



# ONE PLANET—OURS!

Sustainability for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Century

The 22<sup>nd</sup> century begins

**92 years** from now.

Between now and then, three more generations of Americans will be born. Among the estimated 10 billion humans inheriting the planet will be your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

**What will they find?**

**What will they need?**

**What will surround their lives?**

**The decisions we make today**  
will answer these questions.



# One Planet— Yours and Mine

Thankfully, the earth turns, the sun shines, and gravity prevails. But our decisions—good, bad, well-reasoned or spontaneous—all lead to the same end: the future.

**The way we choose to live, eat, commute, work, play, garden, and shop has consequences.**

The sun's energy warms the planet and fuels earth's life. Our actions alter the land, ocean, atmosphere, and the movement of matter among the living and nonliving, the healthy and the poisoned, and places, both public and private.

**What shall we demand of ourselves and of each other?**

This exhibition offers suggestions for how you, your family, and your community can live more sustainably.





# What is sustainability?

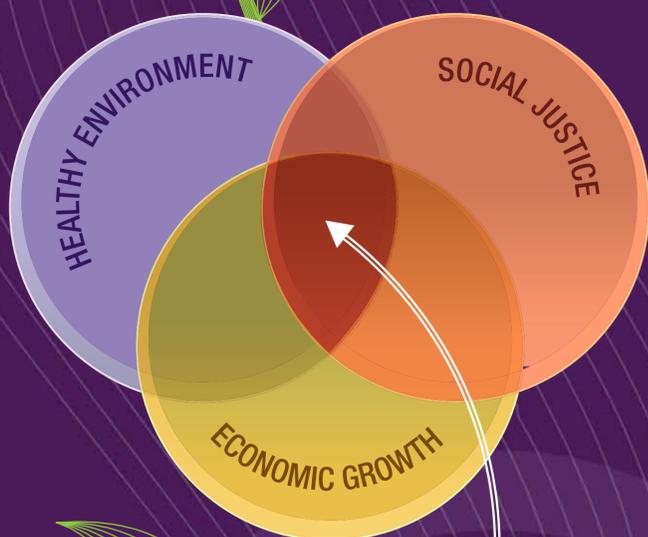
Sustainable societies are those that embrace institutions, infrastructure, lifestyles, and practices—environmental, economic, and social—that meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.\*

In a sustainable society, individuals and governments recognize that for health, fairness, and economic growth to be accommodated, all must compromise.

**Sustainability must now be evaluated in a **global** context.**

We need to move to an era where each of us takes responsibility for our individual demands on energy, resources, food, and space.

THE THREE COMPONENTS  
OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**SUSTAINABLE  
SOCIETY**

\* Brundtland Commission, U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development



# Cool Globes

Hot Ideas for a Cooler Planet

To underscore the global nature of our impact, Cool Globe sculptures appear throughout this exhibition. Cool Globes is an innovative project that uses public art to inspire action. Designed by local, national, and international artists, individuals, schools, and organizations, no two are alike.

Each globe depicts positive actions that reduce the impact of humans on earth's fragile environment.

See them all and find the one that motivates you to live more sustainably.

For more information, visit [www.coolglobes.org](http://www.coolglobes.org).

Cool Globes thanks **TOYOTA** for its generosity and support.





# What **YOU** can do

## Businesses can:

**Make a difference**—remember that businesses are run by people.

**Practice** sustainable landscaping practices in existing and new developments.

**Evaluate** services, vehicle fleets, purchases, and business practices to reduce environmental impact.

**Choose** environmentally responsible suppliers.

**Inform** your customers about your green business practices.

**Plan** to improve energy efficiency through renovation and use of technology.

## Families can:

**Spend strategically.** Make your dollars part of your action plan! Demand and purchase products that are healthy for the environment.

**Practice the three Rs: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.**

**Travel thoughtfully.** Walk, bicycle, take mass transit, or carpool. When you drive, choose a fuel-efficient vehicle. Fly only when necessary.

**Update your home.** Consider installing energy-efficient appliances, windows, doors, HVAC equipment, and/or a green roof to reduce heating and cooling costs.

**Teach your children.** Model sustainable practices and tell them what you are doing. Ask your children to join in making wise consumer choices.



## Our governments and non-governmental organizations can:

**Encourage** energy savings through tax incentives, equipment modernization, water conservation, and voluntary programs of “green industry” initiatives.

**Encourage** a national dialogue about sustainability.

**Set national targets** for energy conservation, provide conservation infrastructure, encourage research and initiatives, provide leadership, and document progress.

**Participate** in international agreements that promote environmental health, conservation of biodiversity and habitat, and environmental justice.



# Big changes start with small steps

## Know your footprint!



A carbon or ecological footprint helps you understand how much impact your life has on earth systems.

Go to [http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind\\_calculator.html](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/ind_calculator.html) to calculate yours, and plan to reduce it in successive years by gradually shifting to sustainable practices and products.

► **Did you know?** At the current rate of growth, by the year 2015, it will require 1.6 earths just to sustain the human population at its current level of consumption.

## Eat locally!



Buying local food helps local farmers and reduces energy consumption. Visit your local farmer's market or co-op or grow your own.

► **Did you know?** The average food travels 1,200 to 2,500 miles from pasture to plate.

## Downshift your driving!



Each gallon of gas that you use equals 20 pounds of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. Whenever possible take public transportation, carpool, ride your bicycle or walk.

► **Did you know?** A quarter of the trips Americans take by car are within walking distance.

## Junk your junk mail!



The average American receives 41 pounds of junk mail annually. Visit [www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org) to use online forms to help get rid of junk mail.

► **Did you know?** The annual U.S production of junk mail consumes more than 100 million trees, enough to deforest four Rocky Mountain National Parks.



## Break the bottled water habit!



America's demand for bottled water requires more than 1.5 million barrels of oil annually. For water on the go, invest in a nontoxic, reusable bottle.

► **Did you know?** 40 percent of bottled water is just tap water!

## Beat the heat, wash in cold!



If every household in the U.S. makes the switch to cold water for four out of five loads, together we'll save \$6.7 BILLION per year and keep nearly 50 tons of carbon out of the atmosphere.

► **Did you know?** A whopping 90 percent of the energy used by a washing machine goes to just heating the water.

## Bring your own bag!



Each year, an estimated more than 500 billion plastic bags are used worldwide. Take reusable bags to the grocery store whenever possible.

► **Did you know?** Worldwide, over one million plastic bags are used per minute.

Live consciously, buy wisely, and make a difference! Learn more at [www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org)

new  
american  
dream

# Earth is Our Garden



## The U.S. Botanic Garden is becoming greener!

- Conducting an audit of our energy use
- Investigating green roof and solar panel installations
- Updating our buildings to reduce energy use
- Replacing retiring vehicles with hybrids—two have been added to our fleet
- Removing invasive plants from our gardens
- Recycling containers—beverage and plant!
- Composting green waste and reusing soil from containers
- Investigating geothermal heating and cooling at our Production Facility
- Continuously improving work practices to reduce, reuse, and recycle
- Increasing our educational programming and exhibits about sustainable practices



### Make the earth your garden and take the pledge.

- I will understand and embrace the fact that I share the air, water, land, rivers, and oceans with all of earth's life forms, both human and non-human;
- I will take at least one action to assure that my grandchildren and others will experience a healthful environment, a comfortable life, and a just world;
- With these actions and others, I choose to live more sustainably.

## Partnership stories:

**Sustainable Sites Initiative** is a project of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the American society of Landscape Architects and the USBG to develop a voluntary set of national standards for landscapes comparable to the LEED-standards for green buildings. See [www.sustainable-sites.org](http://www.sustainable-sites.org) for more information.

**Fighting Invasive Plants!** The Mid-Atlantic region is suffering from an army of invading plants. The USBG is working with **The Nature Conservancy** on an educational program and brochure aimed at engaging citizens to help save our native habitats.

The USBG is working with many organizations to protect **endangered plants**. For example, we are a repository for plants seized at our nation's borders under the CITES agreement (Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora).

The USBG supports the Floral Report Card project of the **Chicago Botanic Garden**. The project establishes experimental gardens around the country to monitor the effects of climate change. For more information go to [www.chicagobotanic.org](http://www.chicagobotanic.org).



## Join us for Family Days!

Four Saturdays with non-stop free activities, demonstrations, and entertainment for all ages.

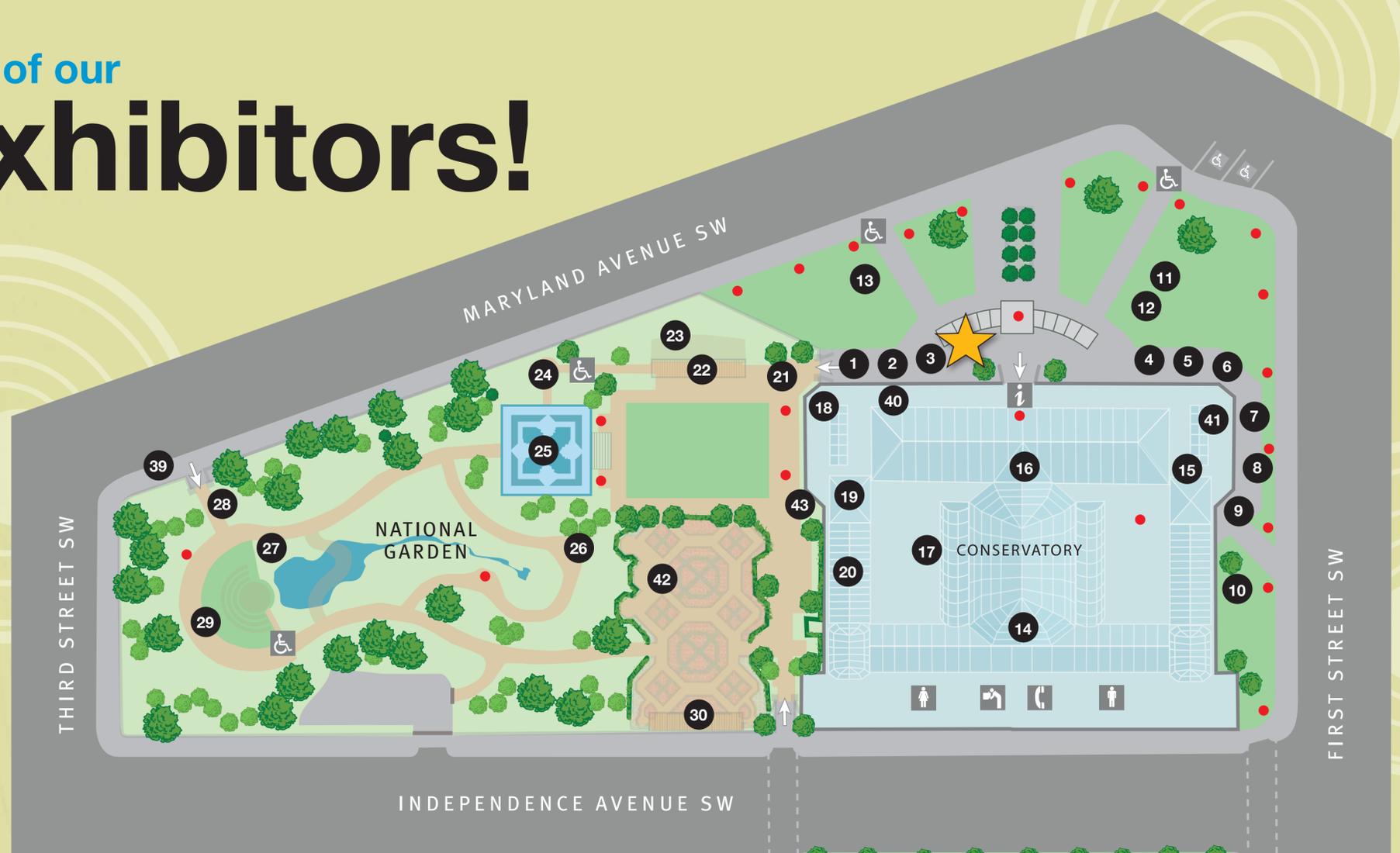
June 21: Pollinators!

July 19: Sustainable Lifestyles!

August 16: Thrive—Eat Locally!

September 27: Thrive—Grow Natives!

Visit each of our  
**exhibitors!**



★ You are here! ● Cool Globe Location

**In & Around Conservatory**

- |                                  |                                       |   |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1 EPA GreenScapes                | 9 America's History of Green Building | 16 The Nature Conservancy                     |
| 2 National Wildlife Federation   | 10 Rainscaping                        | 17 Chicago Botanic Garden                     |
| 3 American Horticultural Society | 11 Residential Wind Power, Windspire™ | 18 IUCN Red List of Endangered Species™       |
| 4 Philadelphia Orchard Project   | 12 Wind Sculpture                     | 19 Botanic Gardens Conservation International |
| 5 Longwood Gardens               | 13 Residential Wind Power, Skystream® | 20 Sustainable Harvesting of Medicinal Plants |
| 6 Sustainable Schoolyards        | 14 Green Infrastructure               | 40 UNEP Aerial Photos                         |
| 7 Importance of Local Food       | 15 Dig It! The Secrets of Soil        | 41 Indoor Air Quality                         |
| 8 Sustainable Work at USDA       |                                       |   |

**National Garden**

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 21 Solar Home                          | 27 Water for People             |
| 22 Solar America Cities Initiative     | 28 Interactive Solar Fountain   |
| 23 Sustaining Pollinators              | 29 Importance of Trees          |
| 24 Earth Partnership for Schools       | 30 Seattle Green Factor         |
| 25 Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center | 39 Solar-powered Generator      |
| 26 Plant Conservation Alliance         | 42 USBG-Sustainable Rose Garden |
|  | 43 Green Roofs                  |

**Bartholdi Park**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 31 Georgia Plant Conservation Alliance | 36 Pots to Products                         |
| 32 Sustainable Turf Care               | 37 American Society of Landscape Architects |
| 33 Don't Do This at Home!              | 38 American Museum of Natural History—Water |
| 34 Power Plants                        |   |
| 35 Phipps Conservatory                 |   |

