

# **RANI BIRLA GIRLS' COLLEGE**

**Affiliated to the University of Calcutta**

**38, SHAKESPEARE SARANI  
KOLKATA: 700017**



## **POLICY FOR GREEN CAMPUS**

**SESSION: 2022-23**

## INTRODUCTION

In compliance with the National Environment Policy (2006), Rani Birla Girls' College strives to implement a Green Campus through initiatives such as energy conservation, waste reduction, green landscaping and banning the use of single-use plastics within its premises. The purpose is to conserve natural resources, prevent environmental degradation and create a safe and healthy environment for its community of students, staff, and faculty.

## CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The context for a Green Campus lies in the overwhelming need in today's world of practising and promoting sustainable development for healthy living. The National Environment and Education Policies acknowledge this need. A Green Campus is a site where eco-friendly policies and practices serve to educate stakeholders on sustainable lifestyle management. The rationale for such a campus lies in the opportunity it offers to sensitize its stakeholders on critical environment issues; train them in the management of renewable and non-renewable resources and waste; motivate them to make environmental consciousness a part of their daily lives and create practical solutions to environmental problems.

## OBJECTIVES

- To promote systematic management and reduction of waste on campus
- To ensure judicious use of energy and water to meet institutional needs and emphasize conservation of the said resources
- To create a plastic-free campus
- To increase green cover in the campus
- To raise environmental awareness among students, staff, and faculty
- To nurture a medicinal plants garden in the campus
- Promote use of sustainable green practices like composting, water harvest, use of renewable energy etc.



## SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

The scope and applicability of the Green Campus policy of Rani Birla Girls' College encompass a broad range of initiatives aimed at fostering environmental sustainability, reducing carbon footprint, and promoting eco-friendly practices within the campus community. The following is an overview of the areas that the policy will focus on and how it could be applied:

### 1. Energy Conservation:

- The College will seek to reduce energy consumption through measures such as the use of energy-efficient lighting systems.
- Use of renewable energy must be prioritized. For this, solar garden lighting shall be installed and installation of solar panels and cells shall be planned.
- Awareness programmes to be conducted regarding switching off lights and fans while vacating a room.

### 2. Waste Management:

- Colour coded bins for degradable and non-biodegradable wastes have been used in the college since a long time. Now the waste gathered separately is collected by the conservancy workers of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation for solid waste disposal.
- Non-degradable waste such as paper and glass shall be sent for recycling.
- MOUs must be signed with authorised E-waste recycling agencies to ensure periodic disposal of e-waste.
- Food waste and organic waste from the garden shall be managed by vermicomposting.
- Waste reduction practices will be implemented across campus, including economic use of paper, cardboard etc.
- Awareness programmes to be initiated for students and staff, regarding waste segregation, recycling, and disposal.

### 3. Water Conservation:

- Water-saving practices, including regular checking and repair of taps, water tanks and pipes must be undertaken.
- A system for rainwater harvesting shall be put in place.



- An electronic device to stop overflow of water from reservoirs once they are filled and as long as water supply from Corporation continues must be installed to stop wastage of water.

#### 4. Green Landscaping:

- The college will maintain and expand green spaces on campus and adopt eco-friendly landscaping practices.
- Emphasis will be laid on growing flowering and nectar-producing plants to encourage small fauna, e.g. bees and butterflies.
- A patch of medicinal plants (tagged by their common and scientific names) shall be created in the college garden.
- Gardeners and full-time adequate support staff have been appointed for the maintenance of gardens and keeping the campus litter-free, clean and Green Campus.
- The tree-plantation drives are undertaken by the NSS unit and Nature Club of the college on regular basis generally in the month of July every year.

5. **Plastic-Free Campus:** The college shall strictly enforce a complete ban on the use of single-use plastic within its premises and discourage use of the same outside campus. All members of the college community must be encouraged to use reusable alternatives. The college canteen shall not use plastic containers, bottles, straws etc. Instead, reusable, or biodegradable alternatives must be used. Use of plastic banners/ flex shall be reduced for seminars and conferences. Use of banners made of cloth etc. or use of banners in digital media must be advocated. Organizers of college events, meetings, and conferences will be required to minimize plastic waste by using reusable or compostable materials for serving food and beverages.

#### 6. Raising Awareness:

- Regular workshops, seminars, and awareness campaigns will be organized to educate the college community about environmental sustenance and maintenance of a Green Campus with regards to all environmental parameters. Clear guidelines in the form of dos and don'ts with regards to conduct on a Green Campus shall be issued through notices, pamphlets, circulars to all stakeholders.



**7. Observance of Days to Protect and Nurture Environment:**

The college has been promoting environmental issues through organization of various events like Rallies, Awareness Campaigns, Cleanliness Drives, Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, presentations, Tree Plantation Drives, Wildlife Photography Competitions, Rangoli Competitions, Essay Competitions, Bird Watching Programs, Excursions, Study Tours, Guest Lectures, Talks, etc. on the occasion of various days like- International Mountain Day (11 December), 'International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer' (16 September), 'World Environment Day' (05 June), 'International Tiger Day' (29 July), 'Wildlife Week' (02 to 08 October), 'World Biodiversity Day' (22 May), 'World Wetland Day' (02 February), 'World Water Day' (22 March), Earth Day (22<sup>nd</sup> April), 'Bird Week' in first week of November, etc. This ensures to create awareness among young students and public about various environment related problems and conservation of nature and natural resources in the surrounding area and educating on how to live an eco-friendly life. The college plans to continue with several such programmes with collaborating colleges, NGOs and other institutions dedicated to such causes.

**8. Conducting regular Green and Energy Audits:** The college plans to conduct regular Green and Energy Audits of the college to ascertain the progress of work success of Green Policy and Energy Policy. Such Audits 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. The Audits are to be done by government authorised institutions like Botanical Survey of India, Pollution Control Boards, Department of Environment etc. or by Auditors attached to Government departments of Universities.

**9. Donation of Used Computers to Schools/NGOs:** Our college always take an initiative in reducing the digital divide in the rapidly growing digital world. The college plans to distribute all such computers and allied devices which are functional and can be refurbished and are not used by the college anymore due to upgradation, be distributed among schools of underprivileged children or to NGOs running homes for such kids as part of our green policy and community outreach.

**10. Setting Up a Vermicompost Unit:** The college plans to set up a vermicompost unit in the college. The students of the Nature Club will actively involve themselves to run this unit. The organic waste material



to be collected from the college canteen and campus are to be deposited in the vermicompost pit. Using cow dung, earthworms the soil mixture is made with appropriate proportions. Once the first flush of pure, odourless and granular, soft vermicompost is obtained, it will be used in manuring the plants of the college garden. Technical knowledge and support will be provided to the college from trained agencies. This extension activity of the Nature Club will promote vermicomposting awareness among the students of the college.

#### 11. Stakeholder Engagement:

- Student Involvement: Encouraging student participation through Nature club, volunteer opportunities, and leadership roles in green projects.
- Faculty and Staff Engagement: Involving faculty and staff in planning and executing green measures, and integrating sustainability into their roles.
- Community Partnerships: Collaborating with local governments, businesses, and non-profits to enhance the impact of green policy

## CONCLUSION

A Green Campus policy is essential for colleges seeking to minimize their environmental impact and foster a culture of sustainability. By addressing areas such as energy management, waste reduction, water conservation, sustainable transportation, and education, a comprehensive policy can significantly contribute to a more sustainable future. Engaging the entire campus community and maintaining a commitment to continuous improvement are key to the successful implementation and longevity of such a policy

*The college administration reserves rights to make necessary amendments in the Policy as and when necessary.*

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