



# ST. DOMINIC'S COLLEGE, KANJIRAPALLY

AFFILIATED TO MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY KOTTAYAM

RE-ACCREDITED WITH A GRADE BY NAAC

ABSORB & RADIATE



## **Policy Document on the Green campus/ Plastic free campus**



## **INSTITUTIONAL POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND GREEN INITIATIVES**

St. Dominic's College, which was established in 1965, is a centre of higher education to the eastern parts of the Kottayam district and most parts of the Idukki district in Kerala. The Western Ghats, an area of topography that is so rich and must be preserved and protected for future generations, is close to the college's lovely campus. Residents of Kottayam and Idukki, the two areas where the majority of the college's stakeholders live, rely mostly on agriculture for their livelihood. This emphasizes the requirement for environmental protection and the maintenance of the harmony between humans and the environment. The college, which is the first door for academic aspirations to the people of this region who desire higher learning, has the fundamental responsibility of protecting and preserving the environment.

### ➤ **Scope of the Policy**

The Green Campus, Energy, and Environment Policies will create innovative new co-curricular and extracurricular activities that inspire students to take the initiative in bringing about change. These initiatives demand a comprehensive evaluation of all administrative, co-curricular, and infrastructure tasks from the perspectives of energy efficiency, sustainability, and the environment. This policy's key areas of focus are:

- Clean Campus Initiatives
- Landscaping Initiatives
- Clean Air Initiatives
- Alternative Energy sources and installation of Energy Efficiency Equipment
- Water Conservation measures
- Waste Management measures
- Awareness programmes on environmental protection
- Environmental Audits

➤ **Objectives of the Policy**

The key objective of the policies includes

- Integrating environmental issues into policies, strategies and programmes for social development and outreach initiatives.
- Protection and preservation of ecological systems and resources on campus.
- Making sure that environmental resource is used wisely in order to satisfy the needs and ambitions of both the present and future generations.
- Working together with all stakeholders and the local community to increase acceptance of environmentally sound practices, improve awareness of them, and mitigate any negative effects they may have on the environment.
- To consistently increase the effective use of all resources, including water and energy, and to cut back on consumption and waste production while recovering and recycling waste materials whenever practical.
- To occasionally undertake audits of the environment and energy use.
- To reduce the usage of paper in administration by implementing an e-governance policy and minimizing use of plastics within campus.

**Policy on Environment and Green Initiatives**

As part of the initiatives under Institutional Policy on Environment and Green Initiatives, we had made the following method and operating procedures to be followed in the college under different criteria as stated below

➤ **Clean Campus Initiatives**

St. Dominic's College sees cleanliness as a fundamental component of educated personalities, including both environmental and personal cleanliness. We are dedicated to providing appropriate instruction and fostering a culture of understanding among our student



body regarding these issues. In line with the goals of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, the college will actively plan and support cleaning initiatives both on and off campus.

- The college administration will take the lead on the clean campus initiative by ensuring that resources, personnel, and waste handling methods are properly distributed throughout the year.

Every undergraduate student must take an environmental science course as part of their fifth semester in order to graduate. This makes the need for environmental protection part of the curriculum.

- Educating students and staff members about cleanliness and hygiene through awareness campaigns and cleaning initiatives. The goal is to inspire them to make a proactive contribution. Staff members will set an example for pupils by taking part in the college campus cleaning campaign.
- The community service projects carried out by volunteers of the college's NSS, Bhoomitrasena Club and Population Education Club will all include activities under the "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan."
- To spark enthusiasm among the student body, activities including contests for posters and slogans, essays, spoken word poetry, speeches, and skits on "Swachh Bharat" will be organised.
- To raise public understanding, rallies and awareness campaigns on topics related to the "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" will be held on and near college campuses.
- Remove all waste materials in a proper manner, including e-waste, broken furniture, useless equipment, and so forth.
- Students undergo training in waste removal and keeping the campus clean, particularly during college events.
- Waste Disposal is an important part of the activities undertaken by the institution under Unnath Bharat Abhiyan(UBA) Project sanctioned to the college.

➤ **Landscaping Initiatives**

A college's ideals can be seen physically manifested in the campus environment, just like they are in its buildings. It is an essential component of campus life since it offers areas for study, recreation, outdoor activities, relaxation, and aesthetic enjoyment. Additionally, green campus landscaping controls runoff, aids in groundwater recharging, and purifies and cools campus air. The college community's dedication to sustainability is exemplified by the landscape. Campus landscaping projects are an excellent approach to raise environmental awareness because they are so visible and accessible

- On our Campus there are 1.5 acres of grass and more than 350 trees and 1,000 plants. The scenery of trees and plants is calming and provides the 1500+ pupils and staff with clean, cool air. St. Dominic's College has a wide variety of vegetation, which is home to at least 24 different kinds of uncommon animals and birds, making the campus highly diversified.
- By sponsoring yearly tree-planting campaigns and encouraging student organisations to host tree-planting activities, the college demonstrates its commitment to enhancing this healthy ecosystem and maintaining the symbiotic relationship between the institution and nature.

➤ **Clean Air Initiatives**

As part of the initiatives under Institutional Policy on Environment and Green Initiatives,

- We promote the usage of public transit among our students and staff.
- We promote carpooling for college, which reduces air pollution and improves social contact.
- To deter the use of personal vehicles, the campus restricts the admission of vehicles.

- The rich natural environment serves as an extension of the area's green lung in addition to purifying the air on campus.
- In accordance with the guidelines established by the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), the college forbids the use of tobacco products, including smoking.
- We avoid burning waste and instead use environmentally friendly recycling techniques.

➤ **Alternative Energy sources and installation of Energy Efficiency Equipment**

We are dedicated to minimize and sustainably manage the consumption of electricity produced by non-renewable resources by switching to clean energy sources like solar energy for purposes like lighting the campus.

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

➤ **Water Conservation and Management**

As an institution located in central Kerala near the Western Ghats, the area that has seen the most rainfall, we are positioned in the area that has seen the most rainfall. We are devoted to this effort to refill the groundwater table by practising rainwater harvesting through pits and channels. The replenishment and recharging of the groundwater is aided by this approach. We also adopt the following measure to manage the use of water.

- Maintain leak proof water fixtures.
- Minimize the unwanted use and wastage of water
- Immediate steps to stop any water leakage through taps, pipes, tanks, to flush etc.
- Study on possibility of reuse of wastewater

➤ **Waste Management Processes**

We are committed to reducing and managing the waste produced by the college campus in order to reduce its adverse impact on the environment. 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 and liquid waste through the following methods:

- Consistently practice the three Rs of environmental friendliness (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle).
- Collect paper waste generated on campus and work with recyclers to find new uses for it.
- Reduce solid waste by creating a teaching and management approach that emphasizes technology.
- Support the digitization of attendance and internal assessment records to reduce the usage of paper. By updating the college library's collection of e-books and e-journals, the need for printed books can be reduced.
- Encourage faculty and students to submit assignments via online
- Take steps to educate students about food waste and strategies for reducing it.
- Reducing the amount of packaged food consumed
- Recycling and reusing non-biodegradables as much as possible
- Conducting solid waste management workshops for students.
- Study on possibility of reuse of wastewater

St Dominic's 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 provisions for the disposal of the institutional e-waste by Collaboration with e-waste recycling companies to get electronic waste recycled. We also create awareness amongst students about reduction of

e-waste and environment friendly disposal practices for e-waste and encourage department and society level activities pertaining to e-waste management.

➤ **Awareness programmes on environmental protection**

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. we support and encourage awareness campaigns, seminars, workshops, conferences and other interactive sessions to facilitate effective implementation of the Green Campus along with implementation Energy and Environment policies.

We encourages all the departments and specific student organisations like NSS, Bhoomitrasens, Nature Club, Forestry Club 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 associations in moulding the students into active agents of environment protection and conservation.

➤ **Environmental Audits**

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. 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.

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.

➤ **Conclusion**



The concept of a "green campus" is becoming more and more popular among students as a result of institutional improvements toward sustainability and eco-friendly behaviors being passed down to the students. This will give it a larger platform to spread the institution's environmental principles and increase awareness as the message steadily spreads to their homes and the broader community. This policy's implementation will aid in the protection and preservation of ecological systems and resources on campus by ensuring that they are used wisely to meet the needs and aspirations of both the present and future generations, as well as by collaborating with all stakeholders and the local community to create a sustainable environment..