



# Aquarium Conservation Partnership

ALIGNING AQUARIUMS ACROSS THE COUNTRY  
AROUND A SHARED CLIMATE COMMITMENT

## Project Summary

Our work with the [Aquarium Conservation Partnership \(ACP\)](#) is accelerating climate action on an industry-wide scale. We are catalyzing systems change to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase climate resilience by helping the ACP's 26 member aquariums align to its Climate Commitment. Our role is twofold: at the ACP level and with individual aquariums.

At the ACP level, we are benchmarking aquariums' current greenhouse gas emissions and energy usage and are also co-creating an industry-wide strategy bank that leverages member aquariums' collective wisdom. Our workshop to co-create the strategy bank is designed to overcome information silos, ensure collaboration and transparency, and share best practices in order to rapidly replicate successful sustainability efforts across the country.

We are also working with individual aquariums to set and achieve realistic net zero emissions targets. We first develop a greenhouse gas inventory including common Scope 3 emissions among aquariums, and then we model potential strategies using our Net Zero Pathway. Our approach is to meet each aquarium where it is and co-create a path to net zero — ensuring their efforts and outcomes account for their local needs, barriers, and other relevant context.

## SERVICES PROVIDED

- GHG Inventory
- Net Zero Pathway
- Benchmarking
- Industry-wide Strategy Bank
- Change Management
- Organizational Alignment
- Climate Action Planning
- Strategic Sustainability Planning

## PROJECT DETAILS

Date: 10/2021 – present

Relevant Links: [How Aquariums Can Take Climate Action With Verdis Group](#)

## Challenges

1. The ACP's member aquariums are spread across the country in different climate zones. Their diverse geography brings diverse challenges and opportunities for climate action.
2. Each member aquarium is at a different stage in their sustainability journey. Many have already made significant progress, while others have limited internal staff capacity or expertise to dedicate to sustainability.

## Solutions

1. No matter where in the country an aquarium is located, we are able to collect the appropriate data and incorporate the local context to catalyze meaningful change.
2. We meet each aquarium where it is. Our refined approach clarifies and simplifies sustainability and climate vulnerabilities — topics that can be confusing and overwhelming. We also equip and empower aquarium staff to use the correct data tools while supporting them as needed.

*// In a short amount of time, the National Aquarium gained valuable clarity around our greenhouse gas emissions and how to reduce them with the Net Zero Pathway. Our team appreciates Verdis Group's collaborative approach as we co-create an actionable Climate Action and Resiliency Plan that reflects our core mission of conservation."*

*Laura Bankey, Vice President of Conservation Programs, National Aquarium*

## Impact

Collectively, 30 million people visit the ACP's member aquariums every year. The ACP's member aquariums influence millions of people annually with educational opportunities to engage with conservation. The ACP's collaborative approach to climate action is no exception. Aquariums measuring and reducing their greenhouse gas emissions have the ability to tell their sustainability stories to the public and accelerate community-wide climate action.

Aquariums working to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions can also cultivate important change in their communities. ACP member aquariums are trusted community leaders. They advocate for science-based policymaking and they lead by example; In 2019, ACP members committed to [significantly reduce or eliminate single-use plastic](#) from retail products, back-of-house operations, and dining areas by 2021.

## Our Expertise in the Zoo and Aquarium Industry

Zoos and aquariums are adopting sustainability goals at a record pace. Verdis is committed to guiding inclusive processes that accelerate climate action at zoos and aquariums, as we have done for over a decade. Our clients include Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium, Dallas Zoo, St. Louis Zoo, Seattle Aquarium, National Aquarium, and more. Verdis is a commercial member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, with Steering Committee representation on the Green Scientific Advisory Group. The strategic tools we provide to zoos and aquariums include executive outreach, baselining, benchmarking, planning, implementation, the Net Zero Pathway, and more.

To learn more, visit [verdisgroup.com](https://verdisgroup.com) or connect with us at [info@verdisgroup.com](mailto:info@verdisgroup.com).