GREEN PILGRIMAGE - AMRITSAR
SRI HARMANDIR SAHIB, THE GOLDEN TEMPLE

100,000 pilgrims each day

AMRITSAR - A SPIRITUAL DESTINATION FOR SIKHS
WITH 15 PILGRIM SPOTS IN THE GOLDEN TEMPLE COMPLEX

Gurdwara Shaheed Ganj

The Holy tree - Beri Baba
Buddha Sahib

Sri Akal Takhat Sahib

The Holy tree - Sri Dukh Bhanjni Beri

The Community Kitchen

AMRITSAR - A SPIRITUAL DESTINATION FOR SIKHS
HISTORY OF AMRITSAR

• Founded in 1573 by Guru Ram Das

• Pool of Nectar was constructed in 1573 and Amritsar was named after it (Amrit = Nectar and Sar = Pool)

• Foundation stone of the temple laid by a Muslim Saint on January 13, 1588

• the Temple - designed and completed by Guru Arjun Dev in August 1604

Sri Harimandir Sahib, 1833
HISTORY OF AMRITSAR

• A routine of continuous prayers was established

• no discrimination of caste, colour, religion

• Holy Scripture, Adi Granth (Present Master) compiled in 1604 and installed here in Amritsar for the first time

A painting of the central shrine
AMRITSAR: PLASTIC FREE DRINKING WATER

- 100,000 pilgrims everyday, and 300,000 or more on festivals
- 150,000 to 300,000 litres of water
- Safe drinking water in all the 15 historical Gurdwaras of the city

STEEL BOWLS

Eco Amritsar – Faith and the City
AMRITSAR: TRADITIONAL ECO-FRIENDLY DISH CLEANING

Washing dishes with wood ash by volunteers
PLASTIC-FREE KITCHEN, LANGAR

LANGAR

STEEL PLATES
AMRITSAR: ECO-TRANSPORT

FREE ECO-CARTS FROM PARKING TO TEMPLE

ECO-RICKSHAW

SHUTTLE SERVICE TO RAILWAY STATION
AMRITSAR: PLANTATION DRIVES

- Overall **3.5 Million** trees planted in the district since 2007
- Initiated by former DC Mr. K S Pannu with local NGOs
- Over **1 Million** trees planted in military cantonments including more than **250 indigenous tree varieties**

Sikh Environment day, 2011
AMRITSAR: PROJECT GALIARA (GREENING OF SURROUNDINGS)

Aerial view of the Temple surroundings, Galiara
AMRITSAR: PLANT SAPLING PRASAD IN THE GOLDEN TEMPLE

Launch of “Nanhi Chhan,” a campaign against female feticide

• Launched in Oct 2007 by SGPC and the Punjab Government’s Forest Department
AMRITSAR: PLANT SAPLING PRASAD IN THE GOLDEN TEMPLE

• So far distributed 20 Million saplings to pilgrims as a blessing, Prasad

SGPC officials planting tree
AMRITSAR: SIKH ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATIONS

- In 2010 EcoSikh initiated Sikh Environment day on March 14.

- In 2011 on the same day, the SGPC distributed around 1 Million saplings in Gurdwaras in Punjab.

- Former DC, Mr KS Pannu began a drive to plant 1,38,816 plants to mark the Sikh Environment Day.
In 2011, March 14 on the Sikh Environment Day:

450 schools and Gurdwaras took part worldwide

We hope that Sikh Environment Day on March 14, 2012 will be even bigger
Under the leadership of former DC of Amritsar, Mr. KS Pannu, the PPCB:

• Imposed a strict **ban on plastic bag** use below 30 microns

• Emphasized **monitoring suspended particle pollution** in the vicinity of the Golden Temple in Amritsar in collaboration with SGPC

• Emphasized on the **environment norms for the industries** and regular monitoring

•Appealed the SGPC for celebrating **Diwali without fireworks** in the temple premises
The Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA) installed solar water heaters on the roof of the Langar Hall to promote the use of Green Energy.

**Total Capacity - 2000 Litres**

PEDA initiated the **Solar city Amritsar** project, this year.
“The air is the Guru, Water the father and the Earth our Great Mother” - Sri Guru Granth (P-8)

An artwork at the Golden temple
AMRITSAR UPCOMING PROJECTS: RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM (RTS)

- The city has recently given way to the **Personal rapid transit rail system**
- **Total Length:** 22 K.M. with 35 stations
- **Initial phase:** 7 KM RTS Route connecting Rail station-Hall Bazar-Bus Stand-MLP-Golden Temple
- **(12 stations)** Integrated with existing and proposed transport systems in the city bus, train
- **Total Cost:** $176 Million
• Make Amritsar a green pilgrimage destination

• To enhance the experience of Green Pilgrimage

• To provide food for the langar (free kitchen) that is as organic or pesticide free as possible

• To enhance the green transport and green accommodation for the pilgrims

• To re-use and re-cycle as much as possible and promote this practice to all Sikhs

• To connect pilgrims and Amritsar population with theology, love for nature and green lifestyles, from within the roots of the Sikhism
For more information:

Dalmegh Singh
Secretary, SGPC
email: dalmeghsingh@rediffmail.com

Or

Ravneet Pal Singh
EcoSikh Project Manager
email: ravneet.singh@ecosikh.org