

# Environmental Policy Document



Formulation of GAC

**GURUGRAM UNIVERSITY, GURUGRAM**

*(A State Govt. University established under Haryana Act 17 of 2017)*

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# Environmental Policy

## I. Preamble

The term “Green” can acronymically be called as “Global Readiness in Ensuring Ecological Neutrality” (GREEN). Green Audit can be defined as systematic identification, quantification, recording, reporting and analysis of components of ecological diversity and expressing the same in financial or social terms. “Green Auditing” or “Environmental Auditing” aims to analyse environmental practices within and outside the university campus, which will have an impact on the eco-friendly ambience. Through Green Audit, one gets a direction as how to improve the condition of environment. Educational institutions have broad impacts on the world around them, both negative and positive, but they are also in a unique position as educational institutions to be leaders in pursuing environmentally sustainable solutions.

The Gurugram University has taken a number of positive steps to reduce negative environmental impact. But many areas remain in which substantial improvements can be made. The establishment of Green Audit Cell (GAC) will help to highlight some accomplishments and to make recommendations for improving the campus. The Cell will provide an accurate snapshot of University’s environmental impact and it will aid the University in prioritizing positive steps it can take to improve overall sustainability.

The Green Audit is associated with the 7th criterion of NAAC. In the current situation, it is mandatory for all Higher Educational Institutions to deliver the yearly Green Audit Report. In fact, it also links to the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) of the Universities, marking their conscious contribution towards the betterment of the ecosystem. It also mitigates the risks of Carbon Footprint and encourages the enforcement of new and improved management steps.

- **Self-assessment** – It allows the universities and colleges to review the ideal steps and implement them for the campus. The audit assists in self-assessment and the decision-making process.
- **Awareness** – It develops awareness among everyone associated with the campus with conscious and consistent efforts.
- **Improved scopes** – By complying with the norms, universities can ensure higher scopes of getting the best grade from NAAC. It is vital to follow the systematic way and implement the best steps for green audits on the campus under professional guidance.

**The role of the GAC** – It will aid the University to make the best strategies for making the campus ideal for students, teachers, and anyone associated. It also helps the University acknowledge the wastage volume and consider different recycling projects for developing a sustainable ecosystem for the learners. It will suggest ways to minimize wastage and create a more suitable place for learning with improved NAAC grades.

Gurugram University acknowledges and takes responsibility for the environmental impact of its activities. The University is committed to mitigate the impact of its operations and behaviour on the natural environment. The University complies with all environmental legislation. It works to increase awareness of environmental responsibility among its fellows, students and staff. It pledges to maintain all buildings and grounds in an environmentally conscious manner for the benefit of all the present and future university members and visitors, keeping their health and safety utmost in consideration.

University has established a ‘**Green Audit Committee**’ comprising of passionate and environment conscious members. The Committee, in consultation with faculty and student representatives, shall work in coordination with the university administration to :

- (i) Develop specific policies and targets to promote, monitor and improve environmental practices and work towards reducing the carbon footprint of the university.

(ii) Perform green audit of the university at regular intervals.

## **II. Objectives of the Policy**

1. To protect and conserve ecological systems and resources within the campus.
2. To ensure judicious use of environmental resources to meet the needs and aspirations of the present and future generations.
3. To integrate environmental concerns into policies, plans and programmes for social development and outreach activities.
4. To work with all stakeholders and the local community to raise awareness and seek the adoption of environmental good practice and the reduction of any adverse effects on the environment.
5. To continuously improve our contribution to climate protection and adaptation to climate change and to the conservation of global resources.
6. To understand the current practices of sustainability with regard to the use of water and energy, generation of wastes, transportation, purchase of goods etc;
7. To continuously improve the efficient use of all resources, including energy and water, and to reduce consumption and the amount of waste produced, recovering and recycling waste where possible.
8. To make the campus plastic free.
9. To conduct environmental and energy audits from time to time.
10. To minimize the use of paper in its offices through E-governance.
11. To create awareness among students, staff and general public concerning real issues of environment and its sustainability.

## **III. Focus Areas of the Policy**

- A. Clean Campus Initiatives
- B. Green Campus Initiatives
- C. Clean Air Initiatives
- D. Energy Conservation Initiatives
- E. Water conservation Initiatives
- F. Waste Management Initiatives
- G. Awareness Initiatives
- H. Green Audit
- I. Energy Audit

### **A. Clean Campus Initiatives**

The broad vision is as follows:

1. Generating mass awareness on cleanliness and hygiene amongst students and staff members by holding regular cleanliness drives. The idea is to motivate them to contribute in a proactive manner.
2. Activities under 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' will be a key component of all the community work being done by NSS, NCC and Environment Volunteers of the University.
3. Staff Members will be encouraged to participate in the cleanliness drive in the campus.
4. Events such as poster and slogan competitions, essay writing, spoken word poetry, speeches and skits on 'Swachh Bharat' will be organised.
5. Rallies on themes connected with 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' in and around the University campus will be conducted to create mass awareness.
6. Remove all kinds of waste material like broken furniture, unusable equipment etc.
7. Administer of the pledge by students and staff members to maintain cleanliness of the University campus and its surrounding areas on an annual basis.
8. Conduct workshops on the 3Rs: Reducing, reusing and recycling of waste.

## **B. Green Campus Initiatives**

Green campus not only provides the aesthetic appreciation but also manages runoff, help recharge groundwater and clean and cool the air on campus. It serves as a visual representation of the campus community's commitment to sustainability. Such initiatives are a great way to build awareness.

There are huge number of herbs, shrubs and trees which provide habitat to a number of animals. The University commits to enriching this healthy habitat and maintaining the symbiotic relation of the University with nature by:

1. Organizing annual tree plantation drives.
2. Applying environment friendly fertilizer i.e. vermicompost for healthy green cover.
3. Establishing a herbal park, Green House and Hydroponic unit.

## **C. Clean Air Initiatives**

These include:

1. Use of public transportation by students and employees of the University.
2. Practice of car-pooling.
3. Restricted entry of automobiles inside the campus to discourage the use of private vehicles and encourage the use of e-vehicles.
4. The abundant Green Campus of the University not only cleans the air on campus but also becomes an extension of the green lungs of the city.
5. Smoking Free Campus: In compliance with the framework provided by the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) 2007-2008, the University prohibits smoking in and around the campus.
6. Burning of waste in open is prohibited in the campus.
7. Involvement of local administration / NGOs for environment related activities.

## **D. Energy Conservation and carbon footprint reduction Initiatives**

1. Installation of Solar Power Plant: Switching to clean energy sources like solar energy for purposes like lighting the campus, solar water heater and solar water pump.
2. Installation of Energy Efficient Equipment: We commit to install environment-friendly electrical appliances that save energy and reduce wasteful inefficiencies.
3. Promoting energy saving drives among all the students and staff members of the university.
4. Computers are set to automatic power saving mode when not in use.
5. Also, campus administration runs on switch-off drill on regular basis
6. Proper monitoring and management of consumption and use of energy.
7. Encouraging the use of public transport and cycling.

## **E. Water Conservation Initiatives**

1. Monitoring of water consumption and management of water use.
2. Water Conservation through Rainwater Harvesting System: Installation of rainwater harvesting system for recharging of ground water
3. Maintenance and monitoring of valves in supply system to avoid overflow, leakage and spillage.
4. Use of R.O. waste water / STP water in lawns and toilets.
5. Watering the lawns of campus with sprinkler or drip irrigation system.
6. Use of push water taps.

## **F. Waste Management Initiatives**

These include:

1. Solid Waste Management
2. Liquid Waste Management
3. E-Waste Management

University strives to have a minimal impact on the environment and is dedicated to reduce and manage the waste generated by the campus. The following specific procedures will be undertaken to ensure University's contribution in protecting the environment.

### **1. Solid Waste Management**

With its aim to provide holistic education that also has a positive impact on the environment, the university will adopt practices that will mitigate the waste generation in the campus.

- i. Introduction of Sustainable Waste Management Subject in the Course Curriculum of the University.
- ii. Use separate bins to collect biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste of the campus.
- iii. Plastic free campus: In view of the Government of India's resolution to ban all single use plastics due to the hazardous impact of plastic use and pollution, the University administration strictly bans the use of single use plastics in its premise to make it a 'Plastic Free Campus'
- iv. Installation of composting / vermicomposting /biogas plant for the management of biodegradable waste of the campus.
- v. Collect paper waste produced on campus and collaborate with scrap dealers for recycling
- vi. Reduce use of paper by supporting digitization of attendance and internal assessment records and other official communication
- vii. (Vii) Reduce requirement of printed books by updating the e-books and e-journals collection of the university library
- viii. Encourage the students and teachers to use emails for assignment submissions
- ix. Organizing workshops for students on solid waste management.
  - x. Take initiatives to spread awareness amongst students about:
  - xi. Food wastage and ways of minimizing it
  - xii. Minimizing the use of packaged food
- xiii. The habit of reusing and recycling non-biodegradable products
- xiv. (x) Proper disposal of hazardous materials, if any.

### **2. Liquid Waste Management**

- (i) Use the environment friendly cleaning agent in the campus
- (ii) Reuse of waste water generated by the Reverse Osmosis (RO) system in the garden
- (iii) Installation of sewage/waste water treatment plant (STP) for the treatment of waste water of the campus
- (iv) Installation septic tank for sewage treatment

### **3. E-Waste Management – follow state policy**

University ensures that its usage of technology and generation of e-waste does not impact the environment. For this purpose, the University plans to strive towards:

- (i) More provisions for the disposal of the institutional e-waste.
- (ii) Collaboration with e-waste recycling companies to get electronic waste recycled.
- (iii) Awareness amongst students about reduction of e-waste and environment friendly disposal practices for e-waste.

- (iv) Encouraging department and society level activities pertaining to e-waste management.

### **G. Awareness Initiatives**

University has introduced the subjects such as Environmental study, Sustainable waste management, Climate Change & Sustainable Development and Disaster management in its undergraduate and post graduate courses to aware the students for their active participation in the protection of environment.

1. Encourages the awareness campaigns, seminars, workshops, conferences and other interactive sessions to facilitate effective implementation of the Green Campus, Energy and Environment policies.
2. Environment-centric Student Societies and Department Activities: University encourages all the departments and specific student societies like Greensociety, Green Club, NSS, NCC and others to organize events, competitions and training sessions that will bring about positive environmental changes at the grassroots level. The university supports departments and student societies in molding the students into active agents of environment protection and conservation. Observing and celebrating various international days, for example, World Environment/Water/Forest day and rallies/plays/ etc. Ensuring its participation in plantation drive, cleanness drive, water conservation & rain water harvesting.
3. Display of environment awareness poster in prominent area of campus

### **H. Conduct Green Audit – needs certificates**

The university aims to regularly conduct a Green Audit of its campus to assess our impact on the environment for achieving 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 university can then consider how to implement changes and make savings. It can determine the type and volume of waste. Recycling projects or waste minimization plans can be adopted. 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. It is imperative that the university evaluate its own contributions toward a sustainable future.

### **I. Conduct Energy Audit - needs Certificates**

An Energy Audit to be conducted as and when required to further reduce its carbon footprint. 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 university will not be able to detect. These flaws often have easy and affordable solutions and provide significant savings.

### **IV. Composition of EVS of Green Audit Cell:**

Dean/ Chairperson: One

(He/she will be the Head)

Members (Internal): 4 - 6

Institutional Members (External): 2

The members of the Cell shall be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of the University. The term of members of the Cell will be two years.