

# Sustainability & Museums

## Selected Resources

*This list includes links and descriptions of existing resources that may be helpful for developing sustainability-related projects at museums and similar cultural organizations.*

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT & LEARNING

**Educating for a Sustainable Future, Shelburne Farms:** This webpage offers a variety of resources related to education for sustainability, with a focus on early childhood education, nature, and community. Resources include case studies, hands-on activities, and frameworks.

<https://shelburnefarms.org/our-work/resources>



**Education for Sustainability (EfS) Benchmarks, Journal of Sustainability Education:** This framework includes big ideas, skills, applied knowledge, actions, dispositions, and community connections for education for sustainability (EfS). The framework was primarily created as a tool for K–12 education, but it also provides a useful foundation for informal education organizations.

<https://cloudinstitute.org/efs-benchmarks>

**About the Sustainable Development Goals, United Nations:** This webpage includes resources, information, and history about the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals have been adopted by many museums and cultural organizations as a framework for engaging the public in climate change.

<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

**howtosmile, University of California Berkeley's Lawrence Hall of Science:** This collection of educational materials is designed “for those who teach school-aged kids in non-classroom settings.” The topics tab includes a framework and relevant hands-on activities for climate, energy, ocean literacy, and other topics related to sustainability.

<https://www.howtosmile.org/topics>

**Sustainability: A Public Engagement Literature Review, Natural History Museum:** This review examines people’s knowledge and attitudes about sustainability in the UK.

[https://www.nhm.ac.uk/content/dam/nhmwww/about-us/visitor-research/Sustainability Lit review.pdf](https://www.nhm.ac.uk/content/dam/nhmwww/about-us/visitor-research/Sustainability%20Lit%20review.pdf)

### OPERATIONS

**Association of Zoos & Aquariums. AZA Green Guides:** These guides were created for zoos and aquariums but include sustainable practices relevant for other cultural organizations. Volume 1 helps organizations, “gain a basic understanding of green practices, become fluent in a consistent sustainability language, and...develop a





Sustainability Plan.” Volume 2 “is designed to help zoos and aquariums implement specific green practice strategies, and document their progress on categorical metrics through checklists.” Both guides contain extensive lists of additional resources.

[https://www.aza.org/assets/2332/aza\\_green\\_guide\\_volume\\_1.pdf](https://www.aza.org/assets/2332/aza_green_guide_volume_1.pdf)

[https://www.aza.org/assets/2332/aza\\_green\\_guide\\_volume\\_2.pdf](https://www.aza.org/assets/2332/aza_green_guide_volume_2.pdf)

**Principles for Sustainable Museums, Museums Association:** This resource lays out eleven sustainability principles for museums and includes links to case studies and other tools. The checklist at the bottom of the page can help you evaluate your institution’s current sustainable practices and identify areas to improve.

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/sustainability/principles-for-sustainable-museums>

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

**Learning to Make Choices for the Future, Center for Place-based Learning & Community Engagement:** This guide provides an overview of place-based education, civic engagement, and community partnerships, with a focus on environmental education. While it is written with K – 12 teachers in mind, it includes information that informal educators will find useful.

[https://promiseofplace.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/PBE\\_Manual\\_2012.pdf](https://promiseofplace.org/sites/default/files/pdfs/PBE_Manual_2012.pdf)



**Sustainability through Partnerships, Network for Business Sustainability:** This review synthesizes knowledge on multi-sector partnerships for sustainability. It considers different forms of partnerships, practices for reaching consensus, and evaluation.

<https://www.nbs.net/articles/sustainability-through-partnerships-a-systematic-review>

**Museum and Community Partnerships, NISE Network:** This guide offers an introduction to collaborations between museums and youth-serving community organizations. This guide includes an overview of why to collaborate, levels of partnerships, how to start a partnership, and a variety of resources to sustain and deepen your collaborative relationships.

<https://www.nisenet.org/collaboration-guide>

## CLIMATE



**National Network for Ocean & Climate Change Interpretation (NNOCCI):** This professional network supports a community of educators and scientists who engage the public in learning about climate change. Resources include online and in-person training materials.

<https://climateinterpreter.org/about/projects/NNOCCI>

**Climate Hazard Resilience Forum, Museum of Science:** Participants in this public program use visualizations to explore potential vulnerabilities to city infrastructures, social networks, and ecosystems from sea level rise, extreme precipitation, drought, and extreme heat, then discuss

potential strategies for addressing these threats, focusing on the priorities and needs of relevant stakeholders.

<https://www.mos.org/pes-forum-archive/noaa-forum>

**Climate Resilience, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):** This **collection of resources** includes educational materials, frameworks, reports, and other materials related to community resilience to climate change.

<https://www.noaa.gov/office-education/elp/resilience-assets>

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