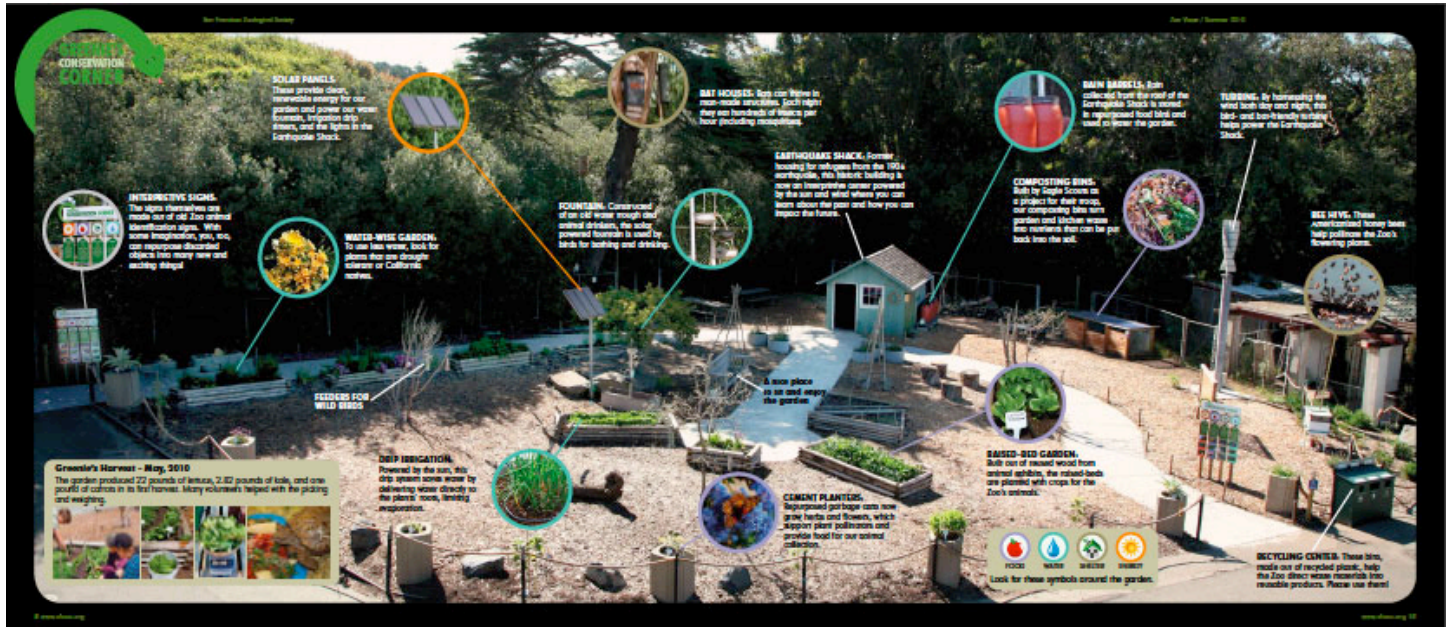


CONSERVATION

GREENIE'S CONSERVATION CORNER



The San Francisco Zoo celebrated Earth Day in 2010 with the grand unveiling of Greenie's Conservation Corner, a 4,000-square-foot demonstration zone for sustainable practices and eco-friendly actions. This area demonstrates what we as individuals can do to become more eco-friendly or "green" in our own backyards. The five major elements demonstrated at Greenie's Conservation Corner include:

Alternative Energy Systems: Energy can be generated from abundant natural resources such as wind and sunlight. The electricity generated can be used to power the lights in the earthquake shack and run the bathroom, the drip system and the pumps.

- A **wind turbine** converts kinetic energy into useable electricity to power lights in the earthquake shack.
- **Solar panels** use light energy from the sun to generate electricity to run the bathroom, drip, fountain, pumps, etc. utilizing solar and small wind power. The fountain is solar powered.



Food Source: Where our food comes from and how it is grown has varying impacts on our environment. Local animals are attracted to the area because of food or shelter.

- **Organic raised beds** provide food for zoo animals and support local pollinators without using non-organic fertilizers and harmful pesticides.
- **Plant pollinators** such as bees, birds, butterflies and bats are critical to production of food. There are bird feeders to help attract some of the local birds.

- **Growing food** is easier than you think. You reduce your carbon emissions while saving money. Some of the vegetation being grown are:
 - Enrichment herbs and spices (stimulates the animals with their smells).
 - Flowering Plants include: penstemons, rudbeckias, asters, salvias, day lilies, lavenders, rosemary and geraniums.
 - Vegetables include: lettuce, carrots, kale, leeks, kohlrabi, celery, beets, spinach, and swiss chard, artichokes and assorted climbing beans.
- **Composting and worm farming** are two natural ways to improve soil and reduce waste. All green-waste from the garden and the kitchen will be composted and reused as nutrient rich soil.



Shelter: Animals need shelter to survive as we do. Creating shelters can support local wildlife.

- **Human shelter:** The 1906 earthquake shack is one of the last buildings left that was used to help shelter people after the disaster. It is an interpretive shack conveying history and the importance of communities, gardens, and challenges we all face on our Planet Earth.
- **Bat houses:** Bats control mosquitoes and other insect populations.
- **Bee hives:** These honeybee hives provide a safe shelter for the bees where they tend their young and store food.



Water Conservation: Water is essential to life but only 2% of the earth's water is fit to drink. It is important to conserve this valuable resource.

- **Rain harvesting** is the collection, storage and re-use of rainwater. Barrels are used to collect rainwater from the roof of the building where the water is stored and then distributed to the garden beds as needed.
- A **drip irrigation system** is an efficient method of watering a plant's root zone by a slow application of water.
- **Native and water-wise plants** that are easy to grow in a Coastal Climates are growing in the garden beds. Water wise gardens reduce water usage. Native plants are adapted to the regions water cycle and need less water.
- **Low/no flow toilets** were installed in the nearby bathroom to reduce water usage.

Repurposed Materials and Recycle: By taking useful products and exchanging them, without reprocessing, reuse help save time, money, energy, and resources. This exhibit was constructed by reusing materials found around the zoo. By looking around the garden you can see clever ways these zoo materials were repurposed and not thrown away. Examples include using the cement garbage receptacles as garden beds for the planting of herbs and flowers; reusing wood for the



raised beds and interpretive signs; and old rope used to mark the area around the exhibit; and the fountain is made of an old water trough and animal drinkers.

For up to date information on how the San Francisco Zoo is acting in an environmentally responsible manner go to their website:

<http://www.sfzoo.org/openrosters/ViewOrgPageLink.asp?LinkKey=14499&orgkey=1858>

