




VISHWAKARMA
UNIVERSITY
Maximising Human Potential

PARYAVARANA NITI

A Comprehensive Sustainability Policy of Vishwakarma University Pune

Vishwakarma University <PARYAVARANA NITI>

Policy Title	PARYAVARANA NITI			
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Functional Field	Environmental Conservation and Sustainability			
Related Policies (Write N/A if not applicable)	For Part I - Smoke-Free Campus Policy For Part I & II - Green Building and Well-being Policy For Part III - Water Re-use and Maximisation Policy			
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Revision # 1	22/09/2020	Director, CEES	1. Change in the custodian of policy (Old Policy No. VU/Policies/2018/03) 2. Added policy for Eco- Friendly Transportation
Revision # 2	18/10/2023	Director, CSN	1. Change in the custodian of policy (Old Policy No. VU/CEES/Policies/2020/01) 2. All environment related policies clubbed together
Revision # 3			

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PART I

Sustainable and Clean Campus Policy

A. Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to affirm Vishwakarma University's commitment to environmental protection and sustainability, reflecting its dedication across teaching, research, and community service activities. This policy aims to guide the university in fostering environmental stewardship, and sustainability, particularly within its campus and broader community.

B. Scope and Applicability:

This policy applies to all stakeholders within Vishwakarma University, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, and contractors. It encompasses all activities conducted on university grounds and facilities, recognizing the university's role as a reflection of the larger community in which it operates.

C. Policy Statement:

Vishwakarma University acknowledges its special responsibility to exercise environmental conservation and commits to practice standards of environmental protection and sustainability. Through this policy, the university seeks to minimize negative environmental impacts, conserve natural resources, promote biodiversity, and foster a safe and healthy environment for all members of the university community. Furthermore, the university aims to raise environmental awareness, comply with regulations, conduct research, and actively participate in environmental decision-making processes at local, national, and global levels. Vishwakarma University intends to maintain an enduring environment in the campus.

1. To encourage and involve every individual of the university to take part in activities related to environmental concerns.
2. To inspire and support new ideas of making the environment clean and green.
3. Admire the hard work of members of university in protecting the environment.
4. Finding and developing the solutions on reducing carbon footprint, water footprint.
5. To plan and execute the decisions related to Environment, Safety and Health (ESH).
6. To make all the acts and policies of the environment familiar to the participants of making the environment sustainable.



7. To inspire students and staff of the university to initiate and support rural development programs and allied activities.
8. To create awareness against single use plastic products and motivate students and staff for plastic free campus.
9. To start and strengthen the projects of management of waste, maintenance of quality of air, water and soil, conservation of ecosystem and biodiversity, renewable energy, climate change and afforestation.
10. To create an alliance of knowledge hubs working in the initiative of making the environment ecological.

D. Sustainable and clean campus policy

Vishwakarma University acknowledges the significance of sustainability in contributing to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations. As an educational institution, we have a duty to lead by example and advocate for sustainability practices that benefit both our campus community and the global sustainability agenda and ensure:

1. The University is committed to maintaining noise and air pollution within permissible limits, ensuring a healthy and conducive environment for all.
2. This Sustainable Campus Policy outlines our dedication to integrating sustainability principles across all facets of campus operations.
3. We encourage active participation from students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders to collectively achieve our sustainability objectives.
4. The University recognizes the importance of green spaces and biodiversity conservation on campus.
5. We pledge to create and maintain gardens featuring a diverse array of native and indigenous plant species, including medicinal plants.
6. These green spaces will serve as tranquil environments for relaxation and as living laboratories for research and education on plant diversity and environmental conservation.
7. By incorporating gardens and medicinal plants into our campus landscape, we aim to promote ecological resilience, support pollinator populations, and foster a deeper connection between our community and the natural world.



E. Implementation Strategies:

The implementation of this policy will involve the establishment of a Centre for Sustainability Nexus (CSN) consisting of academic and administrative staff, as well as students. This committee will be responsible for developing and recommending programs to meet environmental objectives, overseeing implementation, conducting audits, and issuing periodic reports. The Director, Centre for Sustainability Nexus will be designated to administer and monitor the policy's implementation.



PART II

Energy Conservation Policy

A. Scope:

This Policy is applicable to all members, including teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as students of Vishwakarma University, Pune.

B. Objectives:

1. Raise awareness regarding environmental policy among university stakeholders.
2. Maintain an eco-friendly campus.
3. Promote the utilization of renewable resources.
4. Optimize water and energy consumption to minimize wastage.
5. Ensure clean air and maximize carbon sequestration.
6. Utilize innovative technologies to reduce resource consumption.
7. Sensitize staff and students about energy conservation and efficiency.

C. Policy Statement:

At Vishwakarma University, Pune, we are dedicated to fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and sustainability, recognizing the critical importance of energy conservation in mitigating climate change and preserving natural resources through the policy.

This policy commits us to:

1. Minimizing energy consumption, promoting renewable energy sources, and integrating energy-saving practices into all aspects of university operations.
2. Through collaboration, innovation, and continuous monitoring, we strive to achieve our energy conservation goals while inspiring our university community to embrace environmentally responsible behavior.
3. Through collective action and innovation strive to achieve our energy conservation goals while advancing the broader agenda of sustainable development outlined in the United Nations' SDG and to:
 - i. Usage of Energy Efficient equipments.
 - ii. Use of Renewable sources of energy like solar energy.



- iii. Adhere to the policy to enhance the balance of social, economic, and environmental commitments.
- iv. Contribute to the overall well-being of the university community while meeting educational needs.
- v. Ensure all employees are familiar with the university's environmental policy and practices.
- vi. Implement environmental initiatives considering local infrastructure and needs.
- vii. Consider environmental impact in university activities, following the principles of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- viii. Foster a culture of sustainable practices among students and staff.
- ix. Continuously develop and refine resource, energy, and water conservation plans.
- x. All university members share responsibility for policy implementation.

D. Energy Conservation Practices:

The University practices towards Energy Conservation will be implemented through following measures:

1. Appoint Energy Monitors to ensure electronic devices are switched off when not in use.
2. Report any instances of energy wastage to the Energy Monitoring Group.
3. Enforce the practice of switching off lights when leaving rooms or areas.
4. Utilize energy-efficient equipment such as using sensor-based energy conservation devices, use of LED bulbs or power efficient equipments and prioritize natural lighting wherever feasible.
5. Implement protocols for powering down equipment during periods of inactivity.
6. Regularly maintain equipment and install energy-efficient fixtures.
7. Encourage all members of the university community to adopt energy-saving habits.
8. Integrate energy conservation education and awareness creation practices through university curriculum and extracurricular activities.
9. Conduct periodic energy audits to identify consumption patterns and areas for improvement.



E. Implementation Strategies:

The implementation of this policy will be done by the Centre for Excellence for Energy and Sustainability along with a team consisting of academic and administrative staff, as well as students. This committee will be responsible for developing and recommending programs to meet energy conservation objectives, overseeing implementation, conducting audits, and issuing periodic reports. Director, Centre for Sustainability Nexus will be designated to administer and monitor the policy's implementation.



PART III

Water Conservation Policy

A. Scope:

This Policy is applicable to all members, including teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as students of Vishwakarma University, Pune, recognizing the critical importance of responsible water management in achieving sustainability goals.

B. Objectives:

1. Raise awareness regarding the importance of water conservation among university stakeholders.
2. Maintain a campus environment that promotes water efficiency and sustainability.
3. Encourage the utilization of water-saving technologies and practices.
4. Optimize water consumption to minimize wastage and preserve water resources.
5. Ensure a clean and healthy campus environment through responsible water management.
6. Foster a culture of environmental responsibility and water conservation among staff and students.

C. Policy Statement:

With reference to the responsibility of the private institutions as envisaged under the Water (Prevention and Control of pollution) Act 1974, the University staff and students shall collectively and individually strive for conservation of water. The Vishwakarma University, Pune is committed towards promoting water conservation and sustainability as integral components of our environmental stewardship efforts. Recognizing the vital role of water in sustaining life and ecosystems, we establish our water conservation policy to guide our actions and behaviors. This policy commits us to minimizing water consumption, implementing water-saving technologies, and integrating water conservation principles into all aspects of university operations. Through collaboration, innovation, and continuous monitoring, we strive to achieve our water conservation goals while inspiring our university community to embrace responsible water use. By implementing this policy, we reaffirm our commitment to protecting water resources and creating a sustainable future for generations to come.



D. Water Conservation Practices:

The University will adopt the following practices for water conservation:

1. Manage optimal rain water harvesting during monsoon.
2. Develop and promote water conservation ethics among Students.
3. Introduce the water conservation policy and procedures to the students and their parents, faculty and custodians.
4. Implement procedures to minimize the use of water, its wastage and loss by evaluating continuously and adopting new technologies and practices.
5. Install and give priority to replacing old fixtures and appliances with water-efficient models.
6. The responsibility for a sustainable water use among the students.
7. Ensure that leaks are checked for regularly and fixed promptly.
8. Quality of drinking water to be checked regularly.
9. Form a process to inform, involve, and educate the students.

E. Implementation Strategies:

The implementation of this policy will be overseen by the Centre for Sustainability Nexus. The center will be responsible for developing and recommending programs to meet water conservation objectives, overseeing implementation, conducting audits, and issuing periodic reports. The Director of the Centre for Sustainability Nexus will be designated to administer and monitor the policy's implementation.



PART IV

Eco- Friendly Transportation Policy

A. Scope:

This policy applies to all members, including teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as students of Vishwakarma University, Pune, recognizing the importance of promoting sustainable travel and transportation options to reduce carbon emissions and minimize environmental impact.

B. Objectives:

1. Raise awareness and promote the adoption of eco-friendly transportation options among university stakeholders.
2. Implement measures to reduce reliance on conventional transportation modes and promote the use of sustainable travel alternatives.
3. Encourage staff and students to adopt environmentally friendly transportation modes to reduce air pollution and carbon emissions.
4. To enhance eco-friendly zones and pathways to encourage healthy environment.

C. Policy Statement:

Vishwakarma University, Pune, is committed to promoting eco-friendly transportation practices as part of our broader sustainability initiatives. Eco-Friendly Transportation Policy aim to guide our efforts in promoting sustainable travel and reducing environmental impact. This policy commits us to promoting green transportation initiatives and encouraging the adoption of alternative modes of travel, such as cycling, carpooling, walking, and the use of public transport, among staff and students. Through collaboration, innovation, and continuous monitoring, we strive to achieve our objectives of reducing carbon emissions, minimizing air pollution, and fostering a culture of sustainable transportation within our university community.

D. Eco-Friendly Transportation Practices:

The University will adopt the following practices to promote eco-friendly transportation:

1. To promote the use of low-carbon transportation options, such as cycling, walking, carpooling, and public transport, through awareness campaigns and incentives.



2. To provide facilities and infrastructure to support alternative modes of transportation, including bicycle parking, carpooling schemes, and access to public transportation routes.
3. To encourage staff and students to prioritize eco-friendly transportation options for commuting to and from the university, as well as for travel between campus locations.
4. To enhance pedestrian pathways, crosswalks, and pedestrian-friendly zones to encourage walking.
5. To promote use of electric vehicles and install EV charging stations in campus parking lots.
6. To provide educational resources and training programs to raise awareness about the environmental benefits of sustainable transportation and to promote behavior change.
7. To monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of eco-friendly transportation initiatives, and adjust strategies as necessary to achieve desired outcomes.
8. To conduct workshops and seminars on sustainable transportation practices and organizing events such as 'Bike to University Day' or 'Car-Free Day' to promote eco-friendly commuting

E. Implementation Strategies:

The implementation of this policy will be overseen by the Centre for Sustainability Nexus in coordination with Infrastructure and Campus Management authority. The Director may form a committee responsible for developing and implementing programs to promote eco-friendly transportation, monitoring progress towards policy objectives, and conducting annual reviews of the Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy.



PART V

Waste management (Recycling Waste (Solid & Liquid Waste) Policy)

A. Scope:

This policy applies to all members, including teaching and non-teaching staff, as well as students of Vishwakarma University, Pune, recognizing the importance of responsible waste management in promoting environmental sustainability.

B. Objectives:

1. Raise awareness regarding the importance of recycling waste among university stakeholders.
2. Establish and maintain effective recycling programs for both solid and liquid waste materials.
3. Promote waste minimization, reuse, and recycling practices to reduce the environmental impact of waste disposal.
4. Ensure compliance with relevant regulations and guidelines for the handling and disposal of waste materials.
5. Foster a culture of environmental responsibility and waste management among staff and students.

C. Policy Statement:

At Vishwakarma University, Pune, we are committed to promoting sustainable waste management practices as integral components of our environmental stewardship efforts. Recognizing the environmental and social benefits of recycling waste materials, we establish our Recycling Waste Management Policy to guide our actions and behaviors. This policy commits us to implementing effective recycling programs for both solid and liquid waste streams, minimizing waste generation, and promoting the reuse and recycling of materials wherever possible. Through collaboration, innovation, and continuous monitoring, we strive to achieve our waste management goals while inspiring our university community to embrace responsible waste practices. The University shall involve students and organize competitions, events or activities in order to promote waste reduction practices, increase the knowledge and awareness about issues related to waste and potentially foster collegiality in achieving the goals.



D. Recycling Waste Management Practices:

The University will adopt the following practices for recycling waste:

1. To establish separate collection and recycling systems for solid waste materials such as paper, plastics, glass, metal, and organic waste.
2. To adopt efficient mechanism for kitchen waste and sewage waste treatment such as biogas plant installation.
3. To prohibit the use of single-use plastics on campus, including plastic bags, straws, cutlery, and bottles. Replace them with sustainable alternatives like paper, metal, or biodegradable materials.
4. To educate and train staff and students on proper waste sorting and recycling practices to maximize participation and effectiveness of recycling programs.
5. To monitor and track recycling rates and performance metrics to assess the effectiveness of recycling initiatives and identify opportunities for improvement.
6. To continuously evaluate and update recycling programs and infrastructure to adapt to changing waste management needs and technologies such as installation of biogas plant.
7. To implement measure to dignified ways for sanitary waste disposal.
8. To provide basic information and ideas on waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting and buying recycled products and packaging for school.
9. To encourage canteen(s) to sell products with minimal/ recyclable packaging such as use paper cups, washable dishes etc.
10. To encourage all staff to enthuse and inspire students to reduce the amount of litter and to ensure bin placement is in appropriate areas and an adequate number of bins are available.
11. To encourage staff to praise non-littering behavior and provide feedback on improvements to areas those are relatively litter-free.
12. To organize regular e-waste collection drives where students, faculty, and staff can dispose of their electronic waste responsibly. And to partner with certified e-waste recyclers to ensure proper handling and recycling.
13. To repair and refurbish old electronics for reuse within the university or donate them to local schools and communities



14. To conduct workshops, seminars etc. to educate the university community about the importance of e-waste management and the environmental impact of improper disposal.
15. To implement procurement policies that prioritizes buying durable, repairable, and recyclable electronic products. Encourage the purchase of certified eco-friendly electronics.

E. Implementation Strategies:

The implementation of this policy will be overseen by the Centre for Sustainability Nexus, comprising academic and administrative staff, as well as student representatives. This committee will be responsible for developing and recommending programs to meet recycling waste management objectives, overseeing implementation, conducting audits, and issuing periodic reports. The Director of the Centre for Excellence for Sustainability Nexus will be designated to administer and monitor the policy's implementation.



PART VI:

Center for Sustainability Nexus (CSN)

The Center for Sustainability Nexus shall be the custodian and responsible body for implementation of all the provisions of this Comprehensive Sustainability Policy Framework of Vishwakarma University, Pune

A. Objectives:

The Centre for Sustainability Nexus aims to:

1. Promote research, education, and outreach initiatives in the field of energy and sustainability to contribute towards achieving national and international sustainability goals.
2. Develop innovative solutions and technologies to address energy challenges, mitigate climate change, and promote environmental conservation.
3. Foster interdisciplinary collaboration and knowledge exchange among academia, industry, government, and civil society to advance sustainable development.
4. Enhance awareness and understanding of energy and sustainability issues among students, faculty, staff, and the broader community.

B. Composition:

The composition of the Centre for Sustainability Nexus shall comprise:

- i. Director: Appointed by the Vice Chancellor, for providing leadership and oversight of Centre activities.
- ii. Faculty Members from different Departments: Academic experts from relevant disciplines, appointed to contribute expertise and guidance.

The Center may constitute a student club for co-ordination and volunteering to organize activities of the Center. It may include nominated current students and interested alumni in furtherance of the cause of environmental protection and conservation.

C. Functions:

The Centre functions include:

- i. Conducting research and development activities in areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable transportation, and environmental conservation.



- ii. Offering academic programs, courses, and certifications in energy and sustainability disciplines.
- iii. Collaborating with government agencies, industry partners, and non-profit organizations on projects and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development.
- iv. Engaging in community outreach and public awareness campaigns to promote sustainable lifestyle choices and behaviors.
- v. Providing technical expertise and advisory services to support sustainable infrastructure development and energy management practices.
- vi. Facilitating networking and knowledge-sharing opportunities for stakeholders involved in energy and sustainability initiatives.

D. Operational Mechanism:

The Centre shall operate according to the following mechanisms:

- i. Regular meetings shall be held to discuss and plan Centre activities, as determined by the Director.
- ii. Meeting agendas shall be developed to align with Centre objectives and annual action plans, addressing current priorities and needs.
- iii. Proper records of meeting minutes and actions taken shall be maintained in accordance with institutional quality assurance standards.

E. Procedure for violations

- i. The center is empowered to take appropriate action and initiate procedures to address, rectify and determine the penalties.
- ii. Any violation of the provisions under this policy framework can be reported by any person including students, faculty, staff or visitor for possible observation of violation of environmental preservation and protection.
- iii. The report shall be addressed to the custodian of the Policy. Thereupon, the Center shall take cognizance and direct further course of action within 10 days from the date of receipt of such communication.



PART VII:

Policy Governance and Review

A. Review of Policy:

The Centre, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, may suggest changes to its policies and procedures based on experience and evolving needs.

The Director of the Centre shall be authorized to recommend changes, subject to approval from the Vice Chancellor or the University's Board of Management.

B. Terms and Conditions:

Under this policy, the Centre for Sustainability Nexus will be required to prepare action plans aligned with the framework established in the Vishwakarma University. The same should be followed by all the Faculty and Departments of the University. The Committee will also seek to promote best practices and provide open access to information related to environmental programs and progress.

C. Policy Custodian:


The Director, Centre for Sustainability Nexus will serve as the custodian of this policy, overseeing its implementation and ensuring compliance.

D. Approval Body:

This policy is approved by the Vice-Chancellor of Vishwakarma University and is effective from the date of approval or revision as mentioned.

E. Responsibility for Implementation of overall policy framework:

The Director, Centre for Sustainability Nexus, will be responsible for implementing this policy. The Officer will monitor its implementation, receiving and addressing complaints and suggestions from campus residents regarding environmental violations. The Office of Vice-Chancellor will be responsible for administering of the implementation of this policy.

Sign: 

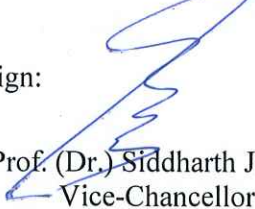
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