



KURIAKOSE GREGORIOS COLLEGE PAMPADY



ENVIRONMENT POLICY

PREAMBLE

Nestled amidst the lush expanse of Kilimalakunnu, Kuriakose Gregorios College stands as a beacon of dedication to environmental preservation. The college has woven a stringent green policy into its very fabric, aligning seamlessly with the National Environment Policy and nurturing an eco-conscious haven on its campus. At the heart of its mission lies the deep desire to instill a deep-rooted sense of environmental responsibility in the young minds it nurtures.

By imparting knowledge on sustainable development, waste management, and the balance of both renewable and finite resources, the college endeavors to sow the seeds for a brighter, greener future. The college, through its teachings and actions, seeks to illuminate the path towards a harmonious coexistence, where humans and nature thrive hand in hand.

GOAL

Kuriakose Gregorios College's environmental policy aims to foster a culture of sustainability, as well as a sense of responsibility and gratitude towards the environment and nature, among the college community, in order to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It entails putting into practice and advocating for policies that end or lessen harm to the environment, such as implementing energy-saving measures, cutting back on waste, preserving natural resources, safeguarding indigenous biodiversity, and teaching staff, faculty, and students about ethical behaviour and environmental issues. In the end, the goal of the policy is to create a campus environment that minimises its environmental impact while simultaneously serving as a model for sustainable behaviours for the larger community.

OBJECTIVE

To reduce the college's ecological footprint by 20% within the next five years through the implementation of targeted sustainability initiatives, including switching over to green energy sources like solar energy; installation of energy-efficient systems, waste reduction programs, conservation practices, and comprehensive (formal and informal) educational campaigns and research programmes. By fostering a culture of environmental stewardship, the institution aims to inspire active participation from students, faculty, and staff while establishing Kuriakose Gregorios College as a regional leader in sustainable campus practices.

- I. Integrate environmental and sustainability themes into curriculum by various approaches like case studies, practical projects, and interdisciplinary discussions. Encouraging hands-on experiences and collaborative learning to inculcate a deeper understanding and commitment to these crucial global issues among students and faculty
- II. Promote sustainable life style in the campus by encouraging student involvement in maintaining green spaces to instill a sense of oneness and connection to nature, advocating for eco-friendly transportation options, such as bike-sharing programs



or incentives for carpooling, electric vehicle charging stations and encouraging the use of public transport. Sustainability practices shall be integrated into college policies, procurement processes, and decision-making frameworks to ensure a long-term commitment to eco-friendly practices.

- III. Inspire and support initiatives, projects, and campaigns initiated by students to instigate transformation and impact from within the student community.
- IV. Put strict regulations into place to encourage the growth of regional, environmentally friendly businesses and manufacturing, reducing the environmental impact of commodities purchases and the transportation associated with them.
- V. Provide active support for research initiatives addressing environmental challenges, sustainable practices, and the development of innovative green technologies. Support may be extended to enrich interdisciplinary collaborations and lay out resources to drive impactful research that addresses pressing environmental issues.
- VI. Create and implement action plans focused at eco-restoration, eco-conservation, and sustainable development and growth beyond the campus in collaboration with surrounding communities and environmental organisations.
- VII. Set up protocols to monitor progress regarding environmental goals, conducting regular audits to assess the institution's environmental performance, and ensuring transparent reporting of results to stakeholders to maintain accountability and transparency.
- VIII. Ensure strict adherence to existing environmental laws and regulations.
- IX. Define specific roles and responsibilities for individuals or teams tasked with implementing the policy by designating leaders, coordinators, and operational staff responsible for different aspects of environmental initiatives.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The institution's community is urged to choose alternative energy sources and practice conservation of energy to protect the environment for present and upcoming generations. The



policy strongly advocates for the utilisation of alternative energy sources to uphold environmental sustainability. The institution has clear cut policy in identifying and utilising alternative sources of energy.

Solar Power

Solar rooftop PV systems must be used to capture solar energy, ensuring that the maximum amount of electricity is produced while adhering to the standards established by the Commission of Alternate Sources of Energy (CASE), a division of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India.

Promoting usage of LED Lights

LED lighting will be installed in place of the conventional lighting systems currently used in classrooms, laboratories, auditoriums, halls and hallways.

Utilizing Energy - Efficient Equipment

Equipment with star rating — refrigerators, air conditioners, microwaves, deep freezers, etc.— alone shall be purchased. LED monitors will be used in the staff areas, offices, and computer labs. Additionally, the current TFT monitors will eventually be phased out.

Conservation of water

Our goal is to conserve water by optimising both the amount and quality of water that is readily available while utilising the least amount of energy. The organisation uses a methodical, planned approach to preserve water in every way conceivable in an effort to conserve it. This includes adopting techniques like rainwater collection and harvesting. For the collection of rain water, the following standards will be put into place:

- i. A sizable portion of the campus's water demand must be satisfied by rainwater.
- ii. The annual rainwater should be gathered as much as possible. A water storage facility with a capacity of 3 Lakh Liters is installed in the campus.

Recharging open well

- i. The institution is having storage tanks or bunds to hold extra water that can be redirected during intense downpours.
- ii. Institution is responsible for the appropriate maintenance and protection of the open well in the campus as well as the installation of a suitable distribution system for the use of the water that has been stored.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Efficient management of waste is a primary focus within the green policy. By segregating, reducing, reusing, recycling, and composting waste, the institution aims to adhere to waste management regulations. Through orientation, circulars, announcements, and sign boards in conspicuous locations, all individuals involved with the institution will be informed about the importance of maintaining a clean and environmentally friendly campus. The institution's management will employ composting methods for biodegradable waste, utilizing the resultant compost as a natural fertilizer to nurture the campus's plant life. To mitigate environmental pollution, the institution needs an efficient system for diminishing, recycling, and repurposing non-biodegradable waste

Solid waste

The institution's solid waste management protocols need to align with the guidelines established by the International Institute of Waste Management. Implementing the following standards will ensure the establishment of a systematic, structured, and multi-tiered process for solid waste management:

- i. Bins that are color-coded and labelled must be placed in classrooms, auditoriums, cafeterias, labs, corridors, washrooms, open area set in order to separate and collect waste at every level of the organization.
- ii. Personnel shall be appointed and entrusted specifically to assist with garbage collection, Segregation, treatment or disposal.
- iii. The collected paper trash can be delivered to an authorized recycling facility.
- iv. Segregated plastic garbage can be handed over to the Panchayat Haritha Karma Sena.
- v. A biogas plant is used to treat wet waste at St. Eulitheo women's hostel of the college.
- vi. Vermicomposting can be used to treat the garden waste and the finished product will be used as bio fertilizers.
- vii. Used sanitary napkins are burned in incinerators.

Liquid waste

There are two types of liquid waste generated in the college.

- i. Drainage water: discharged from wash basins to farm fields on campus.



- ii. Drainage water (from laboratories) is diluted with fresh water and piped underground. No radioactive waste or medical waste is generated in the campus.

E-Waste

A well-organized strategy for handling electronic waste is devised right at the outset of the procurement process. The following standards will be used to manage e-waste.

- i. An agreement in the form of an LoU is made with an authorized e-vendor to ensure swift collection and recycling of electronic waste.
- ii. The maintenance division is responsible for organizing the annual collection and destruction of the e-waste.
- iii. Outdated technology is utilized to study the hardware component.

Recycling System for Solid Waste

The recycling of solid waste will be governed by the following standards:

- i. The main locations from which paper waste is generated are identified, collected, and sent to the assigned paper recycling facility.
- ii. The main sources of plastic waste generation are identified collected and then transferred to accredited plastic recycling facilities.
- iii. Metal scrap is handed over to scrap dealers.

GREEN INITIATIVES

The college has implemented numerous green initiatives across its campus. Landscaping efforts have been undertaken extensively, transforming available spaces into luscious exhibits of nature. Indoor corridors are adorned with carefully placed plants, creating refreshing greenery. Moreover, within classrooms, students take charge of nurturing dedicated green corners.

One of the standout features is the butterfly garden meticulously maintained by the college. With a variety of host plants catering to numerous butterfly species, it draws a steady stream of these beautiful creatures daily. Additionally, the Zoology Department tend to a medicinal plant garden, enriching the campus with its valuable diversity.



Furthering its commitment to sustainability, the college actively advocates for a green lifestyle. Providing a convenient bus service on all working days for students and staff from town to campus significantly reduces individual carbon footprints. Additionally, the installation of charging points for electric vehicles, powered by rooftop solar panels, represents a forward-thinking approach toward eco-friendly transportation solutions.

Moreover, the college plays a proactive role in spreading awareness. Through internal campaigns and invited lectures, it educates the community about biodiversity conservation, water preservation, and energy efficiency. Additionally, the college maintains a comprehensive biodiversity register, documenting the diverse flora and fauna thriving within its campus.

PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT

The college prioritizes environmentally friendly office stationery and energy-efficient equipment in its procurement practices. The stationery used in offices is eco-friendly, and when purchasing equipment, the energy-efficient models are opted.

Moreover, the college has taken a conscious step by refraining from purchasing disposable plates and glasses. Instead, they invest in reusable steel or glass utensils for use in the cafeteria and college canteen. This commitment to sustainable choices not only reduces waste but also promotes the use of long-lasting and environmentally responsible alternatives.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The college is dedicated to fostering research endeavours centered on environmental concerns and sustainability, particularly emphasizing innovation in green technologies. Both postgraduate and undergraduate students in life science disciplines are actively encouraged to undertake academic projects focusing on biodiversity estimation and exploring the impact of non-eco-friendly practices on various life forms.

In a significant move towards sustainability, the college has introduced an innovative solution for managing organic and food wastes generated on campus. By installing 'Valakkoodu' or vegetable towers at strategic locations, these wastes are efficiently converted. The produce harvested from these vegetable towers is made available for sale within the college, creating a sustainable loop for waste reduction and local produce consumption. This initiative not only tackles waste management but also promotes a culture of self-sufficiency and environmental consciousness within the college community.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The college has been actively engaged in strengthening community involvement and participation in various green initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability and environmental consciousness. Through collaborative efforts, the college has successfully implemented numerous programs and initiatives, creating and nourishing a strong bond between the college and the local community.

As part of its community engagement efforts, the NSS (National Service Scheme) of the college organizes regular cleaning drives in the surrounding neighbourhood. These initiatives aim to enhance the cleanliness and hygiene of the local area, promoting the contribution of students towards achieving a cleaner environment beyond the college campus.

Furthermore, extending its green initiatives beyond campus borders, the college has established a fruit and herbal garden in the premises of the Kottayam Collectorate. This collaborative effort not only beautifies the area but also serves as a sustainable green space promoting biodiversity conservation in the wider community.

MONITORING AND REPORTING

Stakeholders associated with Kuriakose Gregorios College – from the management and employees to the students and all others using the facilities – are expected to abide by the green policy and code. A green protocol and Swachatha committee function on campus, which will be in charge of organising, carrying out, and overseeing the institution's environmental efforts. With these, Kuriakose Gregorios College explicitly declares its steadfast commitment to environmental sustainability, acknowledging its duty to minimise its ecological footprint.

COMPLIANCE AND REVIEW

Additionally, periodic reviews and updates are conducted to ensure that the green policy remains adaptive to evolving challenges, embracing new technological advancements and seizing emerging opportunities in the environmental landscape. This commitment to regular policy evaluation allows the institution to stay updated about changing environmental frameworks and readily adopt innovative approaches as they emerge, ensuring a proactive and responsive stance towards caring for the environment. As part of environment policy, an environment management system is implemented (EMS) in our campus, and periodic internal audits and external audits are practiced.



TOWARDS A GREEN CAMPUS

The college is committed to fostering a sustainable and environmentally conscious culture among its student community. The institution is actively putting the required policies and procedures into place with a strong commitment to creating an environmentally friendly campus. It imagines a time where all facets of campus life are embedded with sustainability.

Embracing a long-term vision, the college is steadfast in its dedication to continually improving the campus environment. It seeks to achieve green certifications and national environmental benchmarks, setting a standard for sustainable practices within the educational landscape.

The college eagerly anticipates the journey ahead, working hand in hand with its community to instil a profound commitment to a greener, more eco-conscious campus. Through collective efforts and a shared vision, the institution is poised to create a lasting impact and lead by example in environmental stewardship.

