



Project Update	July 2011
Project Name	Building a 'Solar Eco' Community Centre in Kaza, Spiti Valley
Project Objective	To build a community centre and show case a building that uses modern design technology to harness energy from the sun.
Project Funding	£84,000
Project Length	3 years

The Project The *Adventure Ashram* donation of £84,000 will pay for the land, the planning and building materials for a self-sustaining community resource centre. It will serve as a community run hub, sharing local knowledge and an exploration into ways of constructing homes that harness the sun's energy.

The building project will be driven by *The Spiti Projects Charity* who have been working in the region for 17 years.

The Why The Spiti Valley is a desert mountain valley in the Himalaya mountains in the north-east of the Indian State of Himachal Pradesh. Snow makes the valley unreachable for 8 months of the year. It is a hard life living in such extremes.

Wood is scarce because the valley is above the tree lines making wood to heat their homes and cook their food expensive to buy. The wood is burnt continuously but much of the heat is lost. The harsh winters mean the task of keeping warm dominates everything they do.

The Solution The Spiti Valley enjoys over 200 sunny days a year. To be able to harness the power of the sun within the fabric of the buildings, to heat water and make electricity could help relieve many of the physical and financial pressures of living in this environment. The new community centre will showcase this possibility.

The community centre will be built in conjunction with India's *Auroville Earth Institute* who are researching and developing earth-based technologies, which are not only cost and energy effective but also earthquake resistant.

Local people will gather in the centre during the winter months to enjoy the warmth and sense of community. The centre will reduce the isolation in the winter months by making a space for the community to come together and continue essential production of local handicrafts, a key income generator.

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The Outcome

The centre will act as a nucleus to the community for both locals and visitors. It will promote the richness of the area's environment and provide a central trading post for locally produced goods. In the long term it will inspire and support the building of homes capable of harnessing the free energy from the sun so increasing quality of life and a further step away from the living on the poverty line.

The centre will give the community the opportunity to run their own:

- Craft centre
- Resource centre focusing sustainability, local environment and traditional handicrafts
- Meeting house
- Café for locals and tourists

The Reality

Building for the centre can only happen during the summer months, a busy time for farming and production. For this reason the centre will take three years to build. *Adventure Ashram* is proud to be providing funding for this project and is dedicated to inspiring others to get involved. If you are interested in getting involved in this project and offering your support, please do get in touch.

The Benefits

The children will experience:

- Their community united in one place
- The ability to harness the energy of the sun to produce warmth and power
- Increased tourism, respect and value placed on their handicrafts
- Dental clinic
- Optician

Thank You

Thank you for the money you are raising, you are helping to ensure projects like this one succeed in improving the standard of living for some of India's poorest children.

Our Aim

Adventure Ashram stems from the shared vision of a group of well-respected conservation, health and educational professionals in India and UK based social enterprise *Global Enduro*. The 'Adventure' part of our name comes from the company *Global Enduro* who run many spectacular adventure fundraising events across the globe, the 'Ashram' name derives from the ancient Sanskrit word for protection.

Our aim is to help the poorest people on or around the routes *Global Enduro* take through India to help achieve a higher standard of living through better health and education. *Adventure Ashram* will continue to identify and establish projects, helping more and more people.

Links



www.spiti.org

www.earth-auroville.com

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Adventure-Ashram>

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