



# Serve the Planet



Protect the Planet

# Background for Serve the Planet

Serve the Planet is an initiative of the Sathya Sai International Organisation (SSIO) Youth Committee. From 2013, the Serve the Planet (STP) project has focused on various themes, aiming to address aspects that impact the planet directly and indirectly. Serve the Planet 2017 will have 2 parts:

1. Under the theme 'Protect the Planet', it will look at the concept of Ceiling on Desires (COD). Greed at all levels of society is the main cause of damage to the planet. Sathya Sai Baba says "Tread Softly, Move Reverentially and Utilise Gratefully".
2. Green Campus – Being an example is the best form of Service. The second part will be focussed on making Prasanthi Nilayam an example and a model for green concepts.

Note: this presentation shares a high level plan for part 1, "Protect the Planet"

# Three objectives for 'Protect the Planet'

1. Provide practical methods to SSIO members and members of the community on the practise of 'Ceiling on Desires' in matters related to environment and sustainability.
2. Through research into teachings of Sathya Sai Baba and leaders of other faiths/religions, establish care and service to the planet as a spiritual practice.
3. By developing innovative initiatives relevant to the modern age, engage members of the global community in achieving the outcomes of the 'Serve the Planet' programme.

# Ceiling on Desires to be approached with three topics

1

## Plastic

Possible subtopics include:

- Plastic bags & bottles
- Plastic packaging
- Upcycling
- Reduce, reuse, recycle

2

## Water

Possible subtopics include:

- Daily direct water usage
- Water footprint in products - food, clothing etc.
- Protecting water resources

3

## Food

Possible subtopics include:

- Food waste
- Plant-based diet
- Buying local
- Organics
- Compost

# Core initiatives under each topic aligned to 'be-do-tell'

Food / Water / Plastic

To Be

Study  
Circles

Study Circles Guides will be distributed enabling learning and introspection on topic

To Do

Practical  
Tips

A compilation of practical tips to apply COD on the topic in personal lives and at centres will be distributed

To Tell

Public  
Outreach

Suggestions for service ideas and supporting materials for public outreach efforts such as talks to be shared

# Three one-off initiatives throughout the year

## Earth Day

Earth Day is on April 22nd. Centres around the world will be encouraged to conduct prayers for the planet or a spiritual offering of their choice on Earth Day - while commemorating Aradhana Mahatsovam

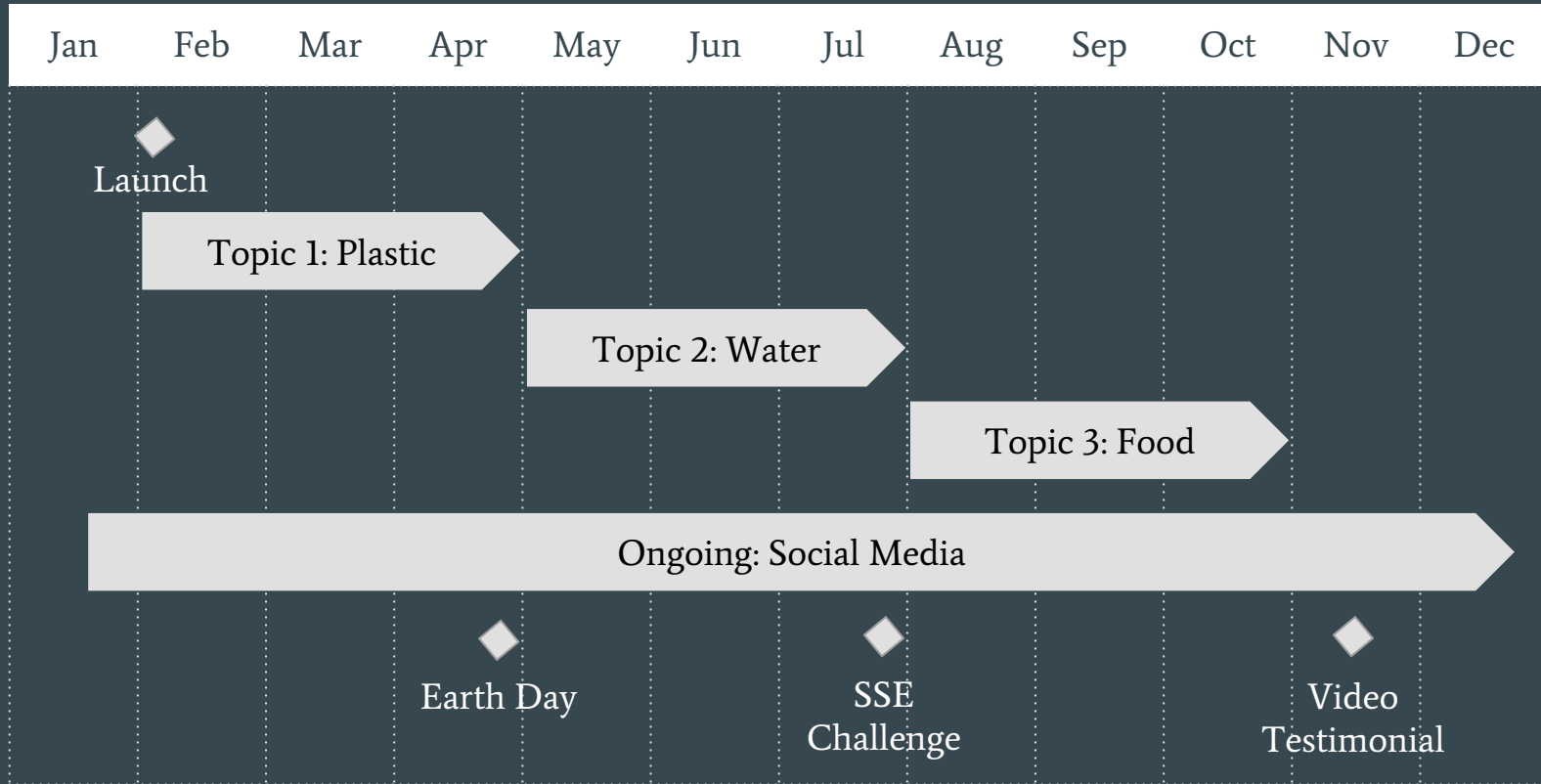
## SSE Essay & Poster Challenge

A global SSE poster and essay challenge will take place on the topic of Ceiling on Desires - to conclude on Guru Purnima or Avatar Declaration Day

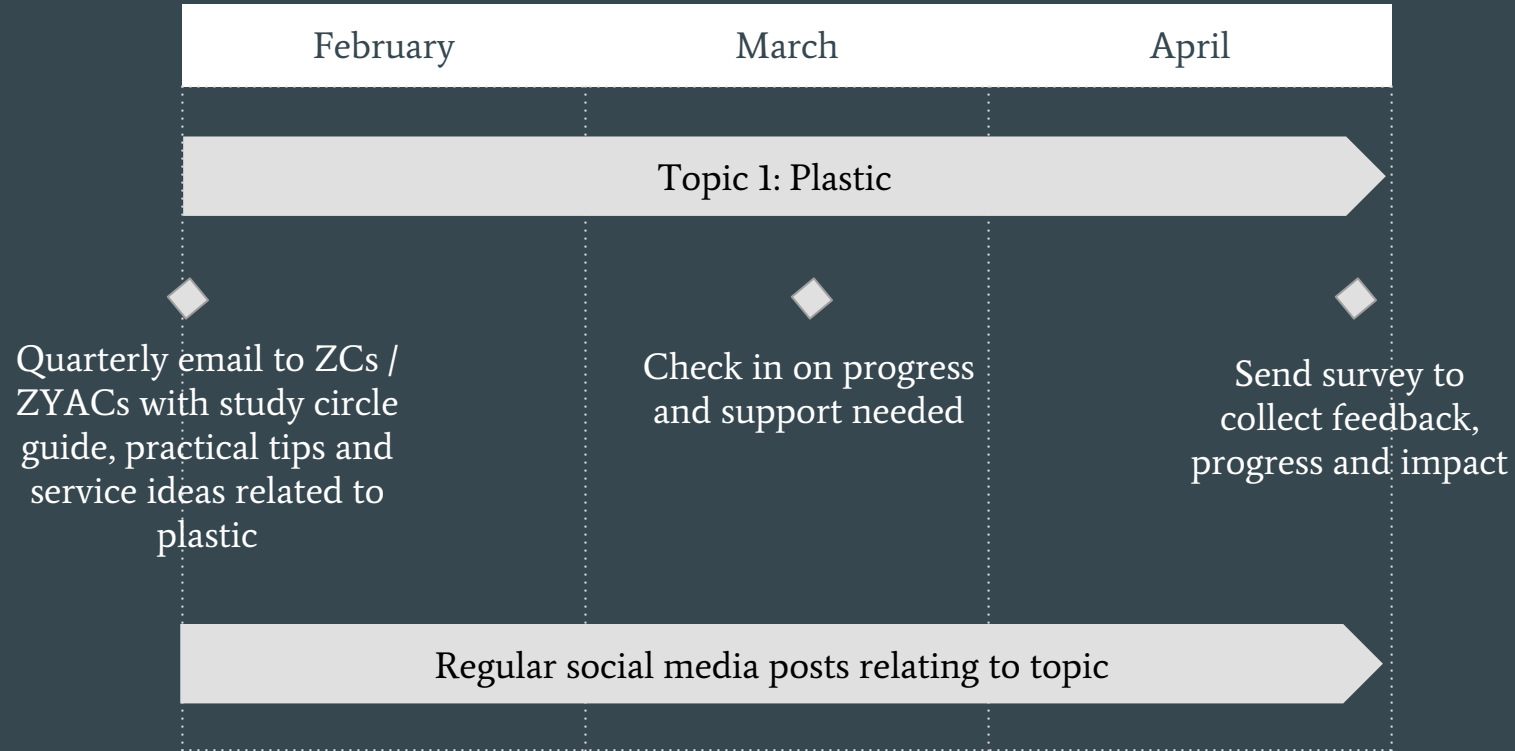
## Video Testimonials

A video of testimonials of devotees around the world speaking of their personal experiences and transformation relating to COD and the planet will be compiled and shared

# High level timeline for the year (dates subject to change)



# A closer look at a three month phase





# Additional initiatives

## SSE Lesson Plans

Various lesson plans related to COD and Protect the Planet to be created on an ongoing basis and uploaded onto STP website. Initially, existing US Go Green lesson plans to be shared

## Toolkits for Centres

Practical toolkits for centres to be uploaded to website on topics such as 'zero waste events'. Initially, US Go Green toolkits to be shared

## Workshop Materials

Workshops to be created and curated on topics related to STP such as vegetarianism, composting etc. This will depend on capacity and interest of devotees

## Collaboration with LASA

Collaboration with 'Love all, Serve All Music & Film Festival' team to share content and spread messages related to STP