

# Design choices

The SustainABLE Kit team has worked hard to keep core principals of sustainability in mind as we made design choices and fabricated the SustainABLE Kit materials. Our efforts try to balance the three pillars of sustainability—healthy people, communities, and environments, now and in the future. We continually asked ourselves: How can we make strong environmental choices while also making the kit materials affordable, accessible, and durable?

For example, we knew we could support accessibility by offering a digital kit online. We also decreased the amount of materials that would eventually wind up in the landfill by not laminating the activity signs and guides, since lamination renders paper unrecyclable, and we have sourced materials from post-consumer waste where possible. Activity signs and guides are printed on 100 percent recycled paper, and the stacking Future Builder blocks are constructed from a durable composite material that uses 30 percent recycled glass! We have only included single-use items where it extended learning and opportunities for application and when those single-use items are recyclable and optional (such as with the handouts for the reinvention station).

These steps don't end with us! **For this kit to be as sustainable as possible, we need your help!**

Here are some ways you can help contribute to our sustainability effort:

- Recycle the paper products when you no longer have a use for them.
- Reuse the plastic tablecloths, over and over.
- If you recreate or print your own items, please consider using recycled materials and options.
- Find creative ways to upcycle the unrecyclable—did you know that there are companies that will turn your worn out vinyl banners into messenger bags?
- Help us increase accessibility—if your museum or center translates the kit into another language, please let us know.
- Model sustainable behavior for visitors to see.

Thank you, in advance, for your role in making SustainABLE more sustainable! We hope you enjoy engaging your guests in these conversations and activities.

**The SustainABLE Kit team**