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**DENVER ZOOLOGICAL FOUNDATION SEEKS PARTNERS TO COMPLETE WASTE TO ENERGY TECHNOLOGY & CEASES PROJECT OPERATIONS ON-SITE**

***Zoo Seeks Partners to Complete Innovative Technology Off-Site***

**Denver, CO (September 25, 2015)** – The Denver Zoological Foundation will seek partners to complete the development and deployment of the innovative technology behind its planned Waste To Energy technology off site and has cancelled its plans to operate the system at Denver Zoo.

“This was a difficult decision. The adoption and implementation of a new technology is a challenging and capital intensive process. After great consideration, we strategically decided that collaborations with external partners will give us the best chance of bringing the waste-to-energy technology to fruition as quickly as possible and in a manner that is consistent with Denver Zoo's mission and environmental initiatives,” says Denver Zoo President/CEO Shannon Block.

The Waste to Energy System would have converted Zoo trash and animal manure safely into electricity, while reducing the Zoo's contribution to landfill by 90 percent. The decision comes after careful evaluation of the increasingly complex technology and costly process to bring the system online at Denver Zoo.

“We want to thank all our steadfast supporters throughout this decade-long endeavor. These supporters have included Denver City Council, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the EPA, the National Renewable Energy Lab, the Denver Post Editorial Board, The Governor’s Energy Office and numerous neighborhood groups and philanthropic individuals. This project has elevated the scientific dialogue. We want this technology to succeed,” says Block. “Although this is a difficult decision, it is the one that makes the most sense to ensure the project continues to completion off site and to ensure that the Zoo achieves our highest priorities moving forward, including implementation of our new master plan.”

With its new elephant exhibit, which opened in 2012, the Zoo sought an innovative solution to help animals by lessening the impact of landfill waste while creating clean energy. The Zoo attempted something that hadn't been done before – taking a diverse waste stream to create a consistent fuel pellet that would then generate clean energy through a proven, long-standing technology called gasification. If implemented at Denver Zoo, the waste-to-energy system would have been held to the highest standards for environmental quality set by the

U.S. EPA and the Colorado Department of Health and Environment. Denver Zoo won the inaugural Greenest Zoo award from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in 2012 for its outstanding commitment to sustainability.

“With limited resources, the Zoo leveraged the talents and passion of a group of our staff and industry experts to advance this project to a place that we are incredibly proud of. We remain hopeful that the story of this innovative technology will continue with new partners and renewed passion,” says Sr. VP for Design & Campus Management George Pond.

All full-time staff working on the waste to energy project will be reallocated to core operations, which still include the Zoo’s long list of sustainability efforts, as well a new master plan. The master plan will provide a roadmap for exhibit development and renovation to best achieve the Zoo’s mission to secure a better world for animals through human understanding. The plan revitalizes core areas of the Zoo to provide state-of-the-art animal care, meaningful and inspirational guest experiences and science learning opportunities through the awe and wonder of animals.

Through the third party certified ISO-14001 sustainable management system, the Zoo remains steadfast in its commitment to continual improvement of our operations to meet the highest levels of environmental standards. This includes the finalization of the Zoo's purchasing program which evaluates all products based on their environmental footprint. In addition, Denver Zoo will continue its recycling and compost programs while working with outside partners to find innovative solutions to achieve its goal of eliminating resources going to landfill by 2025, and continued use of water sustainability programs, like the use of recycled water throughout Zoo exhibits.