

SMITHSONIAN EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Smithsonian's [Life on a Sustainable Planet](#) initiative aims to balance human activity with the natural world. It leverages the Smithsonian's research, collections, partnerships, and public outreach to promote sustainability and social justice, focusing on reversing climate change and conserving biodiversity.

Integrating science, technology, engineering, arts, and math, the Smithsonian is transforming education through science in collaboration with communities across the globe to foster sustainable living. We partner with diverse groups, including NGOs, Indigenous and local communities, and educational institutions, in support of "[Educating for Sustainable Development](#)," emphasizing conservation and sustainable practices.

Museum Programs, Exhibitions, and Outreach: The Smithsonian museums, online resources, interactive programs, and live events connect visitors with scientists and experts. We expose youth to different types of careers and highlight the diversity of people doing the work of climate science. We spark awe and wonder while nurturing understanding. These activities are designed to educate and inspire learners of all ages about climate mechanisms, impacts, and solutions with frequent new offers such as [Our Places: Connecting People and Nature](#), an exhibit that tackles light pollution, and capacity-building outreach efforts such as the [Women's Environmental Leadership \(WEL\) Summit](#) that engages a multigenerational network of women whose environmental efforts at local, national, and international levels are shaped by a justice and humanities-based framework. Through the US Global Change Research Program, the Smithsonian collaborated with others to produce the [2024 Climate Literacy Guide](#).

Education Resources and Teacher Development: The initiative includes educational materials and professional development for teachers. The [Smithsonian Science for Global Goals](#) Project is a series of freely available community research guides aligned to the UN Sustainable Development goals that allow young people to discover, understand, and act by engineering solutions to locally relevant sustainability issues. The [Smithsonian Science Education Center](#) offers community research guides such as Ocean!, Energy!, Climate Action!, Climate Resilience!, and Ecosystem Resilience! These resources reach 6.7 million students and 50,000 global educators across 188 countries and will help drive student-driven decision-making and local action-taking to promote [Life on a Sustainable Planet](#).

Through these efforts, the Smithsonian seeks to build scientific literacy and sustainability mindsets among young people, emphasizing the importance of personal action for a sustainable future.

Life on a Sustainable Planet (LSP) is a vital initiative from the Smithsonian designed to advance and inspire global engagement in environmental stewardship. This comprehensive program applies the Smithsonian's expertise in science, outreach, and education to foster holistic approaches to preserving ecosystems, building resilience, and educating the world about sustainable climate solutions. Smithsonian scientists partner with communities and organizations around the world, conducting research and educational programs to shape the future. LSP programs save and protect biodiversity, champion sustainable practices, and offer innovative solutions to the challenges posed by our changing climate.