

60 years of inspiration

AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA



60 FOR 60
**home & community
conservation actions**



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How To Use This Document

CLICK ON THE UNDERLINED LINKS FOR
EXTRA RESOURCES

Dive deeper into the topic

See examples of the species helped by
this action

1 INSTALL A RAIN BARREL TO COLLECT WATER FOR PLANTS AND GARDENS

Species Helped: Dusky Salamander

2 USE LEFTOVER COOKING WATER TO WATER YOUR HOUSE PLANTS

3 REDUCE OR ELIMINATE THE USE OF PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS IN YOUR HOME LANDSCAPING

Species Helped: Lake Sturgeon

4 FLUSH YOUR TOILET ONLY WHEN NECESSARY (AND AVOID USING IT AS AN ASHTRAY OR GARBAGE CAN)

Earth Conscious Consumer: Buy a dual flush toilet

Species Helped: Seals, Sea Lions, Walruses

5 REDUCE YOUR SHOWER TIME

Maximize Your Impact: Keep a bucket in the shower to catch excess water and use that water to flush your toilet

water

6 ADD A FILTER/FILAMENT-TRAPPING DEVICE TO YOUR LAUNDRY

Did You Know: Polyester fabrics are a major source of microplastics

Species Helped: Clams, Oysters, Mussels

7 BUY THRIFTED CLOTHES OR REPURPOSE OLD ONES

Did You Know: The processing of materials like cotton and leather consume thousands of gallons of water

Species Helped: Sharks

8 PRACTICE REGULAR AUTO MAINTENANCE TO AVOID OIL AND FLUID LEAKS

Species Helped: Great Lakes Sportfish

9 SUPPORT LEGISLATION FOR REPAIR AND UPKEEP OF MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER SYSTEMS

Community Action: If these systems are not kept in good working conditions, harmful chemicals could end up in our waterways

Species Helped: River Otter

water

10 ADD WINDOW DECALS TO REDUCE BIRD STRIKES

Species Helped: Songbirds and Raptors

11 REDUCE YOUR OUTDOOR LIGHTING

Did You Know: Light pollution disrupts many animals' nocturnal behavior

Species Helped: American Toad

12 AVOID FEEDING WILDLIFE

Keep it to Yourself: Feeding wild animals can cause them to neglect natural foraging/hunting behaviors – leading to aggression, malnourishment, and death

Species Helped: Bears

13 VACCINATE YOUR PETS

Did You Know: Both indoor and outdoor pets can spread diseases to native wildlife

Species Helped: Native Mammals

14 SUPPORT TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

Community Action: By neutering or spaying feral cats, we limit populations without harming them

Species Helped: Native Birds, Bats, and Small Mammals

15 SUPPORT WILDLIFE PASSAGES

Community Action: These passages go over/under roads to reduce the number of animals hit by cars

Species Helped: Raccoon, Red Fox

16 PREP, SORT, AND DISPOSE OF TRASH AND RECYCLING CORRECTLY

Species Helped: Freshwater Turtles and Tortoises

17 PICK UP TRASH WHILE YOU WALK/JOG

Did You Know: Picking up plastic while you go for a jog is called "plogging"

Species Helped: Small Mammals





habitats

18 PLANT NATIVE PLANTS

Did You Know: Native plants support local pollinators and withstand regular weather/climate cycles

Species Helped: Monarch Butterfly

19 LEAVE THE LEAVES

Did You Know: Insects, like bees and butterflies, use leaf litter for as an overwintering habitat

Species Helped: Native Bees

20 LEAVE AN AREA OF LAWN/YARD UNMOWN OR CUT HIGHER THAN OTHER AREAS

Species Helped: Insects

21 PROVIDE HOUSING FOR NATIVE ANIMALS

Backyard Builder: Create things like bird houses, bat boxes, and pollinator houses

Species Helped: Native Birds, Bees, Bats, and Butterflies

22 AVOID TRAVELING WITH FIREWOOD/BUY LOCAL WOOD

Did You Know: Moving firewood can introduce invasive insects and diseases to other forests; buy firewood within a 10 mile radius of your destination/campsite

Species Helped: Birds, Woodland Mammals, Frogs

habitats

23 AVOID USING FIREWORKS FOR CELEBRATIONS

Shining a Light:

- Noise frightens animals into fleeing safe spaces or abandoning offspring
- Disorienting lights can cause injuries from crashing or falling
- Ignited fireworks cause increased air pollution and can lead to fires

Species Helped: Pets, Humans, and Wild Animals

24 SUPPORT USE OF/INSTALL SEMI-PERMEABLE PAVERS

Did You Know: These pavers allow excess water to reach the groundwater level and nourish habitats; using non-permeable methods can lead to large floods

Species Helped: Wetland Animals

25 STAY ON THE TRAIL WHEN HIKING, BIKING, ETC.

Feet to Yourself: You never know what rare plant or animal you may be stepping on

Species Helped: Flora, Fauna, Fungi, Lichens, etc.

26 PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT

Leave No Trace: If you brought it with you, even if it's organic matter, it needs to leave with you or be disposed of appropriately

27 CLEAN HVAC AND REFRIGERATOR AIR FILTERS TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY AND LONGEVITY

Species Helped: Corals

28 CHOOSE ENERGY-EFFICIENT OPTIONS WHEN UPDATING APPLIANCES

29 TURN OFF THE LIGHTS AND UNPLUG ELECTRONICS

Van Helsing's Helper: "Vampire electricity" refers to the electricity that trickles through to electronics, chargers, and appliances that are plugged in but not in use

Species Helped: Native Birds, Bees, Bats, and Butterflies

30 TAKE PUBLIC TRANSIT

Commute Calculations:

- The average bus can fit 42 people, meaning just one bus could take as many as 42 cars off the road
- Full buses running every 15 minutes along a route could take 168 cars off the road each hour
- One person can cut their carbon emissions by 4800 lbs/year by switching to public transit



energy



31 GO SOLAR

Here Comes the Sun: As a clean and sustainable energy source, solar power eliminates greenhouse gas emissions and minimizes environmental pollution

32 MONITOR AND REGULATE YOUR THERMOSTAT

Climate and Cash Friendly: Keeping settings warmer in the summer and cooler in the winter reduces energy required and saves you money

Species Helped: Polar Bears

33 RECYCLE YOUR OLD ELECTRONICS

World Wide Web: Recycling electronics, like laptops, cuts down on the need for mining rare earth metals – a process that often results in pollution and habitat loss

Species Helped: Polar Bears

34 USE COLD WATER WHEN DOING LAUNDRY

Turnin' Up the Heat: Hot water requires energy consumption which leads to higher emissions and costs you more money

Species Helped: Wolves

energy



AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA

"r" words

35 REDUCE

Be honest about what you and your family need and/or actually use

36 REUSE

Ask yourself if an item can be used again before disposing of it

37 REPAIR

Sometimes an item just needs a little T.L.C. and can still have a lot more use

38 REPURPOSE

Some items can take on a whole new life with a new purpose, consider using parts for an art project or to repair other items

39 RECYCLE

Many items can be recycled, including batteries, bags, and electronics; familiarize yourself with your local recycling service to know how to properly dispose of your recyclables

BE A PART OF THE PROCESS

Buy secondhand, repaired, refurbished, and recycled products when available



60 years

AQUARIUM OF NIAGARA



communities

40 ORGANIZE A NEIGHBORHOOD YARD SALE TO ENCOURAGE REUSE

Species Helped: Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle

41 BUY LOCAL/SHOP SMALL

Smart Shopper: Shopping local not only strengthens communities but also cuts down on pollution from mass production and shipping

Species Helped: Large Whale Species



42 START A GARDEN

The Backyard Aisle: Growing some of your own food reduces grocery costs and encourages healthy habits

Species Helped: Native Insects

43 COMPOST YOUR SCRAPS

Nature's Trash Can: Collect egg shells, fruit and vegetable scraps, tea bags, coffee grounds, etc. into a clean container (like a yogurt tub) and add to a worm farm for composting

44 PACK YOUR OWN LUNCH/SNACKS AND USE REUSABLE BOTTLES/MUGS

Take Home Takeout: Bring your own containers for leftovers at restaurants



communities

- 45** BUY IN BULK OR FROM SHOPS/MARKETS THAT ENCOURAGE YOU TO BRING YOUR OWN CONTAINER
- 46** LOOK FOR GROCERIES/TOILETRIES PACKAGED IN GLASS, METAL, OR PAPER INSTEAD OF PLASTIC
- 47** STRIVE FOR “ZERO-GARBAGE”
Did You Know: Most “garbage” can be cleaned and sorted into recyclables while leftover food can be composted
- 48** USE VEGAN OR ORGANIC CLEANING PRODUCTS AND TOILETRIES (OR MAKE YOUR OWN)
Down the Drain: Runoff from shampoos, detergents, and cleaners go into the same oceans and lakes we use for food and water
Species Helped: Great Lakes Animals
- 49** CELEBRATE SUSTAINABLY WITH REUSABLE, RECYCLABLE, OR BIODEGRADABLE PARTY SUPPLIES
What Goes Up: Balloons and paper lanterns released during parties eventually land and cause pollution, entanglement, or fire
Species Helped: Seabirds



communities

50 EAT LOCALLY SOURCED FOOD

Species Helped: Red-tailed Hawks, Opossums

51 EAT SUSTAINABLY-SOURCED SEAFOOD

Did You Know: Seafood Watch puts out regionally-specific buying guides of the best seafood options

Species Helped: Penguins, Sea Lions, Whales, Sea Birds

52 INCORPORATE ALTERNATIVE PROTEIN OPTIONS INTO YOUR FAMILY'S DIET

Where's the Beef: Industrial-scale farming of animals like cattle and pigs (and the feed for them) is often associated with pollution, deforestation, and greenhouse gas emissions

Species Helped: Walleye, Yellow Perch

53 SKIP THE STRAW (AND OTHER SINGLE-USE PLASTICS)

Species Helped: Fish, Seals, Sea Lions, Whales, Sea Birds



54 BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Logging In: Apps like [eBird](#) and [iNaturalist](#) add your observations to a larger scientific effort

Species Helped: North American Songbirds

55 SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS

Help Them Help the Earth: Many environmental groups are nonprofits and rely on donations, volunteer work, and word of mouth to make a bigger impact

Species Helped: Polar Bears

56 BE CONSCIOUS OF ANIMAL CONTENT ONLINE

Not a Pet: Unsafe, harmful, or misleading interactions with wild animals not only contribute to the illegal pet trade but also threaten their natural habitats and surrounding communities

Species Helped: Wild Birds, Wild Cats, Primates, Hybrids

57 TALK TO YOUR POLITICIANS ABOUT CONSERVATION ISSUES AND HOLD THEM ACCOUNTABLE

connection



58 GET INFORMED ABOUT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS/HAPPENINGS NEAR YOU

Public Knowledge: Community meetings, educational programs, community action days, etc. are all ways to learn about environmental concerns and/or efforts in your community

59 VISIT YOUR LOCAL ZOO, AQUARIUM, SANCTUARY, ETC.

Accredited Efforts: Look for accreditations like the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries

60 CONNECT WITH NATURE

Built-in Inspiration: Nothing inspires a love for nature like immersing yourself in it. When you use your senses to explore the environment around you, you will be encouraged to protect and preserve it!

Species Helped: Everyone!



connection



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