

DELHI YOUTH SUMMIT ON CLIMATE 2010

REPORT



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Preface

Human induced climate change and environmental degradation are two pressing problems of the present day. Realizing the need to address these, the world is witnessing a green change. Albert Einstein had once said, "The significant problems we face (today) cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at, when we created them." This adds a greater sense of responsibility on the younger generation who need to come forward and be the change. This is especially true because young people are not only a vital human resource; they are also key agents for social change, economic growth and technological innovation.

The second Delhi Youth Summit on Climate (DYSoC 2010) was called with an objective of transforming the awareness and energy of the Delhi youth into green action, for a better today and a more promising tomorrow. The Summit brought together the youth from across Delhi NCR and became an ideal platform to discuss the environmental challenges of the city and explore green solutions of various kinds. While the youngest delegate at DYSoC 2010 was aged fourteen, citizens from all age groups participated with much enthusiasm on both the days. The Summit was a huge success in meeting its objective and initiating a fresh wave of green action in the country's national capital.

While the carbon map of Delhi remained the key highlight of the first day, the scorching heat and a steady increase in the duration of the summer season was a widely discussed issue. DYSoC 2010 was hosted at a time when the preparations for the Commonwealth Games 2010 are on and Delhi is gearing up to host visitors from all parts of the world. The proposed transformation of the city-of-cities into a 'world class city' and its environmental and social impact also remained at the center of presentations and discussions. The Summit discussed the urban challenges faced by the Delhi under the following broad themes: water, waste, energy, transport, urban biodiversity and urban planning.

The second day of the Summit began with a panel discussion on urban environmental issues of Delhi with the discussions of the previous day as the backdrop. Promoting good citizenship remained the focus of the day as the delegates filed green ideas and also submitted their names to get involved with green projects. DYSoC 2010 is not a one-of event but a starting point of a green change in the city. The Delhi Greens team will ensure that it is taken forward in the best possible manner.

Govind Singh
Founder-Director
Delhi Greens

Acknowledgement

Delhi Greens takes much pride in acknowledging the tremendous support we received for organising the second “Delhi Youth Summit on Climate, 2010”. Our heartfelt thanks go to the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML), who took the first step in accepting our proposal and agreeing to host the summit in the Teen Murti House. Next, we would like to thank Oxfam India for coming on board as a supporting partner and contributing their bit towards the organization of the Summit.

The summit would not have been successful without the immense and valuable participation of young delegates from different parts of the city, who joined the summit and gave meaning to it. We would also like to thank several eminent personalities working on different aspects of the city’s environment who shared their experience and expertise with our delegates. Thank you all for accepting our invitation. We also thank the young scholars who came forward to guide the delegates with their knowledge on various issues during the Working Group session. The Department of Environment, GNCT has also been extremely helpful in encouraging and coordinating for the event.

We extend our thanks to all the volunteers who played a crucial role in coordinating and organising the Summit. Last, but never the least, Delhi Greens extends a special thanks to Kuttyji for all his kindness and providing the lovely meal during the two days.

Delhi Greens Team

Introduction

Delhi Greens is a Delhi based All India Non-Governmental Organisation set up with an objective of promoting sustainable urban development in the country. Delhi Greens began in March 2007 as a student protest against the unscientific marking and felling of a large number of trees in Delhi, particularly around the university campus area, owing to construction work for the Commonwealth Games 2010. The pathway to sustainable urban development in India is only possible through an overall development of the country, hence Delhi Greens has been working across India and carrying out projects and activities to analyze and address the sustainability challenges faced by our cities and the country as a whole.

Delhi Greens gave the city of Delhi its very first green blog! Ever since its inception in 2007, the **Delhi Greens Blog** has been promoting green news, events and activities taking place in the city and ensuring extensive public participation. The blog is a pioneering city-wide attempt towards mainstreaming environmentalism.



Delhi Greens engaged the citizens of Delhi in a public.art.ecology festival themed on global warming and entitled **48°C**, the highest recorded summer temperature from the city. To develop a sense of ownership in the people residing in the National Capital, Delhi Greens has also introduced an innovative concept of **'Urban' Ecotourism**. A **'Save Tiger Save Humanity' Rally** was coordinated by Delhi Greens in the lawns of the Teen Murti House. The rally was part of the 5th Bengal Tiger Consultation and saw participation from renowned conservationists, environmentalists and government representatives including the Environment Minister himself. Over 4,000 school children participated to make a giant tiger aerial-art.

In addition, Delhi Greens has played an instrumental role in motivating the youth in schools & colleges, corporate houses and government agencies by delivering talks, presentations and hosting eco-meets. As part of the 'Climate Challenge Initiative', Delhi Greens was the first organisation to respond to the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which was launched by the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh.



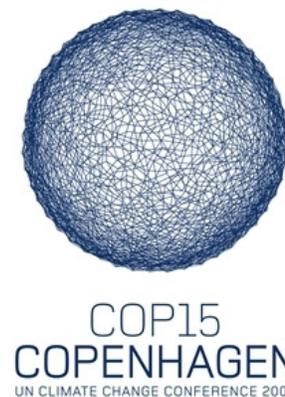
Delhi, the seat of power of the world's largest democracy, is a rapidly developing urban center and features in the list of top ten most populated cities in the world. One of the oldest continually inhabited cities, Delhi today is facing the dual pressure of development as well as an ever increasing population pressure.

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.



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.



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 in the country, 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 Dr. Manmohan Singh presented the NAPCC to the country. Delhi is also hosting the Commonwealth Games later this year and is under a suspended



state of infrastructure and development until then. The life supporting systems of the city - River Yamuna and the Delhi Ridge 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. 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 crisis and begin the process of a shift to the principles and practices of sustainable development.

With this as the backdrop, Delhi Greens hosted the second Delhi Youth Summit on Climate (**DYSoc '10**) at the residence of the first Prime Minister in Teen Murti House. The two day summit took place on **5th and 6th of June, 2010** and proved an ideal platform to mark the World Environment Day on June 5th. DYSoc 2010 brought together the youth from across the capital city in an attempt to understand the various urban environmental issues in the wake of climate change. The ever increasing ecological footprint of megacities like Delhi is an issue of concern as this tends to upset the urban-rural balance in the country. This was addressed through the summit as a key sustainability challenge. The Summit also showcased the efforts made by the Delhi Government and civil society since the launch of the NAPCC.

Background Guide

A brief background document on the various urban environmental challenges faced by Delhi, especially in the wake of climate change, was prepared and shared with the delegates at the Summit. The objective of the background guide was to provide an insight into the urban environment of Delhi for the DYSoC 2010 delegates. Covering the six major issues and challenges, viz. water, waste, energy, transport, urban planning and urban biodiversity, the background guide gave an introduction to those who wish to understand the complexities of ‘our common environment’ in an urban context.

The document began with an introduction to the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) which was launched by the PM two years back. A brief of the contents of the NAPCC along with the eight priority National Missions were discussed along with the Civil Society’s response to the Action Plan. While welcoming the fact that a national action plan has been put in place, it was pointed out that how an opportunity to demonstrate leadership on a critical issue for the country had been missed. The backgrounder also shared with the delegates all recent initiatives made by the Government, especially the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), towards ensuring a clean environment and sustainable development.



The Indian Network for Climate Change Assessment (INCCA), a nation-wide network comprising 127 research institutions working on science and impacts of climate change for the MoEF, filed a report on India’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions as in the year 2007. The report, released by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Mr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia at an INCCA meeting, made India the first “non-Annex I” (developing) country to publish such updated numbers on global warming and climate change. The findings of the report were shared with the delegates through the background guide.

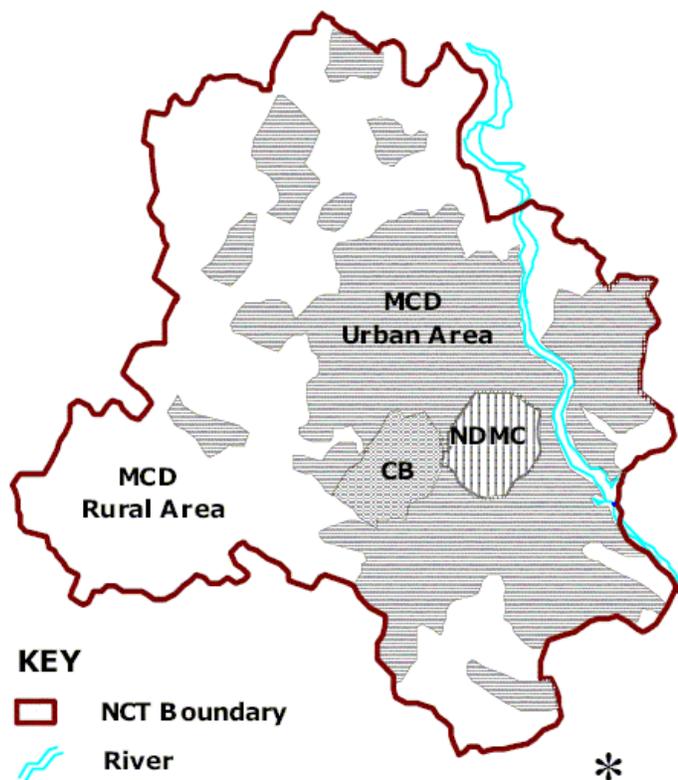
According to the report, India’s ranking in 2007 in aggregate GHG emissions in the world is 5th, behind USA, China, EU and Russia.

The report points out that the 2007 emissions of USA and China are almost 4 times that of India. What is also highlighted in the report is that the emissions intensity of India's GDP declined by more than 30% during the period 1994-2007, which is largely attributed to the proactive efforts and policies being put in place by the Ministry from time to time.

The net Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions from India are reported to be 1727.71 million tons of CO₂ equivalent (eq) in 2007. Out of this, CO₂ emissions were 1221.76 million tons; CH₄ emissions were 20.56 million tons; and N₂O emissions were 0.24 million tons. The largest percentage of GHG emissions (58%) is from the Energy sector followed by Industry, Agriculture and Waste sectors in that order. Within the Energy sector, 65.4% of total CO₂ eq were emitted from electricity generation while the transport sector contributed to 12.9 % of the total CO₂ eq. The report calculates India's per capita CO₂ eq emissions including LULUCF for the assessment year 2007 at 1.5 tons/capita.

The backgrounder also talked about the geographical status of Delhi and discussed the Delhi Climate Action Plan in greater detail. India occupies only 2 % of the world's total landmass yet it is home to 15 % of the world's total population. Urban growth is characteristic of most Indian cities, with that of Delhi being especially dramatic, as is clear from the satellite images. In 1975, Delhi had a population of 4.4 million people or 3.3 per cent of India's entire urban population. In 2000, the city had 12.4 million inhabitants, or more than 4.5 per cent of the country's urban population. Of the world's 30 largest urban agglomerations, Delhi ranked 24th in 1975 and 10th in 2000. By 2015, Delhi's population is expected to be 20.9 million.

Delhi is the seat of power of the world's largest democracy and being the national capital, it is one of the most rapidly developing cities in the country.



Delhi took exemplary leadership in launching its own State Action Plan on Climate Change, which is in tune with that of the NAPCC. With this, the city has already taken the initial few steps and shown its determination towards combating climate change. The plan aims to encourage use of green energy, setting up of an electronic waste facility, more CNG buses and shutting down coal fired power plants. Encouraging use of solar power, increase in use of energy-saving lighting, setting up of an electronic waste facility, more CNG buses, promoting use of bio-fuel and shutting down coal-fired power plants form the highlights of the Delhi Government's 65-point three-year agenda to fight climate change.

The background guide also talked about the Delhi that was, the Delhi that is today and tried to model the Delhi that will be. It gave an insight into the “pampered” nature of the city and highlighted issues like the construction of Renuka Dam on Giri River to divert its water to Yamuna for quenching Delhi’s thirst and questioned if the Delhi Metro was really the most affordable mobility option for the city. Further, an insight into the interaction of Delhi with various environmental factors such as water, waste, energy, transport, urban biodiversity and urban planning was given for the better understanding of the delegates.

Summit Summary

“I am here because I haven’t seen any stars in Delhi,” a simple statement from Parth Joshi, one of the delegates who attended Delhi Youth Summit on Climate, 2010, gave an in-depth meaning to the summit’s aim and objective. To be a ‘change’ in the context of utilizing existing awareness and knowledge on environmental issues of Delhi was the foundation, based on which the two days youth summit was conducted.

Another delegate, Nishant Bhaskar, Asst. Manager with Maruti Suzuki shared his general interest on environmental issues. He said, *“I am here because of personal reason. I am really passionate about the green cause. In fact, I dream of starting my own venture few years down the line. As of now, I want to understand address the environmental problems. I would like to promote awareness about these issues among my colleagues and try to hasten the process of launching greener cars...”*. Gathering them the platform to discuss different environmental issues that the city and the nation as a whole are facing, and to come up with action driven solutions was the underlying objective of calling such a youth summit.



The first day of **“Delhi Youth Summit on Climate, 2010 (DYSoC)”**, witnessed a new phase in the environmental movement among youth in the city. The youth who attended the summit meant action. Without doubt it’s the youth who will inherit the city but with (lots of) doubt they debated their future. Throughout the day the delegates kept their energy level high to drive home their concerns and derive solutions to several pressing issues the city is facing.

Registration started at 9.30 am after which the welcome address was given by Govind Singh, Founder-Director of Delhi Greens. The next session was a panel discussion that consisted of eminent panelists like Dr. Chirashree Ghosh, Gaurav Gupta, Jaimala Iyer and Prof. (retd.) Madan Mohan Bajaj. The Carbon Map of Delhi was the attraction of the day. Delhi youth got introduced to the city’s first carbon map that revealed many interesting and shocking elements contributing towards climate change. Talking about her achievement and sharing those with the youth, Dr. Chirashree Ghosh, Asst. Professor at the University of Delhi said, *“The carbon map of Delhi is a project sponsored by the Delhi Government where we studied the sector wise emission of the most important greenhouse gases (GHG) from the NCT of Delhi.*

We found that even though CNG has been introduced in the city, the transport sector is still the major contributor to global warming in Delhi. Our study also reveals that the domestic/ household sector in Delhi cannot be overlooked when it comes to formulating a policy for mitigating climate change as it too contributes significantly according to the carbon map.” Dr. Ghosh delivered a meaningful presentation to the delegates for the young participants so they could develop an overall understanding of global warming, the science of climate change and understand and appreciate the urban impacts due to the global change.

Prof. (retd.) M. M. Bajaj, Chancellor, International Kamdhenu University took the youth through a nostalgic memory lane of Delhi’s environmental history: the city that was and the city that it is now. Representing the Delhi Government and encouraging the youth was Dr. B. C. Sabata, Sr. Scientific Officer at the Dept. of Environment, GNCT and head of the Eco-Clubs Programme in Delhi. He invited the youth to join hands with the Government and take in all government city that are aimed at and those that need Besides the serious talks and discussions, motivated through a by the Eco-club International School,



active participation initiatives in the bringing change to be changed. climate science the youth were also play put together students of Ryan Mayur Vihar.

More than a hundred up on the first day discussion that lunch was a big every delegate got and a comprehensive report on each of the six topics of discussion viz, *water, waste, energy, transport, urban planning and urban biodiversity* was prepared. The groups were led by young people like Deya Roy, Manish Shrivastav, Debadityo Sinha, Khuraijam Jibankumar, Samraj Sahay and Govind Singh who guided the delegates through the medium of an interactive and topic-specific group discussion. Last, but not the least, inspiring young people with their life experience of protest and action was Mr. Shibayan Raha who spoke about ‘Youth and Action’. He gave an illustrative talk on Non-Violent Direct Action (NVDA) that has been his medium of expression and also elaborated upon his experience in the jail as well as making rounds of the Mumbai High Court.

delegates turned and the group followed after success where her/his voice heard

On the second day, the reports of the previous day were shared with prominent speakers invited to shed light on the issues discussed and help come up with concrete solutions and way forward. Dunu Roy, R.K. Srinivasan, Shashi Pandit, Anuradha Shukla and

Nimisha Garg led the panels on the six topics of discussion. The open discussion that followed after each speaker had shared their thoughts was what a democracy ideally should promote in a country like ours. Mrs. Ravinder Kaur, Scientist at Jawaharlal Nehru University, rightly came up with the spirit of action and said, *“Learn, churn and burn, for the benefit of public at large. Knowledge is power. So be a candle to be more continuously active and to be eco-friendly.”* To conclude the session and also talk about the recent initiatives of Oxfam



India for involving the youth, Gopal Jain was invited on the stage to address the panel and the delegates. He gave an introduction to the upcoming youth based programmes of Oxfam India, invited the youth to get involved and also thanked the panelists for sharing their experience and expertise with everyone.

“Delhi, work in progress”, a documentary film by renowned filmmaker Krishnendu Bose was screened during the second session of the second day. The film made over 2007-2008, captures the key milestones of Delhi’s transformation and captures city’s leading academics, urban planners, environmentalists and activists, debate the nature of this change. The film captivated the delegates as it showcased the changing face of Delhi from a sustainability perspective. It was followed by a presentation by Manu Sharma on effectively communicating the message on climate change for generating the right kind of awareness. Four Green Ambassadors namely Ajit Seshadri, Anadish Pal, Debadityo Sinha and Khurajam Jibankumar then challenged the youth with their life stories, discussed their struggles in the face of much adversity and became an inspiration to all. Moderating this panel was Ajay Mahajan, noted environmentalists from Delhi and a keen tree activist. The panel began an elaborate discussion on green action in the city and the need for young people to get even more active across the nation, to ensure a safer today and more secure tomorrow.

The concluding session of DYSOC 2010 had Govind Singh present Delhi Greens' line of action by sharing over seven projects with the delegates. This was followed by Ajay Mahajan delivering a talk on the trees, parks and gardens in the city. A total of seven projects were highlighted – *Save tree Campaign: Ped Lagao, Ped Bachao, A project on the projects of Yamuna, Dressing the Delhi Ridge Green, Carry the right responsibility and not poly (bags), Riding towards Healthy City, Walk-ability in the city, Climate change & urban poor*. The delegates were asked to choose a project that they were most keen on. The project on climate change and urban poverty got the maximum number of people interested. The challenge has been taken up and the struggle will go on to achieve what the two days summit discussed and concluded with. While DYSOC 2010 may have just concluded, the journey to a sustainable city has only just begun!

Group Discussion Report

Water:

Water is the most important element of our life. Supplying water for consumption is facing many problems politically, socially and economically. As we all know Yamuna is the life line of Delhi, but we also know that the Delhi sewage system is going into Yamuna. This is polluting the Yamuna on a very large scale. One of the reasons for the shortage of water is:



- The main water pipelines passes through North Delhi so the leakage losses are more en-route to the rest of Delhi. Also many localities in North lie directly on the water mains travelling from the treatment plants to localized storage tanks, so these colonies invariably gets 24 hours and 7 days of water supply. This is often a waste.
- Water pipes and sewage pipes are simultaneously constructed so even a small leakage or any kind of problem leads to contamination of drinking water. That is one of the main health hazard. (SEWAGE SYSTEM SHOULD BE SEPERATED FROM DRINKING WATER PIPE LINES).
- Unplanned manner of trees planting also affects the groundwater. Tree such as Eucalyptus reduces the ground water level.
- Trees like Babul help to pull the ground water up and keep the soil moist. Also creepers around terraces help to absorb heat and reduce the usage of coolers and ACs.
- Builders, during construction of high rise construction, haphazardly bore tube wells. This again reduces the ground water level.
- Large scale of water is wasted in washing cars and animals.

Some steps individuals can take to conserve water:-

- Shutting off the tap when not in use.
- Putting in place water saving device example in your flush.
- Collecting water from ACs for the purposes other than drinking.
- Creating ground water recharge pits in case one has a land or a garden.
- Doing rain water harvesting if you have space and money.
- Avoid covering the storm water drains to create parking places.
- Avoid concretizing and covering space randomly.

Waste:

Waste segregation is a major problem. Either it isn't followed, or even if it is, the segregated waste is eventually mixed at the larger bins. The group came up with a few ways to rectify this, such as:

- People should be made aware about the segregation and management of waste through campaigns and by addressing them at local levels. Community partnership programs could be implemented by forming self help groups from each colony.
- In-house vermi-composting should be promoted in case of biodegradable wastes. Compost pits should be encouraged by the government at every level as this would also reduce pressure on the government for their disposal.
- A common database of NGOs and companies working to recycle wastes should be made easily available to the public.

Biomedical waste: Apart from hospitals and research laboratories, institutes and colleges are also a major contributor of biomedical toxics in the environment without any monitoring agency. The Government isn't yet as serious with biomedical wastes as maybe it has not created an impact so great for them to take any action. The question is *why do we have to wait till the last moment?* Improper disposal of such wastes are not only hazardous but they also disturb the local soil and water ecosystem. Group members suggested that the Government should take up biomedical wastes with proper interest and make new policies and regulations. Specific guidelines in handling such wastes should be published especially for the rag pickers. Despite the ban on plastic bags, we can still see tonnes of them floating around us in the air, water, roads, inside cattle intestines.

Lack of proper recycling channels and disposal technique are a great threat. There are many informal sectors in polythene productions. A proper monitoring agency and strict implementation of laws regarding polybags must be developed. One of the members, Mohit Agrawal a student of Delhi University suggested that the government could subsidize good quality plastics to at least decrease the impacts of low grade plastics.

E-waste is also becoming a major problem. Rapid advancements in technology has increased the risk of e-waste with outdated technologies. More research should be encouraged for better technologies to create lesser e-waste. The government should emphasize on awareness about e-waste and proper planning needs to be done on feasible disposal techniques.



Though proper norms are being set up and monitoring is being done by the authority, corruption is a major problem for disposal of **industrial waste**. Small scale industries and household industries are many times ignored but they are also a major producer of waste. Political pressures are also preventing the government to take legal action against them. Independent monitoring agencies should be encouraged in such cases. Proper implementation of existing laws, penalties and strict action should be taken against law breakers. Revision of laws should be done on research basis.

The Delhi Freecycle group, part of the global Freecycle Network(TM) which is a grassroots and entirely non-profit movement of people who are giving (& getting) stuff for free in their own towns, was also promoted in the group. It was also suggested that a separate regulatory agency should be established by the Central Government for waste management as it is a vast sector.

Energy:

The discussion on Energy was dominated by moral responsibility and attitude change versus commercial and financial viability. What was emphasized was that if people don't buy, the industry will not produce. The need of the Government is to formulate policies that encourage the growth of the alternate energy sector. While some agreed we should have strict rules against and bans on energy inefficient products but it was realized that people cannot be forced to stop living a specific way of life.

We may blame population for most for our energy troubles but we as a country have equal rights to every resource. So the question that further arises is why do some people or a specific demograph of people have a larger ecological footprint than the other and from there an even bigger question arises: are we really entitled to the energy that we consume or are we stealing someone else's share.



The main solutions that came out was to somehow stimulate the government policies to encourage the industrial sector to invest in unconventional energy sources and informing and sensitizing people on alternate energy and its long term advantages. Some ideas and concepts that came out through this discussion were energy equity, fines by the Govt. on errant energy consumers-both industrial and household, domestic sector audits by ESCOs (Energy Saving Companies), etc.

Differentiated tariff rates were another idea that would differentiate rates for peak and non-peak hour. Some other ways to discourage over consumption and contain our energy crisis would be to have a cap on maximum consumption which in some forms is already there for e.g. in electricity meters after a specific point in consumption, the per unit cost automatically increases.

Another point that came out strongly was the accountability of government's various schemes into which crores of rupees is pumped, for example the waste to energy plant in Timarpur which was initially staged as successful but the 1970 built power plant based on super-critical energy with 45% efficiency has never functioned and was brought down two years back. Can our country really produce 20 GW of solar energy by 2022? Some other ideas that came across were creation of sustainable production of energy at local level and charging commercial sector according to their type of usage and type of energy that is giving incentives to clean energy producers.

Finally the discussion was compiled with three main pointers that play and will play an important role for the alternate energy sector; the domestic sector, the government and the industrial sector. It may seem like there is not much we can do to reduce energy consumption and promote energy conservation but in reality our small group of green ambassadors learnt that change can start anywhere, at an individual or at a community level. What really matters is that we think, we think hard about our actions and inactions and to never stop in this endeavour toward a greener future.

Transport:

The burgeoning economic prosperity of Delhi has empowered many a citizens to purchase personal vehicles. This increase in the number of vehicles is resulting in greater emissions from the transport sector. The solution found to be most sought was increasing the number of buses promoting public transport - and many demanded AC buses only, though non-AC buses are equally required. What about after you get down from the bus and have to face the heat again?



Apart from the number increment, stress was given to the proper scheduling of buses, updating information on the transport website on routes as well safety concern of all commuters. We may have the largest transport network, we still and urgently need to figure out what is lacking in it. Since many in the discussion group were working professionals, all of them discussed about how the company-operated private vehicles can bring down the number of people coming to their offices in their cars. The government can provide subsidy for this and encourage people to initiate such steps.

Next in line was the Delhi Metro-Our Metro. The concern was about its accessibility and how the loop could be completed. The solution lies in improving and enhancing the feeder buses. However all agreed that metro cannot enter every area and lane of Delhi. Further the individual attitude towards traffic sense and other modes viz. cycling and walking was discussed.

Much focus was on strictness about issuing the DRIVING licenses so that number of traffic-ignorant people are less on road. About the non-motorized vehicles, many were in favour of pedaling for short distance. The demand was that of cyclist-friendly lane along with shade and plantation of tree in order to escape the direct inhalation of fuel emission and noise of horns. For the application of 'god gifted' mode of transport in Delhi - walking - the present situation seems to be against it. All pedestrian lanes are dug up, plantation seems to be carried on the footpaths with no provision for the pedestrians.

Since the group comprised professionals from the automobile sector itself, solutions such as filling up of tyres with Nitrogen gas, enhancing the tyre efficiency, allowing even and odd numbered cars on alternate days were suggested. While the government is doing its bit, it is also the duty of each one of us to think about energy and mobility efficiency, follow traffic rules and be more sensitive and sensible.



Urban Biodiversity

The clock is ticking and the biodiversity is dwindling...“April 23rd, 2010: Ms. Sujata Chatterjee raised her voice against concretization of the pavements in her society Chittaranjan Park which resulted in death of many trees...”

That marked the beginning of discussion among the group of Urban Biodiversity. The highlights of the discussion were Chittaranjan Park tiling, declining bird's diversity in Delhi, North-eastern biodiversity and keeping the foundation of Squirrel Conservation Network, Delhi.

On one hand Chittaranjan Park tiling problem came out as a great inspiration as it was dealt with a right approach by Ms. Sujata, an incorrigible plant lover by creating awareness among the residents and then proceeding to next step by formulating a code of ethics for builders so that the trees of the area are not harmed.

Then on the other, lack of awareness among people about the biodiversity of Delhi was established as the main concern to be dealt with. Delhi contributes to one-third of the bird diversity of the country and the city ranks second among the world for its rich bird diversity with about 400 bird species. Sajid, who conducted a survey at India Gate also confirmed about rich bird diversity of city. Hornbill was stated as one of the unique birds found in Delhi. But the situation turns soar as we are losing many species over the time. Considerable decrease has been seen in number of house sparrows, kites, squirrels and a complete extinction of vultures from the city.

Northeast biodiversity was equally a part of discussion. Loktak Lake – the only floating lake in the world and Kaziranga National Park were two of the exquisite examples of beautiful north eastern biodiversity. Also North-east is one of the 35 hotspots in the world. There were inputs from the youth regarding the areas in Delhi rightly exemplifying the biodiversity of the city. The areas were Okhla Bird Sanctuary, Shanti Van, Delhi Ridge, Bhalswa Landfill site and many others.

Coming to the action plan, certain measures were suggested to bring about the changes required to save city's biodiversity like increasing awareness among people with the help of bill boards and hoardings, careful selection of plant species, efforts at individual level to save birds and squirrels.

The Group founded the Squirrel Conservation Network Delhi to save squirrels of the city in our respective societies. The discussion was validated by a nature walk in Teen Murti House itself and identifying some plant and animal species like *Cycas*, babblers, etc. And the incident of saving a squirrel that fell in the pond was a perfect kick start to our venture of saving them across the city. “When you extend one hand to save nature, nature gives another for the next step.”

Urban Planning:

“Did you know that there were cities from among the seven cities of Delhi that came down due to water problems?”

Amidst this discussion, you could actually fire a gun shot and it was likely that none of the thirteen people sprawled in the tiny area between the seats on one side and the wall on the other, in the auditorium, would have noticed. The group discussion on Urban Planning began by a mental tour of what Delhi was since the time of the *Pandavas* - to the rise and fall of the most famous of the seven cities, to what it is today. The narration by Govind Singh, the group leader, made us realize how urban planning affects us in every possible way.

Urban planning is, as Govind puts it, “An interdisciplinary subject that encompasses all other environmental components” some of which are provision of clean air and water, adequate housing facility, proper connectivity, proper sewage and other waste disposal as well as minimum 33% green cover. The Group managed to touch almost everything remotely connected with urban planning in our quest for the correct reason as to why there was an increase in infrastructure at a pace so fast that the provision of amenities hardly kept pace. Why all laws enforced by the Delhi government hardly had an impact on the condition of the environment as so on. Three key challenges were identified that we are currently facing in the process of planning and sustaining Delhi: 1) Inadequate functioning of the government, 2) cleaning of the Yamuna and 3) lack of awareness and the incentive to work for the environment by the people.

Today Delhi is what we call the “pampered city”. We wished for the Metro and lo and behold-the Metro is here, even when India could never afford it. We wished for more water and the Delhi government decides to divert water from another river in Himachal Pradesh which will lead to the drying up of the Renuka Lake, which is supposed to be one of the prettiest sights that one can behold. But who cares?....we live in Delhi, why should we bother about how our increasing water demands affect the people living around the Renuka?

We need more houses and so the township of Dwarka is conceived - so close to the airport that we are now studying the relationship of noise pollution from the airport and increased number of domestic fights in the neighbourhood. Who cares if those houses have a gas or a water line? Today Delhi is being showered with all possible comforts and job opportunities. Simple economics states that when you increase job opportunities in a particular area, more people move to that place and hence, demand for housing increases.

As demand should always be equal to supply, the DDA has to cut down trees to provide more housing facilities whether or not you get a gas or a water pipeline. It was also discussed that development needs to be distributed evenly and in the same proportion. After all, isn't it a fact that the negligence of Jharkhand and Chattisgarh led to today's Naxalite problem? Also, we came up with a suggestion of having a nodal agency to facilitate and coordinate the work done by all civic infrastructure departments.

Almost 90% of Yamuna's water is taken away for drinking the shortly after the river enters Delhi. The very famous misconception that it was the industries that pollute the Yamuna in Delhi and not us was cleared. Cleaning the banks of Yamuna DID NOT mean cleaning the Yamuna River, there is a very big difference in these two activities. The government often blames the poor slum dwellers on the banks of the Yamuna for the condition of what it is today. But let us just think - how can people who hardly have anything of their own pollute the Yamuna to such a large extent.

India is considered to be one of the oldest existing civilizations today. Our ancestors managed to do stuff that we cannot do even today. They could note down the planetary position without the use of a telescope. Today we can hardly see a twinkling star until and unless it rains. The discussion made all of us realize that old practices that we have left behind in the name of development could actually be the solution to our present day problems.

It is only when we change our self and stop taking the present resources for granted that we can do something to help THE ENVIRONMENT AND HELP OURSELVES!
To make a difference we all need to BE
THE CHANGE.



Green Audit

As it is the mandate of Delhi Greens to reduce the ecological footprint of any event, activity or summit and to make it consumption neutral, we also carry out an environmental audit after all such activities are organized by the organization. This not only helps check the environmental footprint of the organization but also acts as a cost benefit analysis of the activity. During the course of the Summit, two primary concerns for the organizers were waste generation and energy consumption.

A preliminary environmental audit was carried out post event. The conference kit provided to the participants consisted of a paper bag, a note pad made from used papers, a pen, a background kit on Delhi's environmental problems and Delhi Greens' pamphlet. All participants were provided with a name tag which had a sheet of paper, a plastic cover and a nylon thread. The delegates were requested to return the name tags at the end of the second day, the same could be used. For the purpose of registration, paper and pen were used. During the course of discussions on various themes, chart papers were used to jot down the ideas and suggestions of the participants.

The publicity for the event was primarily done through electronic media and posters. The posters put for display were collected post-summit from the various venues where they had been put up and made into folders thereby reducing waste generation and ensuring maximum usage of paper. Other paper waste generated during the summit was sent to a paper recycling unit. The delegates were urged to use the Metro or the bus to reach the venue as the latter is well connected with both these modes of transport.

Environmental Component	Delhi Youth Summit 2010	Rating
Waste	Waste is the general component produced during organizing any summit. Since everyone has an email account these days, so instead of traditional paper invitations, e-mails were used. Tea and Coffee were served in the crockery cutting down the option of plastic usage. Plastic glasses were used during lunch and were sent for recycling. There was no wastage of food material. Littering was kept to the minimum owing to the adequate dustbins placed in the venue.	↑↑↓

<p>Water</p>	<p>Water is one of the most important components of life and plays important role in hosting of an event. Since the summit was held in the middle of the summer, water was made accessible to everyone and no wastage of potable water was seen during the summit. The water provided to the panelists was in glasses and plastic bottles were not used throughout the Summit.</p>	<p>↑↑↑</p>
<p>Energy</p>	<p>The summit being an indoor event, required AC and the lights in the auditorium on. However part of other activities like group discussion were carried outdoor. AC was set off during lunch and tea breaks during the summit. Speakers and all group leaders were encouraged not to use laptop during their presentation. The projector was switched on only when it was required.</p>	<p>↑↓↓</p>
<p>Transport</p>	<p>Venues play a pivotal role in holding conferences. Having a well connected conference venue adds to the advantage of successfulness to the summit. The event organized was 1.5 km away from the Metro station and encouraged the use of public transport with the presence of a bus stand near the venue. The delegates were informed the bus numbers that touch the venue and were also encouraged to use the Metro.</p>	<p>↑↑↑</p>

Media Coverage

The Asian Age, Date: June 05, 2010

Green warriors amp up their battle plans

HEMANT ABHISHEK

THE ASIAN AGE

This World Environment Day, a vigilant band of young eco-conservationists of the metropolis reflect on the lessons learnt this past year and focus on the road ahead to strengthen the battle to protect the capital's greens.

The past year has seen a rise in concrete structures developing, and creating awareness about how the greenery and eco-system has been pushed to the brink is a key priority on each green-warrior's agenda.

Anupama Gupta, DU graduate and activist, says, "In the name of development there has been immense damage to the green cover of the city in the past year and ensuring that this isn't an 'irreparable loss' is our primary concern."

Young turks who have taken up environmental causes are concerned about the Yamuna and how it has been treated as the capital's sewer for very long. Yes, some respite has come with the ban on hazardous polythene, but it still leaves a lot to be desired.

Hansa Makhijani, journalist, quips, "Good to see some efforts being made in the past year, like banning plastic bags. But these are baby steps, at the rate at which we are damaging the environment, we require leaps to make things better for



"WE PLAN TO WATCH THE GREEN TOPOGRAPHY INCREASE"

GOVIND SINGH

our planet."

This being the CWG year, the city expects to see a lot of changes happening. And Govind Singh, Ph.D student of Delhi University and founder of Delhi Greens, an NGO that works towards sustainable development, stresses that ensuring that the development is not just from the CWG point of view and the government's vision isn't myopic is important.

"We had hosted the Delhi Youth Summit on climate in 2008 and at that time a youngster believed that climate change was more of a Western concern. So, we began by creating awareness on ecological issues and as the media picked up climate change as a major concern, youngsters today realise how this impacts us and are acting towards it," Govind says, adding, "This year our plan of action is to watch the green topography increase and see



"WE TRAIN WOMEN TO MANUFACTURE ECO-FRIENDLY CLOTH BAGS"

ANKITA GUPTA

green politics develop."

Youngsters don't just limit green initiatives to planting saplings and protesting against deforestation. Ankita Gupta, President of GGSIPU-SIFE (Students In Free Enterprise), is part of the university's community outreach project that combines social development with green initiatives. Their 'Go Green' project targeted women from the slums in Jahangirpuri and taught them to manufacture cloth bags that are an alternative to hazardous polythene and non-woven bags and trained them on quality, financial and ethical aspects of manufacturing.

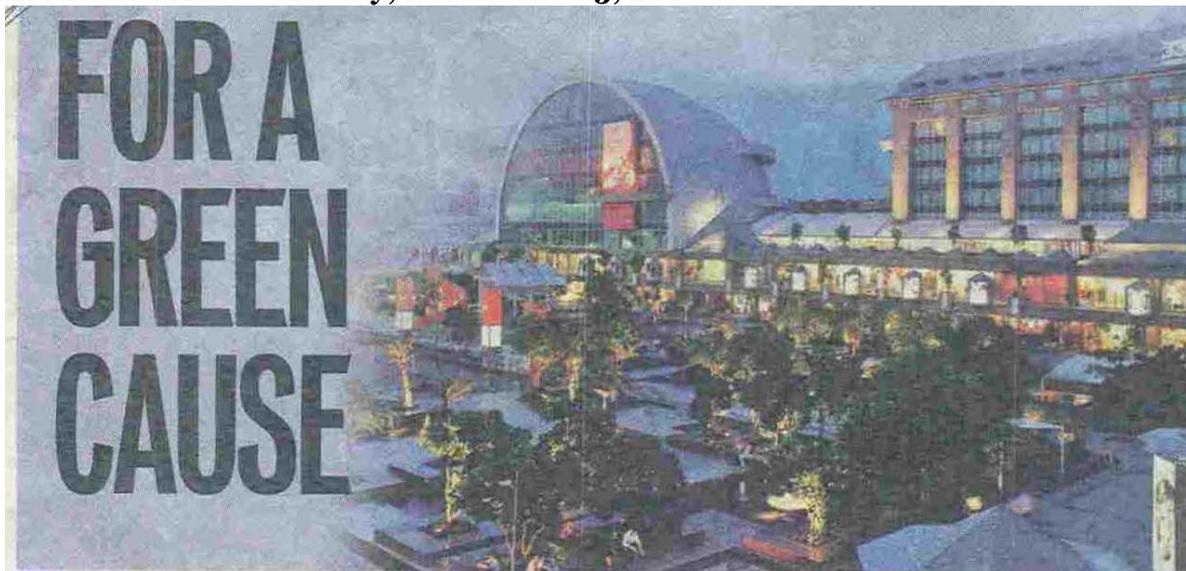
Ankita informs, "Seventy students have worked on this project, which has been on for the last two years. We first worked at creating awareness among them with the help of street plays and then we trained women to manufacture environment-friendly cloth bags." She hopes more such projects that address environmental concern and build social enterprises develop soon.

Young crusaders of the capital fine-tune their strategies for a greener future

■ Delhi Youth Summit on Climate
Teen Murti Bhawan, 9.30 am.
Contact - 9811147754

■ Eco Festival by Kriti Team
American Center, 11 am.
Contact - 26033088

Hindustan Times – HT City, Date: June 05, 2010



Aakriti Sawhney

■ aakriti.sawhney@hindustantimes.com

Individuals and organisations world over have planned seminars, workshops, exhibitions and many other activities to celebrate mark the World Environment Day. Delhi, too is celebrating this day in its true spirit. Many NGOs in the city are holding events for youngsters. Delhi Greens, a Delhi-based NGO, is organising a two-day "Delhi Youth Summit on Climate 2010". "The youth today is very much aware about the various social issues, all they need is a platform to express and act," says Impuri Ngayawon, programme coordinator, Delhi Greens.

Another NGO 'Search Years' will put up a theatre performance at DLF Promenade Mall, Vasant Kunj. There will be an eco band performance and a workshop for kids to make art and crafts from waste material. The most innovative and creative idea will be awarded.

Another one to join in is Select Citywalk. They recently did a campaign in association with AYUDH, an NGO where 100 trees were planted around the mall premises. They are also using environment friendly energy efficient lights in form of LED fixtures for the lighting at

the mall.

The Great India Place at Noida has launched a ten-day 'Our Earth Our Responsibility' campaign. "The campaign aims to educate people about the hazards of pollution, depletion of water, air and soil erosion. The mall has partnered with Greenpeace (an NGO that works to conserve the environment and to promote

peace) to spread awareness," says Benu Sehgal, Vice President Operations, GIP.

There will also be street plays, film screenings, musical performances and live interactions taking place.

The American Centre on Kasturba Gandhi Marg is holding an Eco Festival of Art and Dance, which will be coordinated by the Kriti cultural team.

www.hindustantimes.com

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At a separate function, Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit released "State of Environment Report of Delhi-2010," highlighting key environmental concerns plaguing the city.

"The report is expected to sensitise the citizens, the authorities and other agencies and stakeholders about the threat to the environment and provide a basis for preparing a long term strategy for improving the quality of our environment," she said.

Earlier Dikshit flagged off a battery operated car and scooter rally from her residence along with TERI head R.K. Pachauri. Also, the Organising Committee of the Commonwealth Games organised a bicycle, electric car and electric bike rally which was flagged off by "Shera", the Games mascot, to stress on the importance of eco-friendly transport. International NGO Oxfam-India along with another group, Delhi Greens, organised a summit for youngsters to encourage discussion on climate change and how the youth can contribute towards protecting the environment.

The Delhi Metro too announced the launch of Cycle Feeder Service from Rohini East Metro station later this month to promote the use of the eco friendly mode of transport.

A bicycle rally was also held on the occasion. Television channels such as Discovery Channel too had a series of dedicated programmes to sensitise the viewers about environment-related problems due to climate change which threatens the existence of humankind if left unnoticed.

www.sec.wltx.com

Date: June 05, 2010

Green rallies, cleanliness drives held to mark Environment Day

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www.sify.com

Date: June 05, 2010

Cleanliness drives, electric car rallies mark World Environment Day in Delhi

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The Imperial Hotel organised a cleanliness drive on Janpath Lane near Connaught Place in central Delhi to observe the day.

“The cleaning drive was from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. today (Saturday) to create awareness about the environment. There were 30 volunteers from different departments of the hotel who participated in the drive,” a hotel official said.

“The volunteers also carried eco-friendly bags to collect the garbage,” the official added.

The ICICI Bank organised a cleanliness drive in the historic landmark of the country, the Red Fort, early in the day.

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www.blog.taragana.com

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www.dailytimesindia.com

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www.topix.com

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www.newkerala.com

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www.indianwildlifeclub.com

Date: June 05, 2010

Delhi Youth Summit on Climate

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 is calling for the second Delhi Youth Summit on Climate (DYSoC '10) at the Teen Murti House on 5-6 June 2010. DYSoC 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.

This World Environment Day, come forward and be a part of the change!

To register, visit: <http://delhigreens.org/summits/dysoc-2010>

(Please fill the registration form which can be downloaded at the site)

Supporting Organisations: Nehru Memorial Muserum & Library (NMML) and Oxfam India

Partner Organizations: SANSAD, North East Center for Environmental Education & Research (NECEER), Global Climate Campaign, Center for Climate Justice & Equity, India Action Network, Compassionate Living, Jan Sandesh..

www.youthv.com

Date: June 05, 2010

DYSoc 2010

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.

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