

RANI BIRLA GIRLS' COLLEGE

**Affiliated to the University of Calcutta
38, SHAKESPEARE SARANI
KOLKATA: 700017**



POLICY FOR ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY USAGE

SESSION: 2022-23



INTRODUCTION

Environment Conservation is a high priority with Rani Birla Girls' College. Towards this end, the college is committed to the implementation of a Green Campus through sustainable development. This attempt to reduce our carbon footprint entails, among other things, an efficient on-campus use of energy resources. The measures and practices adopted to implement a Green Campus are disseminated to students, staff and faculty to ensure understanding of and compliance with the college's policy on 'Environment and Energy Usage'. Outlined here, are the context and rationale for this policy, its objectives and the scope of its application.

CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

The panoptic context for this Policy Document is the National Environment Policy (2006), which aims to make significant economic, environmental and health impacts by promoting sustainable development. In keeping with this, directives are issued by government bodies for institutions of higher education (UGC-NEP 2020, AICTE 2020), such as, adoption of waste segregation, use of renewable energy and imparting hands-on training to students in conservation practices. These constitute the immediate context for the framing of the college's policy on 'Environment and Energy Usage'.

The rationale for the college's policy is threefold: first, to create a clean and eco-friendly environment on campus; second, to instil among the college community, the concept of sustainable development; third, to impart practical training on hierarchical management of waste and efficient use of energy. The long-term impact of the college's policy would be the incorporation of its principles by the community in their lifestyle practices beyond campus, to become responsible citizens of a greener, healthier and environmentally-aware India.

OBJECTIVES

- To promote holistic waste management on campus, in line with environmental regulations;
- To ensure judicious use of energy and water to meet institutional needs and emphasize conservation of the said resources;



- To disseminate environmental awareness among students, staff and faculty;
- To encourage engagement of the college community in environmental initiatives to reduce carbon footprint;
- To provide a forum in college for discussion of environmental issues and coordinated execution of environmental initiatives.

SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

1. GREEN AUDIT

The college shall employ the services of an ISO-certified external auditing agency to undertake a comprehensive annual Green Audit of existing structures and work operations for water utilization and management, green cover, soil condition and bio-diversity on campus. This would identify, quantify, describe and prioritize areas requiring addressal in compliance with the applicable environment regulations and standards.

2. ENERGY AUDIT

The college shall execute an annual Energy Audit. This would involve inventorying its electrical fittings, fixtures, appliances, machines etc., assessment of energy consumption and energy wastage, and identification of leakage points. On the basis of the Energy Audit report, points of energy wastage and leakage on campus must be identified. These can then be addressed through repair work, appropriate modifications in wiring etc., and adoption of best practices, to achieve significant energy saving.

3. ENERGY CONSERVATION MEASURES

Rooms in the college buildings are constructed with multiple, large windows and high ceilings. This maximizes access to sunlight and provides ample natural ventilation, which minimizes requirement of artificial lighting during the day and air conditioners. To reinforce this conservation ethic, the college shall consciously choose energy-efficient equipment when making purchases, e.g. LED lighting, five-star air conditioners etc. In order to further reduce energy consumption on campus, it must strictly enforce the practice of switching off all electrical appliances, when not in use.



4. USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

The college shall install solar lights outside its buildings and in the garden. It must plan to install solar panels and solar cells to generate electricity for day-to-day campus consumption. The aim should be to make the whole campus operational through electricity generated by solar panels in the near future.

5. WATER CONSERVATION

A well-thought-out, structured system must be used to preserve water on the campus. Regular inspection of water taps, connecting pipelines and water tanks must be carried out to prevent wastage of water. Automatic water level controllers should be installed in underground water tanks to avoid overflow and dry running. This would save, both, water and energy. The college shall put into place a rainwater harvesting system. A sizable portion of the campus' demand for water should be satisfied by rainwater. Also, water collected through rainwater harvesting must have a provision to discharge into the ground. This would enhance the ground water level.

6. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Hierarchical waste management shall be followed on campus. Solid waste must be segregated into bio-degradable and non-degradable waste (plastic, paper, metal etc.). The number of waste bins in the college premises shall be increased. Bins that are color-coded and labelled must be placed in classrooms, the auditorium, canteen, labs, corridors, washrooms and open areas to segregate and collect waste. Recyclable materials like plastic, tin, glass, paper etc. are to be handed over to authorized waste-pickers and recyclers, as mentioned in Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016 (Government of India). Further, the college shall reduce waste generation (e.g. through e-governance, which minimizes use of paper) and accelerate efforts to creatively recycle waste products on campus.

7. VERMICOMPOSTING

To ensure that the bio-degradable waste generated within the college campus is not carted en masse into the local municipal dumpsters, vermicomposting shall be undertaken on the



college premises. Food waste from the canteen and garden waste will be converted to compost, for use in the college garden.

8. MEDICINAL PLANT PATCH

A medicinal plant patch should be created in the college garden. This is to be maintained by the students with expert advice from members of faculty. A planned landscaping of the college premises shall also be undertaken, to add green cover and beauty to the campus.

9. NATURE CLUB

A Nature Club shall be formed with members from among students, staff and the faculty. It will offer a forum for disseminating environmental concerns and, also, coordinate engagement of the college community in executing certain Green Initiatives such as waste disposal and tree-planting drives.

10. SENSITIZATION, AWARENESS AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The college shall make efforts to promote environmental awareness and uphold the principle of an environmentally friendly campus among its stakeholders. Through orientation, circulars, announcements and signs in conspicuous locations, all stakeholders will be made aware of the value of a clean, green campus. The college shall also raise awareness through seminars, workshops and film screenings. World Environment Day, World Earth Day, International Mountain Day etc. shall be commemorated every year with cultural programmes, poster competitions etc., to highlight the imperative for harmonious coexistence with nature.

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