



THE COCHIN COLLEGE

Koovapadam, Kochi-2

Affiliated To Mahatma Gandhi University

Re-accredited by NAAC With B+ Grade



Fourth Cycle
NAAC Accreditation 2024

Criterion 7 Institutional Values and Best Practices

7.1 - Institutional Values and Social Responsibilities

Metric No. 7.1.2

The Institution has facilities and initiatives for *Alternate sources of energy and energy conservation measures, Management of the various types of degradable and nondegradable waste, Water conservation, Green campus initiatives, Disabled-friendly, barrier free environment*

Waste Management Policy

Submitted to



National Assessment and Accreditation Council



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THE GREEN CAMPUS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT - POLICY DOCUMENT

The Cochin College, Kochi, Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam, Kerala.

Green Campus: A Green Campus is a place where environmental friendly practices and education combine to promote sustainable and eco-friendly practices in the campus. The green campus concept offers an institution the opportunity to take the lead in redefining its environmental culture and developing new paradigms by creating sustainable solutions to environmental, social and economic needs of mankind.

The Green Campus, Energy and Environment Policies will develop exciting new co-curricular and extracurricular practices that encourage students to take the lead in creating positive change. These initiatives call for a thorough review of all infrastructural, administrative functions from the standpoints of energy efficiency, sustainability and the environment. Hence, to give this initiative more clarity and authenticity, we now roll out a policy document spelling out the strategies, plans and other allied tasks to make this Program functional officially.

The focus areas of this policy are:

- Clean Campus Initiatives
- Landscaping Initiatives
- Clean Air Initiatives
 - ◆ Smoking Free Campus
- Infrastructure
 - ◆ Solar Power Plant
 - ◆ Installation of Energy Efficiency Equipment
 - ◆ Water Conservation through Rainwater Harvesting System
- Waste Management processes
 - ◆ Solid Waste Management
 - ◆ Liquid Waste Management
 - ◆ E-Waste Management

1





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- Awareness Initiatives
- Environment-centric Student club and Department Activities
- Green Audit
- Energy Audit
- Plastic-Free Campus

Objectives of the Policy

- To protect and conserve ecological systems and resources within the campus.
- To ensure judicious use of environmental resources to meet the needs and aspirations of the present and future generations.
- To integrate environmental concerns into policies, plans and programmes for social development and outreach activities.
- To work with all stakeholders and the local community to raise awareness and seek the adoption of environmental good practice and the reduction of any adverse effects on the environment.
- To continuously improve our contribution to climate protection and adaptation to climate change and to the conservation of global resources.
- To continuously improve the efficient use of all resources, including energy and water, and to reduce consumption and the amount of waste produced, recovering and recycling waste where possible.
- To make the campus plastic free.
- To conduct environmental and energy audits from time to time.
- To minimize the use of paper in administration through having policy for E-governance.

2





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POLICY INITIATIVES:

Clean Campus Initiatives

The Cochin College had pledged to actively coordinate cleanliness activities in the college and ~~land~~ the campus. The broad vision is as follows:

1. Generating mass awareness on cleanliness and hygiene amongst students and staff members by holding regular cleanliness drives. The idea is to motivate them to contribute in a proactive manner.
2. Activities under 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' will be a key component of all the community work being done by NSS, Nature club and Bhoomitra Sena club volunteers of the college.
3. Staff Members will be encouraged to participate in the cleanliness drive in the college campus.
4. Remove all kinds of waste material like broken furniture, unusable equipment etc.
5. Administer of the pledge by students and staff members to maintain cleanliness of the college campus and its surrounding areas on an annual basis.
6. Conduct workshops on the 3Rs: Reduce, reusing and recycling of waste.
7. Commit to manage waste and maintain clean campus especially during college events.

Landscaping Initiatives

The campus landscape, like its buildings, can be seen as the physical embodiment of a college's values. It is a vital part of the life of a campus, providing space for study, play, outdoor events, relaxation and aesthetic appreciation. Green campus landscapes also manage runoff, help recharge groundwater, and clean and cool the air on campus. The landscape serves as a visual representation of the campus community's commitment to sustainability. As campus landscapes are so visible and accessible, landscaping initiatives are a great way to build awareness around the environment.

The landscape of trees and plants provide the 1500+ students and staff with clean and cool air and is a soothing environment. The diverse green cover of The Cochin College is also home to a number of animals and birds creating a campus rich in biodiversity. The college commits to enriching this healthy habitat and maintaining the symbiotic relation of the institution with nature by

- Organizing annual tree plantation drives
- Encouraging student societies to hold tree planting events

3





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Clean Air Initiatives

We encourage our students and staff to use public transportation. We encourage carpooling to college, an activity that will control air pollution and strengthen social interaction. The entry of automobiles inside the campus is restricted to discourage the use of private vehicles.

Smoking Free Campus

As a step in this direction, smoking and use of tobacco in and around the campus is strictly prohibited. The anti-Narcotic committee of the college ensures enforcement of the anti- smoking and tobacco use in the campus. Committee Conducts regular awareness programme in this regard.

Infrastructural Initiatives

◆ Renewable Sources of Energy

The cochin College is dedicated to minimize and sustainably manage its use of electricity. The college believes in reducing the consumption of electricity produced by non-renewable resources by switching to cleanenergy sources like solar energy for purposes like lighting the campus.

Energy Saving and Energy Efficient Equipment

We commit to install environment-friendly electrical appliances that save energy and reduce wasteful inefficiencies. The college believes inusing cleaner energy such as LED lighting.

Water Conservation through Rainwater Harvesting System

The Cochin college has committed itself to replenish the groundwater table by practicing rainwater harvesting. This practice helps in the replenishment and recharge of the groundwater.

4





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Waste Management Processes

The Cochin College strives to have a minimal impact on the environment and is dedicated to reduce and manage the waste generated by the college campus.

◆ Solid Waste Management

With its aim to provide holistic education that also has a positive impact on the environment, the college will adopt practices that will mitigate the generation, and manage solid waste through the following methods:

- Systematically engage with the 3Rs of environment friendliness (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle).
- Collect paper waste produced on campus and collaborate with Planet Earth an NGO involved in Waste paper recycling.
- Reduce solid waste by developing a technology-centric teaching and administrative model.
- Placing Sanitary Napkin incinerators in ladies' toilets. Efforts can be made to create awareness on using menstrual cups to the female students so that the environmental pollution caused due to the waste disposal of sanitary napkins can be minimized.
- Reduce use of paper by supporting digitization of attendance and internal assessment records.
- Reduce requirement of printed books by updating the e-books and e-journals collection of the college library.
- Encourage the students and teachers to use emails for assignment submissions.
- Take initiatives to spread awareness amongst students about
 - ✓ Food wastage and ways of minimizing it
 - ✓ Minimizing the use of packaged food
 - ✓ The habit of reusing and recycling non-biodegradable products
 - ✓ Organizing workshops for students on solid waste management.

5





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◆ Liquid Waste Management

- Maintain leak proof water fixtures.
- Minimize the use of water by constructing more Indian style toilets instead of western style toilets.
- Continued employment of a caretaker to take immediate steps to stop any water leakage through taps, pipes, tanks, toilet flush etc.
- Prevention of release and mixing of oil from the college canteen liquid waste in the municipal drainage system by use of Grease trap mechanism. This way the Biochemical Oxygen Demand is reduced in the effluent waste water produced by the canteen.
- Reuse of wastewater generated by the Reverse Osmosis (RO) system in washrooms.

◆ E-Waste Management

The Cochin College ensures that its usage of technology and generation of e-waste does not impact the environment. For this purpose, the college plans to strive towards:

- More provisions for the disposal of the institutional e-waste.
- Collaboration with e-waste recycling companies to get electronic waste recycled.
- Awareness amongst students about reduction of e-waste and environment friendly disposal practices for e-waste.
- Encouraging department and club activities pertaining to e-waste management

Awareness Initiatives

Outreach and education are of utmost importance so that all members of the campus community may value the objectives of the policy and aid in its implementation. This is why The Cochin College supports and encourages awareness campaigns, seminars, workshops, conferences and other interactive sessions to facilitate effective implementation of the Green Campus, Energy and Environment policies.

6





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Environment-centric Student Clubs and Department Activities

The Cochin College encourages all the departments and specific student Clubs like Nature club, Bhoomitra sena Club, NSS, Swachh Baharat committee and others to organize events, competitions and training sessions that will bring about positive environmental changes at the grassroot level. The college supports departments and student clubs in molding the students into active agents of environment protection and conservation.

Conduct Green Audit

The college aims to regularly conduct a Green Audit of our college campus to assess our strengths and weaknesses to further our goals of long-term sustainability. A green audit is a useful tool to determine how and where most energy or water or resources are being used. The college can then consider how to implement changes and make savings. It can determine the type and volume of waste. Recycling projects or waste minimization plans can be adopted. It will create health consciousness and promote environmental values and ethics. It provides a better understanding of the impact of eco-friendly practices on campus. Green auditing will promote financial savings through reduction of resource use. It is imperative that the college evaluate its own contributions toward a sustainable future.

Conduct Energy Audit

An Energy Audit to be conducted as and when required to further reduce its carbon footprint. The importance of reducing energy consumption cannot be overstated. The energy audit, with its specialized tools will identify wastage of energy. Such an inspection often reveals several different flaws which cause a loss of significant amounts of energy which the college will not be able to detect. These flaws often have easy and affordable solutions and provide significant savings.

Plastic-Free Campus

The Green protocol Committee of The Cochin College has been observing most of its duties in terms of solid waste management since its inception. In view of the Government of India's resolution to ban all single use plastics due to the hazardous impact of plastic use and pollution, the college administration strictly bans the use of single use plastics in its premise to make it a 'Plastic Free Campus'

7





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GREEN PROTOCOL

Green protocol is a set of green measures to reduce reuse and upcycle plastic waste. Impact of Plastic pollution on land and water is of great concern. Single use plastics which were handy to use has become a menace choking our waterbodies, forest, cities and other land bodies. Burning of plastics cause health issues like cancer in human beings. In this context its highly imperative and essential to adopt appropriate green measures to minimize the use of plastic utilities in our premises.

Keeping view of the above fact, The Nature club of The Cochin College, Kochi has implemented green Protocol in its campus since 2018. A Green Protocol Committee was formed consisting of students and teacher representatives from each department. The green protocol poster was stuck on the walls of each department. The poster gives an awareness of the set of responsible behavior one must adopt to

Reduce the use of plastic in the campus and make it ecofriendly. Regular awareness campaigns were organized to sensitize students about the menace of using single use plastics. Some of the green measures adopted in the campus were, use of cloth banner instead of flex banner, stainless steel glass for official get together, use of fresh flowers without plastic wrapper to welcome guests, students were encouraged to go for soft bind their project reports in their final semester rather than using plastic spiral binds. There was regular recycling of wastepaper generated in the campus. The waste papers were recycled by an NGO Planet@Earth and an equivalent amount of A4 size papers were returned to the amount of wastepaper given for recycling. Supporting staff and sweepers of the campus were also given training to sort plastic waste and degradable waste separately and not to burn the plastic waste in the campus premises. They were also encouraged to collect used refill ball point pens while cleaning. Once after collecting they were recycled at Planet@Earth.

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