



## Acres for the Atmosphere Accomplishments 2010/2011

### Acres Poster 2011 Reference Guide

*Projects shown on poster, described from top left, counterclockwise*

- 1. North Carolina Branch (NC Zoo):** At the after-hours Starlit Walk to the Polar Bear Exhibit fundraiser with the NC Zoo Society, we gave out Home Energy Savings kit to 60 visitors that signed a pledge to use them after we threw an "old" paper-mache light bulb into the polar bear exhibit as enrichment, symbolic of throwing out our old habits and starting new ones. Also gave out 60 kits donated from REMC each give a saving of 947 kWh/yr. That's a total of 56,820 kWh saved per year!
- 2. Toronto Branch (Toronto Zoo):** We're not only focusing on the acres program this year, but also introducing the importance of reforestation and biodiversity within our own backyards. Thanks to Symcor's sponsorship and volunteer force, we planted 745 trees and shrubs in May 2011, with trees ranging from silver maples, gray dogwoods, black walnuts, Canada plums, and Eastern hemlocks.
- 3. Colorado Branch (Denver Zoo and Rocky Mountain AAZK Chapter):** We planted 30 drought-resistant trees (10-12-ft. tall) due to little rainfall in the Denver area. We completed two planting events, one onsite and one offsite. They were made possible with the help of 65 volunteers, the Denver Zoo's Horticulture Department, and a grant from *Visit Denver*.
- 4. Maryland Branch (Maryland Zoo in Baltimore):** We set up a booth at the Polar Bear exhibit and gave out 250 tree saplings to visitors. We encouraged visitors to post pictures of themselves planting trees on the zoo's Facebook page.
- 5. North Carolina Branch (NC Zoo):** Planted 122 trees (two-to-10-ft tall) at a local park in Seagrove, Clay Presnell Park, in October. We planted red maples, pin oaks, black gums, dogwoods, redbuds, chaste trees, smoke trees, Japanese snowbells, willow oaks, Indian hawthorns, and hollies. All parties involved include: Trees NC, NC Zoo, Seagrove Potter Bonnie Burns, Seagrove Elementary School, AHS Zoo School, AHS International Club, NC Zoo Society, and Carolina Bats.
- 6. Indiana Branch (Indianapolis Zoo):** PBI's president Robert Buchanan spoke to over 400 students at a local middle school and then a select group of students to

help us plant five large trees at the front of their school. We're also working with the zoo's summer camp participants, helping them plant acorns that will grow into seedlings to be planted at their homes.

7. **Wisconsin Branch (Milwaukee County Zoo):** We planted 200 trees on Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> on zoo grounds. We had five volunteers and a handful of zoo visitors because the weather was 45 degrees and rainy. A second Acres planting was completed in June with Animal Department Staff: 12 volunteers planted another 400 seedlings.
8. **Ohio Branch (Cleveland Metroparks Zoo):** We held a polar bear distance learning program called *The Polar Bear Express* for grades 3-5. Topics included "polar bears 101," "polar bears in zoos," and "a changing climate." Learning program activities took place before, during, and after the program, such as keeping a waste diary.
9. **Missouri Branch (Kansas City Zoo):** We set up a Home Efficiency table during our Party for the Planet event. Home Depot donated 28 CFLs to give away and then also gave away an Earth Aid Kit including an LED night light, water aerator, reusable bag, smart strip, and CFLs. We're also spreading the word through monthly Roots n' Shoots meetings.
10. **New York Branch (Buffalo Zoo):** Planted 300 trees on April 24th with the help of the Olmstead Park Conservancy.
11. **Alaska Branch (Alaska Zoo):** Our education and husbandry departments launched a Plastic Bottle Recycling campaign by creating giant polar bear mom and cub water bottle sculptures. We launched the recycling effort in coordination with the Anchorage School District Recycling Program. We worked with Bowman Elementary School and Chugiak High School this year with the goal of adding more schools to the program each year to provide some continuity to the recycling program and to raise awareness about the conservation issues surrounding polar bears.

***Not Pictured:***

**Oregon Branch (Oregon Zoo):** We held a "Cool Down" event with 30 volunteers. The zoo is clearing a neighboring forest that the zoo train runs through of the invasive ivy that is taking over the trees.

**Ohio Branch (Toledo Zoo):** In May 2011 the Toledo Zoo, Olander Park System, and Timberstone Junior High School planted 850 trees in Sylvan Prairie Park. This was a day of planting and about learning how one person can make a difference, lots of people can make a difference, and planting lots of trees can make a big difference.

**Kentucky Branch (Louisville Zoo):** LG&E and KU's Plant for the Planet Grant provided funds for Leadership Camp graduate Angela Johnson and the Louisville Zoo to plant 21 trees this year. In addition, we set up a table and a "Pledge to Plant a Tree" program in an effort to ask visitors to join them in planting trees for polar

bears. Visit the website for more exciting details!  
<http://www.louisvillezoo.org/conservation/acres/acres.htm>

**Alaska Branch (Alaska Zoo):** We planted 150 trees and shrubs in the Anchorage school district at Bowman Elementary on Oct 5, 2010. Zoo staff lent the manpower and machinery to make this event possible. Volunteers ranged from 3rd -5th graders, parents, teachers, and even a moose that temporarily halted planting and gave the volunteers a needed break to refuel themselves! Green Earth Landworks and Ever Green Nursery and Garden Center were the primary sponsors for this event.

**Minnesota Branch (Como Zoo):** We completed a tree planting with a school in May on Como grounds. We planted ten trees with the help of about 45 kids plus three adults from the school. In April, we launched a monthly Nature Geo-cache program. After arriving at the GPS coordinates, participants find a message pertaining to how healthy environments help polar bears. The Grand Prize from the Como Zoo will be polar-bear-themed: <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=4440>. We also created a new Climate Change Keeper Talk starting in May. We had to get the mayor's office approval for the content in the talk.

**Pennsylvania Branch (Pittsburgh Zoo):** We're working on a cell phone and electronics recycling project and coordinating to help a local school develop an environmental club.

**Colorado Branch (Denver Zoo):** We worked to develop the Denver Zoo as an Arctic Ambassador Center and spoke at a workshop for local teachers on how to communicate climate change.

**Wisconsin Branch (Milwaukee County Zoo):** Kara Delanty of the zoo and Robert Buchanan of PBI did a segment on WUWM 89.7 FM Milwaukee Public Radio called "County Zoo Works to Protect Polar Bears": [http://www.wuwm.com/programs/lake\\_effect/view\\_le.php?articleid=1254](http://www.wuwm.com/programs/lake_effect/view_le.php?articleid=1254)

### **Planning future planting events for 2011:**

- 1. Ohio Branch (Cleveland Metroparks Zoo and Cleveland AAZK Chapter):** Through a donation, we will be able to plant a learning urban garden at the Brooklyn Center for Naturalists with several sections including a butterfly garden, prairie, carbon sequestration area. Signage will describe the project as well.
- 2. Rhode Island Branch (Roger Williams Park Zoo):** We partnered with Providence's City Forester on the *Trees 2020* campaign and are planning a tree planting event in the spring. The goal of *Trees 2020* is to plant 40,000 trees in Providence's city limits by the year 2020.

3. **Quebec Branch (Zoo Sauvage):** We're planning for a tree planting event in spring with college students. The teachers are very enthusiastic and they want to plant a couple of hundreds of trees.
4. **North Carolina Branch (NC Zoo):** We held a fundraiser in coordination with PBI's Be Cool Tour in March. The event was called "Starlit Polar Bear Walk" and raised money for a Fall planting event in 2011. The NC Zoo will potentially be taking an even more active role in supporting the project. We will be collaborating with Trees NC once again. In October we plan to replant some of the trees destroyed in the tornadoes this spring in a "re-leaf" effort.
5. **California Branch (San Diego AAZK chapter):** We awarded a \$500 grant and raised funds through a carbon offset option during registration for 2011 AAZK National Conference. We will be working with the San Diego River Park Foundation for a planting after the conference.
6. **Illinois Branch (Brookfield AAZK Chapter and Chicago Zoological Society):** "Promoting Stewardship with Youth Volunteers by Planting Trees for Polar Bears" was approved by the Chicago Zoological Society's Chicago Board of Trade Endangered Species Fund. This grant goes toward planting trees in Brookfield Zoo's vast parking lot, soaking up lots of carbon! It will involve our energetic Youth Volunteer Corps ... we'll be supervising while they dig. The team at Brookfield Zoo is Christy Mazrimas-Ott, Debra Kutska, Agnes Kovacs, and Steve Pine.
7. **Missouri Branch (Kansas City Zoo):** We currently have over 100 native trees that are slated to be planted on grounds at the zoo later this year. They came to us from Missouri Department of Conservation through our partnership with the zoo's Root's 'n Shoot's program.