

**Schedule for “Hinduism and Ecology: Towards a Sustainable Future”
Govardhan Ecovillage Conference (December 11-14, 2017)**

(December 10th: arrivals, settling in, dinner 7pm)

Day 1 (December 11th)

Morning:

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

9:00-10:00 Welcome by Gauranga Das and Introduction of Radhanath Swami
Keynote Talk by Radhanath Swami (GEV) on his vision of GEV

10:30-12:30 Tour of Govardhan Ecovillage

Afternoon:

1:00-3:00 Lunch and Break

3:00-5:00 Panel #1

Eco-Communities and Environmental Policy

Christopher Fici (Union Theological Seminary):

 “Bhakti for Bhumi Devi”

Harry Blair (Yale University):

 “Hinduism, Ecology and Civil Society Activism

Christopher Miller (University of California-Davis):

 “World Brotherhood Colonies”

Mat McDermott (Hindu American Foundation):

 “Rights of Nature Through a Hindu Lens”

6:00 Yamuna Arati

7:00 Dinner and Evening of Socializing

Day 2 (December 12th)

Morning:

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

9:00-10:00 Introduction by David Haberman of Shrivatsa Goswami
Keynote Talk by Shrivatsa Goswami (Radharaman) on Hinduism and Ecology

10:30-12:30 Panel #2
Vaishnavism and Ecology

Abhishek Bose (University of Calcutta):

“Towards a Personal Ecology: Chaitanya Vaishnavism

Ravi Gupta (Utah State University):

“Trees in Trouble, Humans in Need

Kenneth Valpey (Oxford University):

“Tending Krishna’s Cows

Devamrita Swami (ISKCON educator-author):

“Ecological Sustainability from a Bhakti-Yoga Perspective”

Afternoon:

1:00-3:00 Lunch and Break

3:00-5:00 Panel #3

Ecological Lessons from Hindu Texts and Philosophies

Kusumita Pedersen (St. Francis College):

“The Value of the World in Vedāntic Perspectives:
Traditional Sources and Sri Chinmoy’s Philosophy”

Yajneshwar Shastri (Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies):

“Ecology in Vedas and Upanishads”

Madhu Khanna (National Museum; Centre for the Study of Comparative Religion):

“Rice as Self: The Metaphoric Ecosophy in the Theory of Karman”

Rich Jarow (Vassar College):

“Mahabharata on Environmental Ethics of Yudhisthira”

6:00 Yamuna Arati or wandering time

7:00 Dinner

8:00 *Journey of the Universe* film and discussion by Mary Evelyn Tucker and
John Grim

Day 3 (December 13th)

Morning:

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

9:00-10:00 Introduction by Chris Chapple of Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim
Keynote Talk by Mary Evelyn Tucker and John Grim (Yale University)
on Religion and Ecology

10:30-12:30 Panel #4
Hindu Goddesses and Sacred Nature

Frederique Apfel-Marglin (Smith College):
“Regenerating the Earth, the Body and the Body Politic in Odisha”
Probal Ray Choudury (Amrita University):
“Ecology and Durga Puja in Bengal”
Nanditha Krishna (environmental activist-author, Chennai):
“Hinduism and Nature”
Rita Sherma (Graduate Theological Union):
“Shakta Theology and Ecology”

Afternoon:

1:00-3:00 Lunch and Break

3:00-5:00 Panel #5
Hindu Resources and Approaches for Environmental Care

Christopher Chapple (Loyola Marymount University):
“Living Landscapes in Hindu Yogas”
Bhaktirasamrita Swami (ISKCON scholar and teacher):
“Vaishnava Aesthetics and Ecology”
David Haberman (Indiana University):
“Inter-Facing the World: Devotional Personification as Environmental Care”
Gopal Patel (Bhumi Project, Oxford University):
“Opportunities and Challenges in Hindu Ecology in India and Diaspora”

6:00 Yamuna Arati or wandering time

7:00 Dinner

8:00 Classical Music Performance: Healing Chakras Through Ragas

Day 4 (December 14th)

Morning:

7:30-8:30 Breakfast

9:00-10:00 Local Village Performance and Presentation

10:30-12:30 Wrap-up Discussion: Lessons Learned and Future Directions

Afternoon:

1:00 Lunch

End of Conference: Goodbyes, packing, and departures for Mumbai