



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

Submitted to



National Assessment and Accreditation Council



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KOCHI - 682 002

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Declaration on Principal

This is to declare that the following initiatives were undertaken by the college for the management of Degradable and Non-Degradable Wastes

Mrudula Menon V.





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Management of Degradable and Non-Degradable Wastes

Effective waste management is essential for fostering a sustainable and environmentally responsible campus. The Cochin College has implemented a range of strategies to manage both degradable and non-degradable waste, ensuring minimal environmental impact through composting, recycling, and collaboration with external partners.

1 Degradable Waste Management

1.1 Understanding Degradable Waste

Degradable waste consists of organic materials that can be naturally broken down by microorganisms. These materials decompose into simpler substances that can be reintegrated into the environment without causing harm.

1.2 Sources of Degradable Waste at The Cochin College

1.2.1 Food Waste

Food waste is primarily generated from the college canteen and students' lunch boxes.

Examples: Leftover food, fruit peels, vegetable scraps.

1.2.2 Garden Waste

Garden waste is produced from the college's extensive green spaces and gardens.

Examples: Fallen leaves, grass clippings, plant trimmings.

1.2.3 Organic Laboratory Waste

Organic waste is also generated from practical sessions in science laboratories.

Examples: Organic matter from biological experiments.

1.2.4 Paper Waste

Paper waste, which is partially degradable, is produced from classrooms, offices, and the library.

Examples: Used paper, cardboard.





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1.3 Degradable Waste Management Practices

1.3.1 Vermicomposting

The college has established a vermicompost pit where earthworms help decompose organic waste, resulting in nutrient-rich compost. This compost is used for gardening and landscaping within the campus.

1.3.2 Traditional Composting

In addition to vermicomposting, a traditional compost pit is utilized to decompose garden and food waste, enriching the soil and reducing the volume of waste sent to landfills.

1.3.3 Paper Recycling:

Used paper is collected and recycled to minimize waste and reduce the need for new paper.





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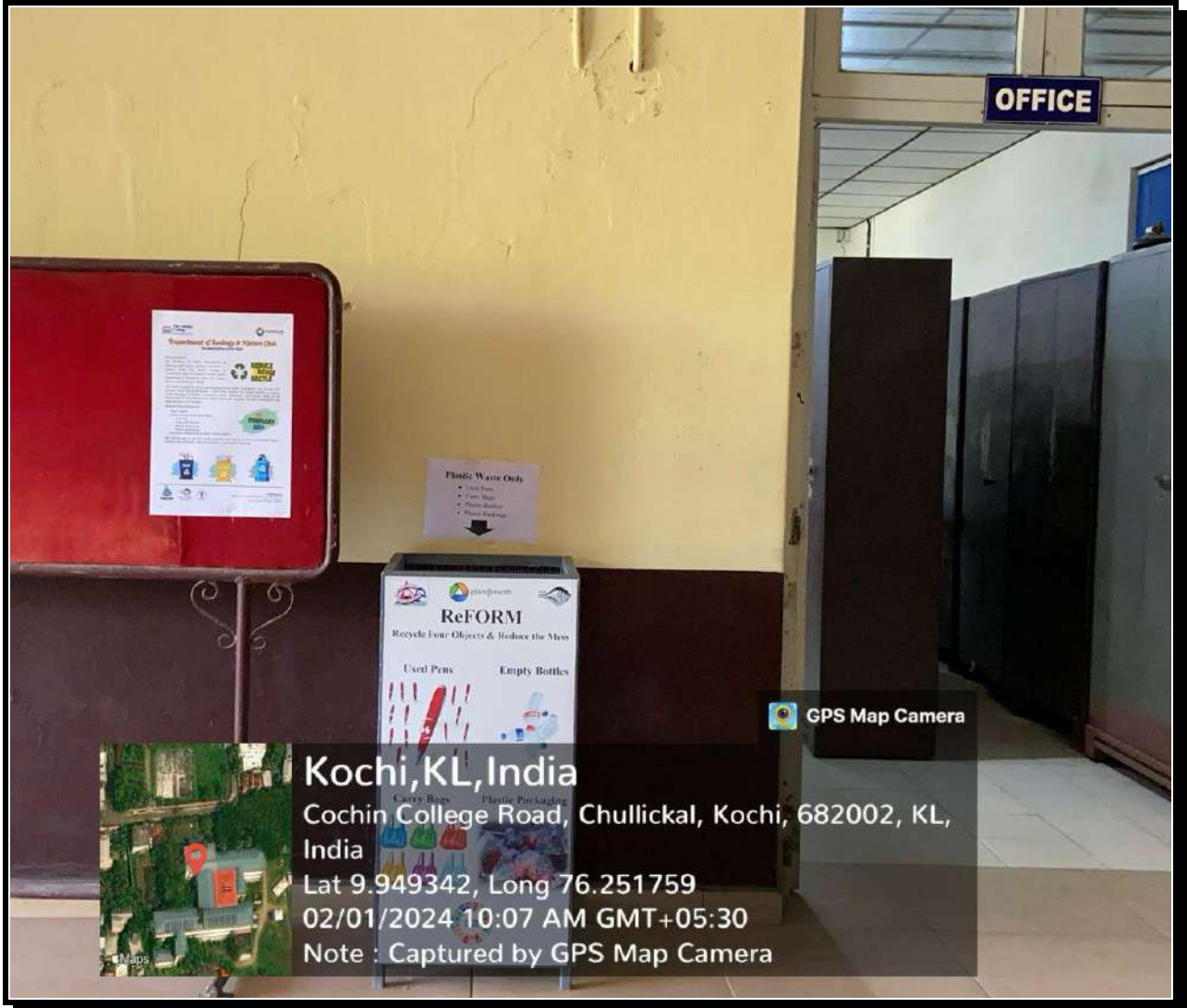


Figure 1: Reform- Collection of Non biodegradable waste and recycling Programme

2 Non-Degradable Waste Management

2.1 Understanding Non-Degradable Waste

Non-degradable waste consists of materials that do not easily break down and can persist in the environment, leading to long-term pollution.





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2.2 Sources of Non-Degradable Waste at The Cochin College

2.2.1 Plastic Waste

Plastic waste is generated from various sources, including packaging and disposable items.

Examples: Plastic bags, bottles, wrappers.

2.2.2 Electronic Waste (E-Waste)

E-waste is produced from obsolete or broken electronic devices.

Examples: Old computers, mobile phones, chargers.

2.2.3 Metal and Glass Waste

Metal and glass waste originate from construction activities, laboratories, and the canteen.

Examples: Metal cans, broken glass, laboratory glassware.

2.2.4 Chemical Waste

Chemical waste is generated from laboratory experiments involving non-biodegradable chemicals.

Examples: Inorganic chemicals, solvents.





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Figure 2: Recycling Day

2.3 Non-Degradable Waste Management Practices

2.3.1 Partnership with NGO PlanatEarth

The Cochin College has partnered with PlanatEarth, an NGO that specializes in waste management and recycling. This collaboration includes:

- **Plastic Recycling:** Plastic waste is segregated and sent for recycling, reducing its environmental impact.
- **E-Waste Recycling:** Electronic waste is collected and handed over to PlanatEarth for proper recycling, ensuring that hazardous materials are disposed of safely.





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Figure 3: Paper collection from different departments for recycling





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3 Holistic Waste Management Strategies at The Cochin College

3.1 Waste Segregation

The college actively promotes the segregation of waste at its source into degradable and non-degradable categories.

This practice is critical for efficient recycling and composting efforts.



3.2 Composting Initiatives

The college employs both vermicomposting and traditional composting techniques to manage organic waste effectively.

The resulting compost is used to nourish the college's green areas.

3.3 Recycling Programs

Through collaboration with PlanatEarth, the college ensures that non-degradable waste, including paper, plastic, and e-waste, is recycled efficiently. The departments are provided with A4-sized papers proportional to the amount of waste paper they generate and recycle.





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Figure 4: Bins for segregation of wastes





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Figure 5: Compost Pit and Vermipots for Biodegradable waste management





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Figure 6: Students engaged in Vermicomposting Process





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Figure 7: Students engaged in Harvesting of vermicomposts

3.4 Awareness and Education

To sustain its waste management efforts, the college regularly organizes workshops and awareness programs. These initiatives educate students and staff about the importance of waste management and their role in maintaining a sustainable campus. Additionally, housekeeping staff receive training on waste segregation and effective waste management practices within the campus.

4 Conclusion

The Cochin College has established a comprehensive waste management system that effectively addresses both degradable and non-degradable waste. Through composting, recycling, and strategic partnerships, the college is advancing its





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Figure 8: Students engaged in weighing and paking of vermicomposts





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commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. These efforts not only reduce the college's waste footprint but also serve as a model for students and staff on the importance of waste segregation and recycling.

