

International Science Center and Science Museum Day 2016: Local to Global Solutions for Sustainability

On November 10, 2016, on the occasion of the World Science Day for Peace and Development and in partnership with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Council of Museums, science centers, science museums, and their networks worldwide will organize the first International Science Center and Science Museum Day (ISCSMD). On that day, science centers and science museums are invited (and encouraged!) to offer activities based on one (or more!) of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) declared by the United Nations (UN). Building upon that UNESCO theme of “Science for Peace and Development,” our goal is to create new ways for our institutions to proactively address global sustainability while reaching increasingly diverse audiences. ISCSMD aims to demonstrate the engagement and impact of the science center and science museum field and to present them at the Science Center World Summit in Tokyo in November 2017.



What Can I Expect?

Leading up to the ISCSMD celebration, science centers and science museums can look forward to the following:

- A dedicated ISCSMD website, featuring a blog, case studies from best practices, and ways to address the SDGs in your institution;
- An interactive map highlighting SDG activities in science centers and museums like yours from around the world;
- Access to the expertise and materials that result from a mini-conference in Paris designed to offer further ideas on the most effective ways to address SDGs in science centers and museums; and
- The opportunity to participate in an exciting worldwide science center- and science museum-based experiment directly related to a SDG theme.

What Can I Do Now?

As we start to mobilize for ISCSMD, we invite individual science centers and science museums to begin an online dialogue about the event. Help us bring the conversation alive by [submitting a blog post](#) and letting all of us know what is working (or what you'd like to improve) in your center relative to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. How can you start? Identify one goal (or more!) linked to an exhibition or a program that you currently offer or plan to undertake. Share your successes, challenges, and ideas for change, either that you've already made or hope to make. Your posts—and the discussions that result—will not only inspire comments from the field, but will be used to set the stage for the aforementioned expert-led mini-conference. Plus, when the official ISCSMD website is launched in June, your entries will help make it come alive.

We are delighted to report that we have already received the first post, which will be published by the Association of Science-Technology Centers; be sure to visit astc.org/iscsmd to learn how TELUS Spark (Calgary, Alberta, Canada) seeks to be a place where rich conversations around sustainability can happen through their Energy Sustainability Project—a pilot exhibit designed test to their visitors' interest in these topics.

Remember: the website will also include a variety of resources that will help the field get fully involved in ISCSMD in many fun and unique ways. Please help us make this an international movement!

Make sure to save the date (November 10!) and to start to imagine how you can participate. In the meantime, stay tuned for more news about the International Science Center and Science Museum Day.

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