

Delhi Youth Summit on Climate (DYSoC 2010)



Introduction

Delhi, the seat of power of the world's largest democracy, is a rapidly developing urban center and features in the list of top ten most populated cities in the world. One of the oldest continually inhabited cities, Delhi today is facing the dual pressure of development as well as an ever increasing population. In the climate constrained world of today, 'development' itself is seen as a threat to the environment and it is indeed 'development' which attracts the workforce and contributes to the increasing urban population. However, development--in the real sense of the word--is essential for the growth and prosperity of a region and of a nation as a whole. Development should be sustainable and should not discount the needs and requirements of the future generation.



With this as the backdrop, Delhi Greens and a series of organizations had called for the **first ever** Delhi Youth Summit on Climate (DYSoC) in **May 2008**. The objective of the summit then--at a time when our source of information on the issue was the western media--was to generate awareness and inspire and empower the youth to be able to take action. DYSoC '08 concluded with a Delhi Youth Charter on Climate Change which

was presented to Mr. J.K. Dadoo, the then Environment Secretary of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi, who welcomed the initiative of the youth for clean, bright today and a more secure tomorrow. DYSoC '08 also paved the way for launching the Youth Climate movement in the country.

The 2nd Delhi Youth Summit on Climate (DYSoC 2010)

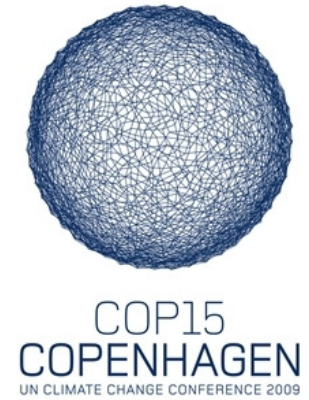
Ever since DYSoC '08, there has been a tremendous and remarkable change in the awareness level of the people and their general attitude towards the climate crisis. Environmental degradation, pollution and global warming are now recognized as imminent threats to human survival and people are ready to take action, even willing to readjust their lifestyles, to avert adverse environmental impacts of a changing climate.

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After the two UNFCCC Conference of Parties (COPs) which took place in Poznan (2008) and Copenhagen (2009), we have witnessed greater media coverage on environmental issues in the press across the country. What is now required is to convert awareness into action and direct this potential towards action oriented programmes, and demand and promote sustainable development, beginning with Delhi.



Delhi is the first state in the country to launch its own State Action Plan on Climate Change shortly after the Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh presented the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) to the country. The city is also hosting the Commonwealth Games later this year and is under a suspended state of infrastructure and development until then. Are the imperatives of environmental protection, climate change and citizens health along with carefully chosen long term beneficial works being given priority and adequate attention in 'the big rush' (and hush) scenario or are they being forgotten or sacrificed at the altar of the Games? Is the non-Games infrastructure related work prioritized and chosen at all, to meet long term needs and benefits? The life supporting systems of the city - River Yamuna, Delhi Ridge and sundry others have already degraded beyond the restoration capacity of the city authorities and yet not much is being done in the right direction to save them for the present and the future generations. Issues such as water, energy, transport, waste, etc. and the related air, water and soil pollution and contamination in their sourcing and use are posing a serious challenge to the sustainability of Delhi as a functional city. The city thus needs some immediate remedial measures to tackle this urban and developmental crisis and begin the process of a shift to the principles and practices of sustainable development.



With this as the backdrop, Delhi Greens proposes to host the second Delhi Youth Summit on Climate (**DYSoC '10**) at the residence of first Prime Minister in Teen Murti House. The two day summit will take place on 5th and 6th of June, 2010 and will also be an ideal platform to mark the World Environment Day on June 5th. The Delhi Youth Summit on Climate 2010 will bring together the youth from across the capital city and attempt to understand the various urban environmental issues in the wake of climate change.

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The ever increasing ecological and carbon footprint of megacities like Delhi is an issue of concern as this tends to upset the urban-rural balance in the country. A positive initiative here can herald the winds of change in other metro's as well. This will be addressed through the summit as a key sustainability challenge. The Summit will also try to capture and showcase the efforts made by the Govt. and civil society since the launch of the NAPCC, and highlight the actions listed in the Delhi Action Plan on Climate Change, paving the way for a green city.

DYSoC '10 will also highlight some often overlooked impacts of climate change viz. urban poverty, environmental inequity and economic injustice. We see it as a stepping stone in initiating and promoting green action in the city and creating a consensus leading up to Mexico 2010.

Summit highlights

- DYSoC '10 will be a two day event and will be hosted in the Auditorium of Teen Murti House, New Delhi
- The Summit will bring together the youth from across Delhi to learn, share and discuss the various environmental issues and challenges being faced by the city
- Registration for participation will be opened two weeks before the summit and the final list of participants will be selected so as to ensure adequate representation of youth from different streams, professional backgrounds and districts of Delhi. There will be no charge and registration and participation in the summit will be free of cost
- Selected candidate would be sent a Background guide on the Summit covering the various environmental issues and challenges faced by Delhi city
- The Summit will elaborately discuss the Delhi Climate Action Plan authored by the Chief Secretary of Delhi and also present the Carbon map of Delhi
- Another add-on feature/highlight will be Delhi eco-tour. Delhi Greens will be conducting an eco-tour for selected candidates to create awareness on the green spots of Delhi.
- Selected participants from the summit will be allotted green projects according to their choice which will be initiated through the medium of this summit. These would include projects on Yamuna, Delhi Ridge, waste, energy, Organic farming, etc

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Expected Outcomes:

- A follow up of the DYSoC 2008, and a platform to transform guide awareness into action
- A follow up of the NAPCC and the DAPCC and an analysis of climate action that has resulted from these policy documents
- An analysis and understanding of the challenges of climate change and urbanization with Delhi as a model
- Attempting to come out with green/cleantech solutions for the issues and challenges that will surface from the deliberation
- A Delhi Youth Charter on Climate Change as a guiding document on the expectation and demands of the youth for safeguarding their future
- Groups of carefully selected individuals from the summit who would initiate research, advocacy and campaign based projects in the city
- Paving the way and setting the stage for demanding a fair, equitable and just deal in Mexico in December this year

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