



SIKHISM

There are 25 million Sikhs worldwide, 20 million in India and five million in the diaspora with large communities in Europe and in North America. An integral part of the identity of a Sikh is a connection to the environment. Sixteen years ago Sikhs celebrated the inauguration of the Cycle of Creation. The 300-year long cycle is a time for Sikhs to reflect upon and celebrate their relationship with the environment. This plan comes out of that reflection.

ECOSIKH

www.ecosikh.org

EcoSikh was launched in 2009, at Windsor Castle in collaboration with Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC, UK) and UNDP, as a global Sikh environmental initiative connecting environmental teachings of Guru Nanak with climate action. The Sikh holy scriptures regard air as the Guru, water as father and earth as the great mother of all. As per the Sikh tenants; a Sikh is a lifelong learner, a universal citizen who cares for wellbeing of all, loves peace and observes equal rights for all regardless of ones caste, colour, creed, religion, race or gender.

In the light of 17 Goals SDGs, the EcoSikh plan for next 10 years of working with Sikh community and beyond for environmental awareness and making Sikhism a greener religion to combat the climate change issues.

The 10 year plan includes:

I. Master Plan: Education on Greening of Sikhism - Wishlist

The EcoSikh Education Plan is focused to impart green education and practices backed up by Sikh holy scriptures in the Sri Guru Granth Sahib, for the entire Sikh population in India and the diaspora.

II. Greening of Sacred Sites in Pakistan: Exploration of green projects on Sikh sacred sites in Pakistan

III. Expanding the Existing EcoSikh Projects: Sikh Environment Day, Green Gurdwaras, Eco-Amritsar, Green Celebrations, Sacred Gardens/Groves

I. MASTER PLAN: EDUCATION ON GREENING OF SIKHISM—WISHLIST

- 1 Introducing and publicising the Sikh Statement on Climate Change, on Air, Water and Food on Sikh media and websites in English and Punjabi. Connecting with FIVE SIKH TEMPORALS to make a collective announcements for the entire Sikh community.
Goals 3, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17
- 1.1 Organising Water Dialogues, Dialogue on Soil and Air with the community leaders: recognition of water crisis as a community issue
- 1.2 Workshops on Water Conservation in urban and rural areas
- 2 EcoSikh Curriculum: Developing, printing and circulating the EcoSikh Curriculum for Khalsa Schools in (India and diaspora); the Schools of Sikh Religious Studies for Priests, Sikh Social Organisations and other secular schools run by Sikh managements.
Goals 3, 6, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17
- 2.1 Internships for capacity building: Research and development faith based books on eco-theologies, stories of environment from Sikh history and lessons from the Sikh holy scriptures
- 2.2 Team expansion: Creating relevant internships/job opportunities to outreach in nations with active Sikh communities; USA, Canada, India, UK, Norway, New Zealand, Australia, Dubai, Singapore and Malaysia
- 3 Green Pilgrimage Guide for Sikhs: a mini guide to educate the Sikh pilgrims (in two languages); English and Punjabi. Involves millions of Sikhs from all over the world who, with their families, come for pilgrimage every year in India.
Goals 3, 6, 12, 13, 15, 17

- 4 Environmental Councils/ Departments in the Gurdwaras: lobbying for the creation of Environment Committee in the major Gurdwara management organisations to the National Green Tribunal. Creating a set of environmental standards/ norms and functionality of the newly established departments.
Goals 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11,13, 15, 17
- 5 Council of Sikh Priests (Kathawachaks and Hymn Singers) on Climate Action
Goals 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 15, 17
 - 5.1 Crafting a working agenda for priests on Climate Action
 - 5.2 Collection of stories for launching a book by council members (Priests/Religious teachers). This book becomes a source of knowlege in colleges and universities in religious studies
 - 5.3 Ensure day to day environmental activity in the Gurdwaras as a part of priest's duty
 - 5.4 Ensure training of the upcoming priests
 - 5.5 Working inline with the Gurdwara Environmental Councils conducting discourses worldwide on the climate issues
- 6 EcoSikh Student Associations/Clubs in Universities and educational institutions: training Sikh youth for disaster management skills, first aid, environmental programmes and advocacy
Goals 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16
- 7 Television episodes: Creating a weekly series/episodes/panel discussions of discourses in partneship with community based Sikh channels in India, UK and USA (education on Green Gurdwaras, greening the Sikh homes, prayers and discourses on nature, career orientation courses and jobs in environmental fields for youth)
Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17
- 8 Farmer Workshops/Seminars on Sustainable Agriculture and Policy.
Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15, 17
- 9 EcoSikh summer camps in India, USA, UK, Australia: Aiming to promote awareness, environmental leadership training and advocacy
Goals 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16

II. GREENING OF SACRED SITES IN PAKISTAN:

During the EcoSikh's recent Pakistan visit, the Pakistan Government officials endorsed a plan to explore green projects at Kartarpur and Nankana Sahib, the most sacred Sikh shrines in Pakistan. This will be part of the celebration of 550th birthday of Guru Nanak, Founder of Sikhism, in 2019. Guru Nanak was born in Nankana Sahib and he lived in Kartarpur during his last 17 years. EcoSikh is creating a ecological plan on 100 acres of land for the two Gurdwara lands
Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 17

- 1 Environment Assessment of Nankana Sahib and Kartarpur Sahib area; measuring water table, status of water purity, status of biodiversity, wildlife, sanitation, waste management, sewer systems etc.
- 2 Sacred Organic Farms: 10 acres of land under organic cultivation both at Nankana Sahib and Kartarpur Sahib for langar
- 3 Green Energy: converting two historical Gurdwaras 100% on solar energy, plus adopting/promoting solar energy in the neighbouring villages.
- 4 Sacred Forests/biodiversity/eco-tourism: 25-50 acres of land to be developed as natural forests; improving biodiversity, include walking and bike trails for eco-tourism.
- 5 Clean and Green Energy/Waste Management/Sanitation: Foster the use of biogas plants at and villages around Nankana sahib and Kartarpur Sahib
- 6 Solar Streetlighting/ EE/ LED lighting on the approaching roads to Nankana Sahib and Kartarpur Sahib.
- 7 Safe Water/Water Conservation: Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) systems at two project sites, creating ponds on project sites, promoting ponds and RWH in neighbouring villages around the two places improving the sustainable safe water and aquifers.
- 8 Water Conservation/Solar Water heating: Solar water heaters at the two sites, for cooking, dishwashing, and cleaning etc
- 9 Energy Efficiency: Steam Kitchens at two Gurdwaras for cooking food

III. EXPANDING THE EXISTING ECOSIKH PROJECTS:

Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17

- 1 World Sikh Environment Day, (annual on March 14) - current status: a worldwide celebration, Sikh community, over 2000 organisations in 18 countries. Possibilities to expand and innovation
Goal 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17
- 1.1 EcoSikh Mapping (mapping of all “green” activity by the Sikh community; tree plantation, solar projects, seminars, lectures, pictures and videos, bike rallies, contests, celebrations etc)
- 1.2 Interfaith Workshop/Dialogue on Role of Faith in Climate Change Issues
- 1.3 Sikh Film Festival
- 1.4 Educational ideas on how to rear kitchen gardens, sacred groves, start a solar project, steam kitchen, rain water harvesting etc
- 2 Green Gurdwaras: The EcoSikh Green Gurdwara Guide (3G) is on its way. The book consist of basics of how to inculcate green architect in the Gurdwara buildings and introducing innovation and green technology for sustainable buildings and promoting ecological knowledge through Gurdwaras as house of learning.
Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17
- 2.1 International Launch of “Green Gurdwaras” Campaign and Release of printed and online version of Green Gurdwara Guide (3G), a set of internationally agreed norms to design green buildings customized for Sikh Gurdwaras in hot and cold countries
- 2.2 Launching International Green Gurdwara Network (GGN): a network of Gurdwaras to kick start the greening of Gurdwara buildings and creating resources and capacity building within the Sikh community.
- 2.3 International Workshops for expanding GGN for introduction of 3G as a response to climate change.
- 2.4 Helping gurdwaras to create partnerships with local environmental agencies, city council, and raising community based funding.

- 2.5 Water/energy audits and Green energy
- 2.6 Introducing Green/Ethical purchase policy
- 2.7 Introduction of organic/kitchen gardens in the gurdwaras (this involves a lot of retired and young volunteers)
- 2.8 Introduction of organic food in the free community kitchens in Gurdwaras, (with special focus on the Golden Temple). It will promote healthy food, healthy lifestyle in Sikh families and members of other faiths who partake free food at the Gurdwara as holy meals everyday in India and mostly at the weekends in the diaspora)
- 3 Eco-Amritsar: is a city based project in the holy city of Amritsar under the Green Pilgrimage Network, ARC. Started in 2012 to promote public awareness, leadership and advocacy for the key environmental issues of the city. The city receives 100,000 pilgrims each day from within India and abroad.
Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17
- 3.1 Green Composting of kitchen and garden waste produced from all the historical Gurdwaras of Amritsar. Finding and creating partners for capacity building
Goals 2, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17
- 3.2 Adding provision/public spots for safe drinking water at the major pilgrim route historical sites
Goals 3, 11, 15, 17
- 3.3 Solid waste management: Promoting domestic composting unit (Eco-Bin) for reuse of kitchen and garden waste
Goals 2, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17
- 3.4 Green Cover: Developing and planning of Japanese Gardens along the major storm drain of the city in partnership with JICA
Goals 3, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17
- 3.5 Sanitation and Waste Management: Expanding the EcoSikh's daily sanitation programme in partnership with the 70 neighbouring villages from the sacred pilgrim route to the new city's residential areas and promoting segregation of household waste. And further advocacy of waste management with the Municipal Corporation of the city

Goals 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17

- 3.6 Bio-Fuels and organic composting: projects to produce bio-gas as bio-fuel for households from number of cattle sheds in the city through bio-digester technology.

Goals 2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17

- 3.7 Water Conservation and Energy Efficiency: Creating partnerships with Green Architects to conduct Energy and water audits for the sacred historical sites of the city.

Goals 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17

- 3.8 Green Schools: working with the major schools in the city to promote environmental knowledge /advocacy as a part of religions (secular)

Goal 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17

- 3.9 Zero Disposal Parks/Biodiversity Parks: promoting and helping zero disposal parks in the neighbourhoods. We already have to parks functional.

Goals 3, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17

- 3.1.0 E-Transport: Promoting public transport, bikes, e-rickshaws for the pilgrim movement

Goals 3, 7, 9, 11, 13,

- 3.1.1 Green Planning/ Plantation drives: promoting native species, reducing soil erosion, green cover and combating air pollution in the city

Goals 3, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17

- 4 Green Celebrations: EcoSikh introduced greening of religious processions in Sikhism, we also promote Green Diwali, Green Holi, Green Valentines, Green Christmas etc.

Goal 2, 3, 6, 11, 12, 15

- 4.1 Online and media campaigning to promote green celebrations

- 5 Sacred Gardens: Identifying and capacity building to promote more open lands as sacred gardens. All the major historical Gurdwaras have spare lands which can be promoted as sacred groves or sacred forests. EcoSikh has already promoted two such sacred gardens in Kiratpur Sahib and Moga

Goals 3, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17

6 EcoSikh Chapters: EcoSikh has its chapters in Washington, India and Norway and it look forward to expand in all the continents EcoSikh

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This 10-year plan was launched as part of the Bristol Commitments – pledges of practical action by faith groups announced at the 2015 UN Faiths Meeting in Bristol, UK, for the SDGs. More information on the Alliance of Religions and Conservation website: <http://www.arcworld.org/news66dd.html?pageID=783>