



Cincinnati Zoo Pursues "Living Building Challenge"

African Painted Dog Exhibit would be one of the Greenest Facilities in the Country

In keeping with our designation as the "greenest Zoo in America," the Cincinnati Zoo is pursuing its most ambitious challenge in sustainable construction yet: the *Living Building Challenge* for the African painted dog exhibit in Africa.

The *Living Building Challenge* is a non-profit, international building certification program that promotes the most advanced measurement of sustainability for building and construction projects.

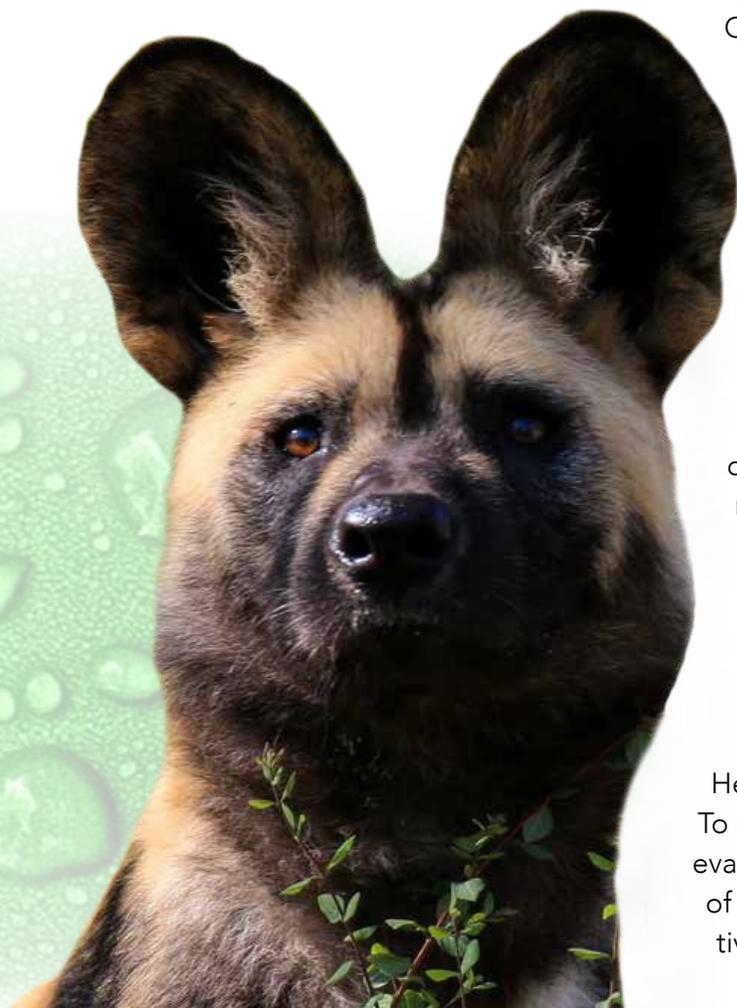
The Cincinnati Zoo has made the commitment to maintain the highest standard of sustainability for all new building projects, which started with the construction of the Harold C. Schott Education

Center. In 2006, the Education Center was awarded the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification, one of the first LEED certified buildings in Cincinnati. Since then, the Zoo has achieved LEED certification for each new construction project, including LEED Platinum for Historic Vine Street Village in 2009, LEED Gold for the Pavilion in 2009, LEED Gold for the Zoo Gift Shop in 2010, LEED Gold for Cat Canyon in 2012, and LEED Silver for the Shipping/Receiving building in 2012.

As rigorous and thorough as LEED certification is, the *Living Building Challenge* attains an even greater measure of a building's sustainability by measuring actual, rather than modeled, performance.

The Challenge asks the question, "What if every single act of design and construction made the world a better place?" As the exhibit was designed and built in the most sustainable way possible, there were seven specific key performance areas, called Petals, to be addressed.

The Petals are: Site, Water, Energy, Health, Materials, Equity, and Beauty. To earn "Living" status, the building project is evaluated after at least 12 consecutive months of operation, and must have met the imperatives of each of each Petal.





SITE

Imperatives include: **Limits to Growth, Urban Agriculture, Habitat Exchange, and Car-Free Living**

The African painted dog exhibit was once a large asphalt parking lot. A variety of trees, shrubs, perennials and grasses were planted to convert most of the site into green space. Over time, it will grow into a thriving ecosystem that attracts native pollinators and birds. The “right-sized” animal holding building is also topped with a green roof.



WATER

Imperatives include: **Net Zero Water, and Ecological Water Flow**

All rain water on the site is collected and stored for reuse in a 400,000 gallon underground reservoir. The water is used for irrigation, filling the water moats and to hose down back-of-house animal areas. Grey and Black water will be treated on site and reused within the exhibit.



ENERGY

Imperative includes: **Net Zero Energy**

The high performance African painted dog holding building achieves net-zero energy by requiring very little energy and by sourcing what energy it does need from solar arrays. Exhibit features such as the waterfalls are “turned off” during closed times to conserve energy usage.



HEALTH & HAPPINESS

Imperatives include: **Civilized Environment, Healthy Air, Biophilia.**

The African painted dog exhibit provides a robust healthy space, which appeals to our sense of interconnectedness with nature. Fresh air, a lushly planted landscape and accessible walking paths contribute to human health and happiness.



MATERIALS

Imperatives include: **Red List, Embodied Carbon Footprint, Responsible Industry, Appropriate Sourcing, Conservation + Reuse.**

The African painted dog exhibit was built with efficient, long-lasting materials and methods that minimized waste during construction as well as into the future. Tilt-up concrete panels containing insulation and stainless steel resulted in a low maintenance and durable structure that is 85-90% recyclable. All waste is collected in provided receptacles, then disposed of properly at local recycling centers or compost facilities.



EQUITY

Imperatives include: **Human Scale + Humane Places, Democracy + Social Justice, Rights to Nature.**

The African painted dog exhibit was designed to foster a sense of community. Equally accessible to people of all abilities, the naturalistic exhibit creates an intimate setting for developing relationships between people and nature.



BEAUTY

Imperatives include: **Beauty + Spirit, Inspiration + Education.**

The African painted dog exhibit immerses you in the natural beauty of the African savannah from colorful foliage to richly textured rocks to a babbling brook. We want you to feel as if you and the animals share the same space, fostering a close connection that inspires you to care for and conserve one of Africa's most threatened species.