

GREEN CAMPUS, ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY POLICY

1. Preamble

St. Joseph's College is committed to promoting environmental sustainability through responsible utilization of natural resources, conservation practices, and environmental awareness among all stakeholders. The institution recognizes its responsibility in creating an environmentally conscious campus that contributes to sustainable development and ecological balance.

The policy aims to integrate environmental concerns into academic, administrative, and extension activities while fostering a culture of environmental stewardship among students, faculty, staff, and the local community.

Motto: *"In Nature We Live, For Nature We Strive."*

2. Policy Statement

The College shall strive to:

- Promote environmental sustainability through efficient utilization of resources.
- Minimize environmental impact arising from institutional activities.
- Conserve energy, water, and biodiversity.
- Implement effective waste management practices.
- Create awareness and encourage participation in environmental protection initiatives.
- Comply with applicable environmental laws, regulations, and guidelines.
- Continuously improve environmental performance through periodic audits and reviews.

3. Objectives

The policy seeks to:

1. Foster environmental consciousness among students and staff.
2. Encourage sustainable lifestyles and eco-friendly practices.
3. Conserve natural resources through responsible usage.
4. Promote renewable energy and energy-efficient technologies.
5. Maintain a clean, green, and healthy campus environment.
6. Develop environmentally responsible citizens through education and outreach.
7. Support national initiatives such as **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**, **Mission LiFE**, and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
8. Encourage community participation in environmental conservation activities.

4. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Students
- Teaching and Non-teaching Staff
- Administrative Departments
- Campus Infrastructure
- Laboratories and Library
- Extension and Outreach Activities
- Visitors and Service Providers

5. Guiding Principles

The policy is guided by the principles of:

Reduce: Minimize consumption of resources and generation of waste.

Reuse: Promote reuse of materials wherever feasible.

Recycle: Encourage segregation and recycling of waste materials.

Replace: Adopt environmentally friendly alternatives and sustainable technologies.

6. Strategic Areas of Implementation

A. Water Management

The institution shall:

- Promote judicious use of water resources.
- Maintain water conservation structures and reservoirs.
- Encourage groundwater recharge through rainwater harvesting.
- Monitor water consumption and prevent leakages.
- Promote efficient irrigation methods for landscaping.
- Ensure proper maintenance of water supply systems.
- Create awareness regarding water conservation among stakeholders.

B. Energy Management

The institution shall:

- Promote the use of renewable energy sources such as solar power.
- Install and maintain energy-efficient equipment.
- Encourage responsible use of electricity.
- Conduct periodic Energy Audits.
- Replace conventional lighting with LED lighting wherever feasible.
- Promote energy conservation awareness among stakeholders.

C. Solid Waste Management

The institution shall:

- Practice segregation of waste at source.
- Promote composting of biodegradable waste.
- Reduce paper consumption through digitization.
- Encourage paperless communication and documentation.
- Facilitate recycling through authorized agencies.
- Conduct awareness programmes on waste reduction and responsible disposal.

D. E-Waste Management

The institution shall:

- Ensure safe collection, storage, and disposal of electronic waste.
- Dispose e-waste through authorized recyclers.
- Conduct awareness programmes on responsible e-waste management.
- Encourage repair, reuse, and refurbishment of electronic equipment.

E. Liquid Waste Management

The institution shall:

- Ensure proper disposal of wastewater.
- Prevent contamination of water bodies.
- Maintain drainage systems effectively.
- Adopt appropriate mechanisms for wastewater management.

F. Air Quality Management

The institution shall:

- Maintain adequate green cover on campus.
- Encourage eco-friendly transportation practices.
- Observe No-Vehicle Day whenever feasible.
- Prohibit smoking and tobacco consumption on campus.
- Undertake regular plantation drives.

G. Green Campus and Landscaping

The institution shall:

- Develop and maintain a green and aesthetically pleasing campus.
- Increase biodiversity through plantation initiatives.
- Encourage student participation in tree plantation programmes.
- Promote the adoption and maintenance of saplings by students.
- Maintain herbal gardens and native plant species wherever possible.

H. Plastic-Free Campus

The institution shall:

- Prohibit single-use plastics within the campus.

- Encourage the use of reusable and biodegradable alternatives.
- Conduct awareness campaigns on plastic pollution.
- Ensure compliance with Government regulations regarding plastic usage.

I. Environmental Education and Awareness

The institution shall:

- Organize seminars, workshops, conferences, and awareness campaigns.
- Integrate environmental concerns into academic and extension activities.
- Encourage participation of NSS, NCC, Eco Club, YRC, and other student bodies.
- Promote community outreach programmes related to environmental conservation.

J. Clean Campus Initiatives

The institution shall:

- Conduct regular campus cleanliness drives.
- Promote hygiene and sanitation awareness.
- Observe Swachh Bharat-related activities.
- Organize rallies, competitions, and awareness programmes.
- Ensure proper waste disposal during institutional events.

7. Green Audit and Energy Audit

The institution shall conduct:

- **Green Audit** periodically to assess environmental practices and sustainability measures.
- **Energy Audit** to evaluate energy consumption patterns and identify opportunities for conservation.
- Follow-up actions based on audit recommendations.

8. Roles and Responsibilities

Management

- Provide policy direction and financial support.
- Review implementation periodically.

Principal

- Ensure effective implementation of the policy.
- Monitor compliance and review progress.

IQAC

- Monitor environmental initiatives.
- Facilitate audits and documentation.
- Recommend continuous improvement measures.

Departments, Clubs, Cells and Committees

- Organize awareness programmes and extension activities.
- Promote environmental responsibility among students.

Students and Staff

- Actively participate in sustainability initiatives.
- Follow eco-friendly practices on campus.

9. Monitoring and Review Mechanism

The implementation of the policy shall be monitored through:

- Periodic review meetings.
- Green Audit and Energy Audit reports.
- Feedback from stakeholders.
- Documentation of activities and outcomes.
- Annual review by IQAC and the Principal.

10. Expected Outcomes

The policy aims to achieve:

- Reduced consumption of water and energy.
- Improved waste management practices.
- Enhanced campus biodiversity and green cover.
- Increased environmental awareness among stakeholders.
- Reduced carbon footprint of the institution.
- Active community participation in environmental conservation.
- Contribution towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).