

For Immediate Release: April 21, 2011



## THE VANCOUVER AQUARIUM INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY, EVERY DAY

**Vancouver, B.C.** – The Vancouver Aquarium is celebrating Earth Day on April 22 and invites its visitors to join the movement and learn about how they can be green and make environmentally friendly choices every day of the year.

Throughout the day, visitors will be encouraged to offset the carbon emissions of their visit upon arrival. They will be invited to answer a variety of green trivia questions posted around the Aquarium to win prizes. Visitors will also learn about sustainable purchasing, a vital part of the Aquarium's Environmental Management System (EMS), and discover how making sustainable choices every day is easy and has a positive impact on the earth.

"The Vancouver Aquarium is committed to the highest standards of sustainability. We are very proud to say we were the first aquarium in Canada to receive both LEED Gold and ISO 14001 certifications in 2009—an international standard for Environmental Management Systems," says Dr. John Nightingale, president, Vancouver Aquarium. "In 2010, the Vancouver Aquarium was also named one of Canada's Top 100 Greenest Employers, demonstrating our dedication to conservation and encouraging our employees and volunteers part of the solution."

Since the formal adoption of an EMS, the Aquarium continues to implement environmental practices in order to reduce its impact on the earth year after year. In the past year, the Aquarium achieved several milestones, including the following:

- Achieved an 82 per cent rate of diversion of waste from landfill through our recycling and composting programs in 2010;
- Initiated a long term commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by setting a target to reduce its overall energy consumption by 10 per cent by 2012;
- Joined the Tourism Ambassador for Conservation program initiated by Tourism Vancouver and signed a conservation pledge.

"As a global leader in marine conservation, education, and research, the Aquarium is constantly reviewing and challenging its own practices and policies. We hope to inspire our visitors and other organizations to do the same," adds Dr. Nightingale.

### **Earth-friendly Tips**

Celebrate Earth Day, every day, with the following tips:

- Reduce gas consumption while driving up hills or at low speeds by turning off the AC and rolling down windows instead. If driving at 50 km/hr or faster, roll up the windows and use the AC to reduce drag and gas consumption;
- Look for organic, reusable, recyclable, biodegradable or green certified products or products with minimal packaging when making environmentally friendly purchases;
- Lower energy consumption by purchasing dryers with moisture sensors to avoid over drying clothes;

- Unplug electronic devices/equipment and appliances when not in use. This reduces energy drain, also known as phantom load, and can save 10-15 per cent of energy while saving money.

**About the Vancouver Aquarium**

The Vancouver Aquarium is a global leader in connecting people to our natural world, and a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, conservation practices, education, research, and direct action. Learn more at [www.vanaqua.org](http://www.vanaqua.org).

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