

POLICY DOCUMENT ON GREEN INITIATIVES

Sree Narayana college, Cherthala, is committed to being environmentally aware. The institution actively supports programmes that create awareness among the staff, students and local community on environmental issues and the impact created by human activities on the environment. The students shall be given opportunities to participate in environmentally and socially relevant activities thereby inculcating responsibility towards environment to protect and nurture it. The college aims to ensure sustainable use of resources and prevent wasteful or damaging practices.

Clean Campus Initiatives

Our institution aspires to coordinate cleanliness activities in the college and beyond the campus in accordance with the vision of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. The institution plans to focus on :

- Generating mass awareness on cleanliness and hygiene amongst students by holding regular cleanliness drives. The idea is to motivate them to contribute in a proactive manner.
- Students will be encouraged to participate in the cleanliness drive in the college campus. Students under the umbrella of NSS and NCC shall engage in collecting scattered plastic items from the college premises so that they can be given for recycling.
- Events such as poster and slogan competitions, essay writing, recitations, speeches and skits on 'Swachh Bharat' will be organised.
- Drives on themes connected with 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' will be conducted in and around the college campus to create mass awareness.
- Commit to manage waste and maintain clean campus especially during college events
- Installing waste bins and plastic collection booths in campus to promote waste management

Landscaping Initiatives

The college commits to maintenance of a healthy habitat by

- Organizing various tree plantation drives on commemorative days such as world environment day, world forest day etc.
- Collaborate with various environmental agencies and organisations to enhance the flora of the campus
- Maintaining a medicinal garden in the college campus, having many rare varieties of plants
- Landscaping of the campus area with lawns and garden plants.

- Utilisation of the bare areas of the campus for organic farming. The harvest is to be sold to the staff, students and outside the campus. The college envisages to conduct this activity with the support of NSS.

Clean energy Initiatives

- **Solar Energy**

Our institution believes in reducing the consumption of electricity and minimize the use of electricity, by switching over to clean energy sources like solar energy for its electricity needs.

- **Rainwater Harvesting**

As our institution is situated near the coastal belts of Alappuzha district, annual rainfall is ample. Because of the loose and porous nature of the soil, the precious rainwater is lost as runoff and hence conservation of rainwater is a sustainable and economic way of meeting various needs of the institution. Moreover, the groundwater in Cherthala is having high Iron content and retains an unpleasant smell, which makes the bore well water unsuitable for drinking purposes. Hence an alternative is to use the available water obtained through rain more effectively. In accordance with this, the college plans to harvest the rainwater for meeting the water requirements.

- **Biogas Plant**

Biogas is an environmentally friendly, renewable energy source, produced from food waste under anaerobic conditions. The Department of Botany with financial support from UGC has installed biogas plant to generate biogas for their laboratory use from aquatic weeds and food waste. The institution plans to maintain this facility and install more such plants to manage organic waste in the college and meet the fuel requirements of other laboratories in the college.

In addition to all these, the institution, shall promote the use of bicycles among the students for commuting to the college. They shall be provided with cycle sheds for safekeeping of the bicycles. Staff of the college shall also be encouraged to use vehicle pooling. Energy audit of the college shall be conducted periodically to raise awareness among staff and students on energy conservation.

Waste Management in the campus

Sree Narayana college strives to maintain a clean environment and dedicated to reduce and manage the waste generated by the college campus. The following specific actions will be undertaken to ensure a clean campus

- Systematically follow the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) principle

- Reduce solid waste by developing a technology-centric teaching and administrative model.
- Reduce use of paper by supporting digitization and sharing documents through social media
- Take initiatives to spread awareness amongst students about food wastage and ways of minimizing it.
- Reuse of waste bottles to fine pieces of artifacts by students
- Installation of waste bins throughout the campus
- Installing plastic collection units under the patronage of NSS
- Minimizing the use of plastic flex
- The staff and students shall be encouraged to use cloth or paper bags instead of plastic carry bags on campus.
- Vermicompost unit to be maintained by Department of Zoology for proper and sustainable degradation and disposal of plant wastes generated in the campus.
- A minimal e-waste generation shall be ensured by optimal and periodic maintenance of computers and other electronic peripherals. Damaged computers and peripherals shall be used to teach dismantling and assembling practices to students. Used batteries of UPS shall be exchanged under buyback policy.
- The college shall take utmost precautions to make sure that no hazardous chemical waste is generated on the campus. Chemicals are to be handled with special care and attention in labs. The wastes generated in the chemistry lab shall be separately collected and carefully disposed off

Environment-centric Student Societies and Activities

- College encourages student societies like Bhoomitra sena, NSS, NCC etc. to organize events, competitions and training sessions that will bring about positive environmental changes at the grassroot level. The college supports departments and student societies in moulding the students into active agents of environment protection and conservation.
- **Conducting green and energy audits** - The college shall conduct Green and Energy Audits of college campus for ensuring long-term sustainability and to reduce its carbon footprint. A green audit is a suitable method to assess how and where most resources are being used. The college can then consider how to implement changes and improving the savings. Energy audit can identify wastage of energy, thereby revealing the flaws which cause loss of significant amounts of energy which otherwise may not be detected. These flaws often have easy and affordable solutions and provide significant savings.