

Sikh Perspective on Climate Change and the Environment

Presentation at Sikh Gurdwara, RFF Multi-Faith Walk on 18 10 15

Welcome to the Gurdwara. We are pleased to see you.

Some young people from our Punjabi school had a workshop about caring for the earth and climate change. We first talked about what we love about the earth and how that might be destroyed by climate change. At our workshop we made some bunting. On one side we wrote things we love about nature and on the other side what will happen to the things we love if we don't care for the earth.

- One person loves plants. If there were no plants the world will not seem beautiful any more. Now harsh chemicals are used to help flowers grow and they are transported many miles by plane.
- One person loved waterfalls. These are drying up
- Several people loved the stars, the planets, the sun and the moon. With a polluted sky we can hardly see the stars
- One person loved the oceans. They were concerned about the way that the water of the oceans is being polluted

At our workshop we talked about how our Sikh faith inspires us to care for the environment.

- The Sikh faith teaches that together, as one community, we can make change.
- God made the world, and we shouldn't change anything that God has made. That is why Sikhs don't cut their hair
- God left us to care for the world. We have freewill and responsibility to act
- Animals have feelings. We shouldn't kill them. We can get what we need to eat from plants. That is why Sikhs are vegetarians
- We believe that everybody has equal rights and has something to contribute to caring for the world.
- We all sit on the floor equally at the Langar.
- We believe that everything in the world has God's stamp on it in it so also has rights.

At the Gurdwara we are doing some things to care for the earth.

- We have changed to LED lights, and save money on our electricity bill
- We recycle clothes
- We use stainless steel plates and cups at the Langar which can be washed and re used rather than plastic.
- We use sensor taps

In our workshop we looked at different ways that we can care for the earth

- We thought that individually we should not spend too much money on unnecessary stuff, we can grow food in our garden, we can use less fossil fuels and treat everyone equally.
- At school we thought we could re-cycle paper and other things, put waste food into special bins, plant flowers round the school and get solar panels
- At the Gurdwara we can have recycling bins open to the public, we can pick up litter on the streets with others in the community, try not to waste food, and have awareness presentations for everybody.
- The government can make laws to protect the environment. Rich countries can help green development in poorer countries
- Set up charities to fund environmental projects
- Cut numbers of diesel and petrol cars on the road.

Youtube clips

<http://www.ecosikh.org/resource/audio-video/>

<http://sikhactivist.net/eco-punjab-five-rivers-run-dry/>