
Promoting Sustainable Living Through SVBF

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has” ~ Margaret Mead.

Jayasree Sreeram

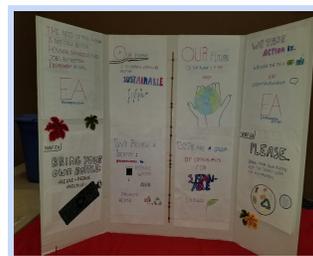
What is the Environment Action Group?

The Environment Action Group is an initiative run by passionate individuals as part of the Sringeri Vidya Bharati Foundation community. This admirable effort was initiated by Mr. Param Bhat, Mr. Anoop Shreedhara and his wife Ms. Sahana, in an attempt to make the SVBF community environment friendly. This group comes together on weekends every month, at SVBF to discuss and implement ways to make the temple and community centre more eco-friendly. This initiative was created to raise awareness about environmental issues and to promote and implement sustainable living practices, to ultimately protect our planet from further damage.

Past Efforts and Events

This group was started in September 2019 and it has made great strides. The members displayed their efforts at a showcase event at SVBF in December 2019. During this four month period they brought to life many simple ideas and carried them out at SVBF.

Some of the ideas that were executed in this short time include replacing plastic bags with paper bags



inside the temple, running awareness campaigns at the SVBF community centre, buying biodegradable dinnerware for

temple events and implementing simple plastic reduction ideas at our own homes.

The members noticed that a large number of plastic bags were being used to carry offerings from the temple and they researched on ways to avoid this situation. Videos were watched on how to turn newspapers and flyers into strong paper



bags that can be used and recycled. The group spent quite some time creating these paper bags in various sizes and they were stored in the temple for easy access. Team

members also demonstrated to the visitors at the temple on how they can spend a few quick minutes and create paper bags to add to the paper bag inventory at the temple.



Another initiative was to make posters for awareness. Colourful posters were made with short but powerful messages that reminded people

to be mindful of the environment. The members hung these posters around the community centre and the temple.



Finally, on the day of the showcase, group members arranged for biodegradable plates and utensils for the lunch program, in order to promote sustainable living and a green community.

Covid-19 Initiatives

Efforts continue amidst the unexpected Covid-19 situation. The Environment Action Group has leveraged online collaboration tools such as virtual conference calls and chat groups to stay connected as it's our duty as human beings to care for and protect the planet. The online forums are very active with dedicated and enthusiastic members sharing wonderful resources and simple ideas that could be used in our very own homes.

Future Plans at SVBF

The EA group has come up with a plan to implement sustainable living practices at SVBF. They intend to bring in experts and work with them to examine the situation at SVBF concerning waste segregation, generation, recycling and disposal. Then they will carry out the experts' advice in order to reduce waste and promote eco-friendliness. The group is also looking into creating funds to build an infrastructure that supports recycling and reusing. The main goal is to reduce the use of single-use plastics and styrofoam products at SVBF. Once this plan succeeds, they want to bring a similar structure to other temples and communities.

Our Responsibility

Driven by greed and apathy towards the well-being of our planet, we humans have destroyed earth's abundance of resources in no time. Through irresponsible and selfish acts, the past generations have continually depleted the earth of basic resources such as clean water, clean air, livable land and climatic condition.



As the highest form of life on the planet, it becomes the moral responsibility of the present generation of humans to act urgently and reverse the degradation of the planet. By doing so, we can leave the planet in better condition for the future generations of humans and other living beings. The Environment Action Group is

driven by this shared concern and moral responsibility towards our planet.