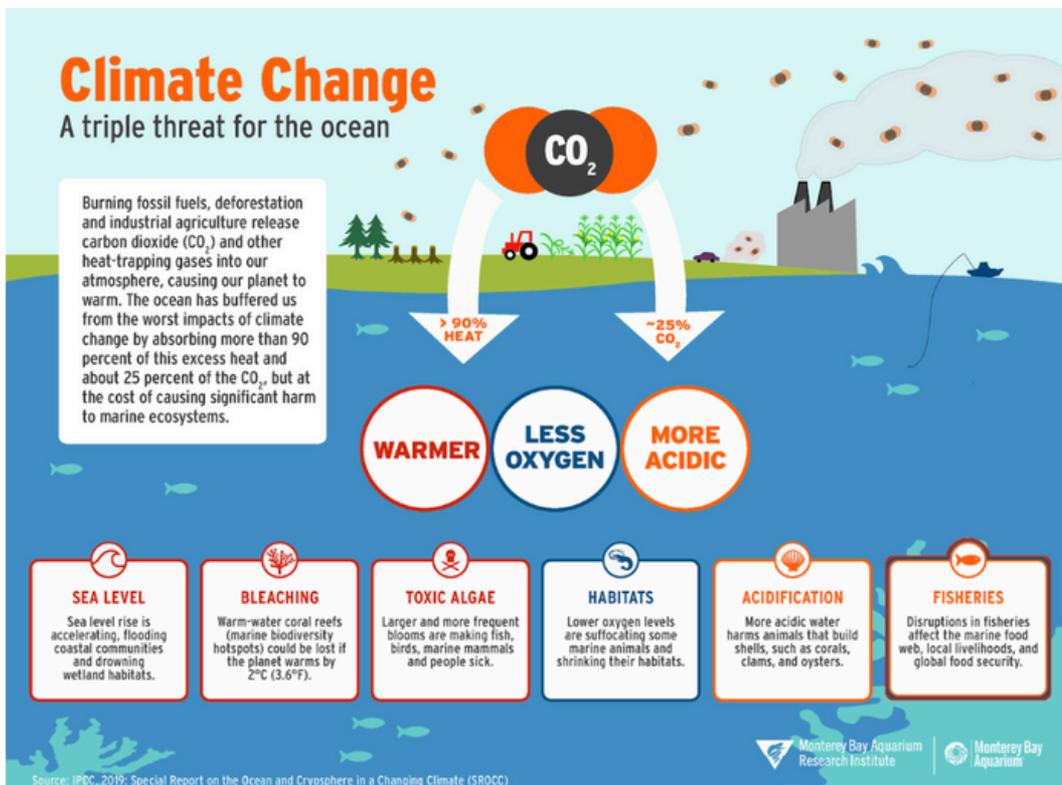
Climate change is the greatest threat to the future of our planet, of our ocean and freshwater systems, and of people - particularly Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and disenfranchised communities. For decades, the global ocean has been literally taking the heat for climate change, absorbing more than 90% of the excess heat and nearly a third of the carbon dioxide from greenhouse gas emissions. The result is an ocean that is warmer, more acidic, starved of oxygen, and less habitable for fish and marine wildlife. The impacts are equally as serious in freshwater ecosystems. These impacts affect us too – through sea level rise, more intense storms and droughts, and reduced seafood catches. Often the communities most impacted by climate change are those harmed from histories of racial and environmental inequities.



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ACP members work together to leverage their outstanding legacy of leadership in conservation, science, communication, and education to engage each member aquarium and their audiences in climate solutions.

## ACP Member Highlights



One of Seattle Aquarium’s goals is to be “climate positive” by 2030, defined as “beyond net-positive carbon emissions through climate benefits that go beyond the operations of our facilities to regenerative environmental and social impacts.”



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# Joint Climate Commitment

For the well-being of people and all life on Earth, we must take immediate and significant action to address the climate crisis. Working together, we can reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, slow the pace of climate change, and adapt to the impacts already in motion. Our aquariums play unique and powerful roles in promoting climate solutions. ACP members have shown true leadership in educating the public about conservation and climate change, adopting sustainable business practices, inspiring conservation behaviors, influencing change, and advocating for science-based policies in decision making.

**With a long-term goal of achieving carbon neutrality, ACP members made the following joint commitments on April 22, 2023:**

**By April 2023, ACP members:**

- Completed an initial greenhouse gas inventory for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions.
- Determined the priority categories for Scope 3 emissions and determine a timeline for completing a Scope 3 inventory.

**By April 2024 or sooner, we will:**

- Determine carbon neutrality goal(s) and timeline(s).
- Develop an emissions reduction plan and determine a timeline for completing the plan.

**Annually, we will:**

- Measure and report greenhouse gas emissions.
- Identify, share, and implement strategies to (1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions from operations and (2) remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere.
- Support strong nature-based solutions in international, federal, and state climate change policies.
- Communicate the journey to achieve carbon neutrality with audiences.

## ACP Member Highlights

### Net Zero Building Emissions

All HDZA buildings would be as energy efficient as practical. The total net energy consumed by Zoo buildings would not produce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, or the net emissions produced would be offset with verifiable GHG emission reductions.

#### Five-Year Goal

2021 Goal: 15% reduction in GHG Emissions



Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium has long taken pride in its conservation efforts on behalf of plants and animals in their labs and in the field.

### ACP Business Commitments One-Pager



In 2022, the National Aquarium completed a comprehensive calculation of their carbon footprint, announcing [plans to achieve net-zero emissions](#) by the year 2035.



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# Aquarium Conservation Partnership (ACP)

## Building Capacity at Aquariums and Zoos to Accelerate Climate Action



### IMLS Leadership Grant

In September 2023, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded ACP \$661,376 for a three-year project as part of the National Leadership Grants for Museums Program [MG-253253-OMS-23].

IMLS funds will allow ACP to build the capacity of member aquariums and zoos to accelerate action on climate change. Members will take significant action to address climate change within their operations, modeling best practices for the entire field. And they will inspire and mobilize audiences across the United States to participate in building a climate-ready nation. IMLS funds will help ACP efficiently and cost effectively provide members with tools and training, share best practices, and build the skills of aquarium staff and volunteers. As a result of these resources, members will be better able to:

1. Reduce their own carbon emissions;
2. Engage, inspire, and mobilize their audiences to act on climate issues in their communities; and
3. Model climate action and resilience steps for the broader aquarium and zoo community.



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### Deliverables

1. Create and share a first-of-its-kind tool and standard for measuring greenhouse gas emissions in aquariums and zoos, with a guide and training on how to use it.
2. Share strategies aquariums and zoos can take across their operations to measure and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through printed and online materials, in-person meetings, and in peer networks.
3. Develop and share public engagement materials to inspire and mobilize audiences to take climate action.



Partners:



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