



8 - 11 August 2022 • Melbourne Zoo
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HYBRID CONFERENCE & WORKSHOPS



BEYOND NET ZERO EMISSIONS

By

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ABSTRACT

Zoos Victoria's vision is to be the world's leading zoo-based conservation organisation. This means we exist to protect and conserve wildlife and habitat both locally and internationally. To avoid catastrophic consequences of climate change the world needs to expedite the reduction of greenhouse gasses. At COP26, definitions of Net Zero Emissions and greenhouse gas reduction targets were reinforced with the hope of limiting the rise in global temperature to 1.5C. Together with Net Zero Emission commitments, 137 world leaders committed to halt and reverse forest lost and land degradation by 2030. At Zoos Victoria maintaining Carbon Neutrality and reducing greenhouse gas emissions towards Net Zero Emissions is crucial and the path forward. Zoos Victoria embraces The Climate Neutral Now Initiative that encourages and supports organisations and other interested stakeholders to act now in order to achieve a climate neutral world by 2050 as enshrined in the Paris Agreement. There is no need to wait for reduction measures and targets in 2030 or 2050 to become carbon neutral. It is vitally important to act now to reduce emission and become carbon neutral. As conservation organisations that are looking towards carbon neutrality, priority should be given to carbon offsets from bio-sequestration projects that support biodiversity and communities.

At Zoos Victoria, carbon reduction measures include resource efficiency, effective waste management with a Zero Waste to landfill strategy and renewable energy. From July 2021, Zoos Victoria is powered by 100% renewable energy from a mix of on-site solar PVs, the Crowlands Wind Farm and accredited GreenPower. These mitigation initiatives have reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 70%. Going forward, priority initiatives include Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) procurement and further decarbonisation of fossil fuel such as gas heaters and vehicles.

Main SDGs in this presentation are 13 Climate Action, 7 Affordable and Clean Energy, 9 Industry innovation and Infrastructure, and 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities. Indirect SDGs associated with carbon offsets could include 1 No Poverty, 3 Good Health and Well-Being, 4 Quality Education, 6 Clean Water and Sanitation, 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, 15 Life on Land.

BIOGRAPHY

Kiam Yoong: Senior Manager Environmental Sustainability, Zoos Victoria
Qualifications: Bachelor of Engineering (Civil), Master of Engineering (Cleaner Production)
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Kiam Yoong is an Environmental Sustainability professional passionate about a world in harmony with the natural environment. His expertise and key work areas include:

- Development of environmental sustainability policies and strategies
- Developed and implemented ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System

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Fighting Extinction

- Carbon Accounting and certification to Climate Active carbon neutral certification
- Zero Waste to Landfill management plans
- Resource Efficiency and renewable energy
- Environmental, Social and Governance Procurement

Kiam is also the Convenor - Environmental Sustainability Specialist Advisory Group for the Zoo Aquarium Association and a member of the Task Force on Single-Use Plastics and Carbon Guide for World Association of Zoos and Aquariums.