

# 2018 BALBOA PARK SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT DIGITAL EDITION

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## ABOUT BALBOA PARK SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM

The [Balboa Park Sustainability Program](#), an award-winning program of the [Balboa Park Cultural Partnership](#), protects the Park's cultural and historical resources while improving the economic viability of Balboa Park, a [California Cultural District](#) and National Historic Landmark. The Sustainability Program, formed in 2008, represents an [alliance between the City of San Diego, San Diego Gas & Electric® \(SDG&E®\), 30 Balboa Park member organizations, and 75+ community partners](#).

With ten years of success, the program continues to propel the Park toward a socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable future by utilizing the program's core objectives of advancing sustainability in Literacy, Practice, and Leadership. This annual report reflects program milestones and accomplishments in 2018, as well as historical highlights since the program's inception.

# SUSTAINABILITY LITERACY

Education is the cornerstone of the Sustainability Program. We are committed to spreading knowledge and understanding of sustainability to Balboa Park organizations, San Diegans, and beyond.

**3** Facility Director Scholarships

**6** Sustainability Walk-About Tours

**18** Lunch & Learn Meetings

**1,272** People Engaged in Education

## Sustainability Forum & Awards Ceremony

Our 5th annual event brought together 178 Balboa Park stakeholders and sustainability advocates from 73 local organizations. The educational portion of the event program focused on *People, Planet, [Non] Profit*, a look into the vital role of nonprofits as community influencers in environmental stewardship and resiliency. Dr. Jonathan Foley gave the keynote and panelists from The Nonprofit Institute at USD, San Diego Museum of Man, and the San Diego Green Building Council participated in the discussion.

The 2018 Balboa Park Sustainability Awards were presented to the San Diego Civic Youth Ballet for their inspiring sustainability themed *Fairy Tales in the Park* event, and the San Diego Youth Symphony for their innovative composting practices.



# SUSTAINABILITY IN PRACTICE

Sustainable practices in the Park benefit the community's health and environment. We offer ways for tourists, residents, and organizations to model these practices.



### 3,217 Items Diverted

from the landfill through our Excess Capacity Program, which helps organizations share and reuse items throughout the Park



### 6,655 Pounds of Electronic Waste Diverted

from the landfill through recycling events and ongoing collection efforts



### 87,151 kWh Reduced

through the implementation of energy efficiency projects within Park buildings



### 3,000 Earth-Friendly Giveaways

Reusable bags, straws, and utensil sets were given out at public outreach events. These useful items help Park visitors and community residents embrace waste reduction practices in their daily lives, and also prevent single-use items from littering the Park and burdening the landfill.

### Balboa Park Pledges to Go Strawless

For Earth Month, we challenged the Balboa Park Green Team to involve their colleagues in a Pledge to Go Strawless. 176 participants from 14 organizations diverted 7,000 plastic straws by using our reusable straws or avoiding single-use straws. Many participants found this to be a fun and impactful way to reduce their daily waste and continue to be strawless!

# SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

Balboa Park aims to be the most sustainable urban park in the nation and seeks to strengthen the visibility, voice, and leadership of the Park through the sharing of best practices.

**3** Organizations Signed the "[We Are Still In](#)" Declaration

**10** [LEED Best Practice Videos Published on YouTube](#)

## Government Recognition

Our program received commendations from Congresswoman Susan Davis, Assemblymember Todd Gloria, and Councilmember Chris Ward for 10 years of sustainability success in Balboa Park and 5 years of educational programming through our annual Sustainability Forum.

*"The fact that this Park has helped to influence the policy making decisions of the fifth largest economy in the world, I hope gives you a sense that what you're doing on a daily basis is driving change that will truly matter when it comes to stopping the scourge of global climate change."*

- Assemblymember Todd Gloria

*"Sustainability is the key to tackling our environmental challenges now and in the future. Last week, the UN report on climate change demonstrates that we face a grave threat, a truly grave threat, and the time to act is now. We must work together to help minimize climate change to protect our nation."*

- Congresswoman Susan Davis



# MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

## Japanese Friendship Garden: Green Event Waste Diversion Measures

We benchmarked the waste streams at the Cherry Blossom Festival which is an important step in modeling waste diversion strategies and leading Balboa Park towards zero waste.



## San Diego Civic Youth Ballet: Sustainability Themed *Fairy Tales in the Park*

The Fairy Tale Village, in conjunction with the annual *Fairy Tales in the Park* show, featured sustainability themes and many creative elements that integrated sustainability into the event operations, educational signage, and craft projects.

## San Diego Museum of Man: CAM Secretary's Award for Excellence in Sustainability

The museum received the Secretary's Award for Excellence in Sustainability from the California Association of Museums for their *Every Action Matters* project, which engages staff throughout the organization in energy saving behaviors.

## San Diego Zoo Global: AAM Honorable Mention

The Zoo continued their impressive waste diversion efforts throughout their facility and achieved an 85% waste diversion rate in 2017. Zero waste strategies earned them an honorable mention for the American Alliance of Museums' Sustainability Excellence Award in Programming.

# PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS

## SDG&E® Clean-up & Litterati

In partnership with the City of San Diego's Parks & Recreation Department and SDG&E®, we launched a park-wide waste study and litter abatement initiative using the Litterati app. 120 volunteers from SDG&E® helped collect 283 pounds of litter and documented 1,752 Litterati entries to catalog the top waste types in the Park.



## EnviroGreen: Hazardous Waste Haul & OPOT America Recycles Day

Longtime partner, EnviroGreen, continued to provide electronic waste pick up for the E-Waste Program at the Fleet Science Center and at the America Recycles Day event hosted with the One Park One Team program. In total, 6,655 pounds of e-waste, batteries, and light fixtures from Balboa Park were properly disposed of and diverted from the landfill.

## Siemens & Solana Center for Environmental Innovation

Thanks to a sponsorship from Siemens, we were able to collaborate with Solana Center for Environmental Innovation to make the 2018 Balboa Park Sustainability Forum our first zero waste event. Over 55 pounds of food and organic waste were composted, offsetting 43 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## TwentyFifty Forks, Preserve, & Living Coast Discovery Center

Preserve, a company that makes reusables out of #5 plastic, donated serving ware to the Japanese Friendship Garden (JFG) for event volunteers. Local company, TwentyFifty Fork, donated compostable flour-based utensils to JFG for December Nights volunteers. These were then composted at the Living Coast Discovery Center – it only took 7 days for them to fully degrade in an open compost pile!

# 2008 to 2018: 10 YEARS OF SUSTAINABLE SUCCESS

## Celebrating A Decade of Sustainability

Over the past decade, the Balboa Park Sustainability Program reached multiple milestones and acted as an exemplary model of sustainability. This success is due to the many valued partnerships through the years, those that continue on, and the ones that are yet to come. Follow our program's journey and the special highlights throughout the years.

### 2008

The Sustainability Program is formed in partnership with the City of San Diego, San Diego Gas & Electric® and the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership in order to pursue energy efficiency upgrades in Balboa Park buildings.

### 2010

We partnered with the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department to employ funds from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) for multiple retrofits. The Fleet Science Center is the first existing building project to be LEED Silver EB: O+M certified in San Diego. Our program is awarded the California Sustainability Alliance's Sustainability Showcase Award for Commercial Buildings.

### 2012

A park-wide LEED feasibility study is completed to explore potential LEED building certifications. The WorldBeat Center is LEED Silver certified for Existing Buildings: Operations + Maintenance.



### 2014

The "10 LEED in Balboa Park" legacy goal is established. In an effort to reuse and repurpose surplus materials in the Park, the Excess Capacity Program was created. To expand community educational programming and celebrate sustainability achievements in the Park, we hosted the first annual Balboa Park Sustainability Partners' Breakfast and awards ceremony.

### 2009

San Diego Natural History Museum is the first museum in California to certify under LEED for Existing Buildings: Operations + Maintenance. Balboa Park becomes the first museum collaborative in the nation to track energy use through the EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager® with 19 participating organizations.

### 2011

Balboa Park Cultural Partnership is featured as a case study in *Sustainable Museums: Strategies for the 21st Century* by Rachel Madan. The Park's Greenhouse Gas emissions were benchmarked through the Climate Registry and Cool Planet Project.

### 2013

The Balboa Park Green Team is established with representation from 5 organizations. Balboa Park is selected as the Non-Profit Champion for the SDG&E® Energy Showcase.



### 2016

"10 LEED in Balboa Park" legacy goal is accomplished with the LEED Gold EB: O+M certification of the San Diego Museum of Man and the LEED: New Construction certification of the Japanese Friendship Garden's Inamori Pavilion. The Sustainability Studio is launched as a 3-month pilot program that engaged 1,431 visitors and saw 215 people make environmental pledges on the Tree of Change art exhibit.

### 2015

We received a grant from the Commission for Arts and Culture, allowing for low flow upgrades of restroom fixtures. SDG&E® selects our program and the City of San Diego as joint Energy Grand Champion winners. The Fleet Science Center becomes the first LEED Silver EB: O+M project to be recertified in San Diego. Five buildings receive LEED Silver EB: O+M certification: Casa de Balboa, Casa del Prado, The Old Globe Theatre, House of Charm, and the Federal Building.

### 2017

A park-wide greenhouse gas inventory is completed through the University of San Diego's Energy Policy Initiatives Center. The American Alliance of Museums' PIC Green Network awards our program the Sustainability Excellence Award for the Sustainability Studio. Grants & rebates from SDG&E®, San Diego County Water Authority, and Metropolitan Water District allow for restroom fixture retrofits in 9 buildings.

### 2018

With ten years of success and experience, Balboa Park is an exemplar of sustainability among urban parks in the nation! Cumulative highlights from the past 10 years boast:

- 9,409,905 kWh of electricity saved
- 121,570 Therms of natural gas saved
- More than \$1.9 million saved on energy bills
- 10,943 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e offset
- 12,462 people engaged in education
- 3,372,147 gallons of water saved
- 7,883 items diverted through the Excess Capacity Program

# PROGRAM PARTNERS

## Founding Partners



## Program Supporters



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