



The Green Campus, Energy and Environment Policy

Context

The relationship between Meerut College and nature is a deep and enduring one, something that students and staff of the college take immense pride in. The buildings of this historic educational institution are situated on the sprawling 102-acre campus, renowned for its lush greenery, open spaces, and serene natural surroundings. This natural heritage has been consciously preserved and protected, reflecting the college's commitment to sustainability and environmental harmony.

Meerut College is often celebrated for its verdant landscape, with large trees, gardens, and sprawling lawns seamlessly integrated into its architectural design, creating an organic and tranquil environment conducive to learning. Approximately 33% of the campus is dedicated to playgrounds, lawns, and gardens, while a significant portion of the area is left in its natural form. This preserved wilderness serves as a habitat for diverse biodiversity, including a rich variety of grasses, herbs, shrubs, and trees, making the campus a haven for flora and fauna.

Scope of policy

The Green Campus, Energy, and Environment Policy aims to foster innovative co-curricular and extracurricular practices that inspire students to take an active role in driving positive environmental change. This policy emphasizes a comprehensive review of the institution's infrastructural and administrative functions, ensuring they align with energy efficiency, sustainability, and environmental conservation.

Key Focus Areas of the Policy:

Clean Campus Initiatives: Maintaining a clean and hygienic campus environment.

Landscaping Initiatives: Promoting greenery and enhancing the campus's natural beauty.

Clean Air Initiatives: Ensuring a Smoke-Free Campus to promote healthier air quality.

Sustainable Infrastructure:

- Setting up Solar Power Plants to reduce reliance on conventional energy sources.
- Implementing Energy-Efficient Equipment across campus.



- Conserving water through Rainwater Harvesting Systems.

Waste Management Practices:

- **Solid Waste Management:** Efficient handling and disposal of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste.
- **Liquid Waste Management:** Treating and recycling wastewater.

Awareness Initiatives: Spreading knowledge about sustainable practices among the college community.

Student-Led Environmental Activities: Encouraging environment-focused student societies and departmental programs.

Plastic-Free Campus: Eliminating the use of single-use plastics to create an eco-friendly campus.

Objectives of the Policy

- To safeguard and preserve the campus's ecological systems and natural resources.
- To ensure the responsible and sustainable use of environmental resources, catering to the needs of both present and future generations.
- To embed environmental considerations into institutional policies, plans, and social outreach programs.
- To collaborate with stakeholders and the local community to promote environmental awareness, encourage sustainable practices, and mitigate negative environmental impacts.
- To enhance efforts toward climate protection, adapt to climate change, and contribute to the preservation of global resources.
- To optimize the use of resources, such as energy and water, by reducing consumption, minimizing waste, and prioritizing waste recovery and recycling whenever feasible.
- To establish and maintain a plastic-free campus environment.
- To conduct periodic environmental and energy audits to assess and improve sustainability initiatives.



- To reduce paper usage in administrative processes by implementing e-governance policies.

Policy:

Clean Air Initiatives

We encourage our students and staff to use public transportation. The entry of automobiles inside the campus is restricted to discourage the use of private vehicles.

Our campus is located near green surroundings. As caretakers of this environment, we are committed to preserving our green cover. The abundant greenery on our campus not only improves air quality but also contributes to the ecological balance of the region.

- **Smoking Free Campus**

In alignment with the guidelines of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) 2007-2008, the college maintains a strict ban on smoking and use of all tobacco products. Smoking and tobacco consumption are strictly prohibited both within the campus and in its surrounding areas.

Infrastructural Initiatives

- **Renewable Source of Energy**

Meerut College is committed to minimizing and sustainably managing its electricity usage. The classrooms and other spaces are naturally lit and well ventilated, significantly reducing the need for artificial lighting. To further reduce reliance on non-renewable energy, the college has installed solar panels on campus, harnessing clean energy for purpose such as lighting.

- **Energy Conservation and Efficient Appliances**

Meerut College is dedicated to adopting environmentally friendly electrical appliances that promote energy efficiency and minimize waste. The institution prioritizes the use of sustainable options, such as energy-saving LED lighting, to reduce its environmental impact.



- **Water Conservation through Rainwater Harvesting**

Located in Meerut, a region experiencing significant groundwater depletion, Meerut College is dedicated to addressing this issue through rainwater harvesting. This initiative is aimed at replenishing and recharging the groundwater table, contributing to the sustainable management of water resources and ensuring environmental responsibility.

Landscaping Initiatives

The campus landscape, much like its buildings, reflects the values and vision of Meerut College. It plays a crucial role in campus life by offering spaces for study, recreation, outdoor events, relaxation, and aesthetic appreciation. The green landscapes not only enhance the beauty of the campus but also contribute to environmental sustainability by managing runoff, recharging groundwater, and purifying and cooling the air.

The lush greenery of Meerut College, sprawling over an area of 50 acres, demonstrates the institution's strong commitment to environmental conservation and biodiversity awareness. This verdant campus serves as a living laboratory for over 9000 students and staff, offering clean and cool air while promoting a serene environment conducive to learning.

The rich biodiversity of the campus includes 93 tree species belonging to 79 genera and 38 families, which form the backbone of the Meerut College flora. These trees are organized and documented with details such as their botanical name, family, local name, morphological characteristics, habitat, uses, propagation, and flowering and fruiting periods. The greenery on campus is not just a natural asset but a tool for spreading environmental consciousness among students and the larger community.

Meerut College is dedicated to enhancing its symbiotic relationship with nature through various initiatives, including:

- Organizing annual tree plantation drives.
- Encouraging students to take an active role in planting and caring for trees.
- Conducting awareness programs on the importance of biodiversity and sustainability.



Waste Management Processes

Meerut College is deeply committed to minimizing its environmental footprint by effectively reducing and managing waste generated on campus. The college has outlined the following measures to contribute actively to environmental protection:

Liquid Waste Management

Meerut College is dedicated to the efficient management of liquid waste and conserving water resources. The following steps will be undertaken to achieve this goal:

- Ensure all water fixtures across the campus are leak-proof and regularly maintained.
- Reduce water consumption by increasing the number of Indian-style toilets, which use less water compared to Western-style toilets.
- Employ a dedicated caretaker to monitor and promptly address water leakage issues from taps, pipes, tanks, toilet flush systems, and other plumbing fixtures.

Solid Waste Management

As part of its mission to deliver holistic education with a positive environmental impact, Meerut College will implement practices to minimize and manage solid waste through the following initiatives:

- Actively promote the principles of the 3Rs: **Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.**
- Collect paper waste generated on campus and collaborate with local recycling vendors to ensure proper disposal.
- Reduce solid waste production by adopting technology-driven teaching and administrative systems.
- Minimize paper usage by digitizing attendance records and internal assessments.
- Expand the college library's collection of e-books and e-journals to lessen the demand for printed materials.
- Encourage students and faculty to use digital platforms, such as emails, for submitting assignments and sharing information.
- Launch awareness campaigns to educate students on:
 - Avoiding food waste and adopting practices to minimize it.



- Reducing reliance on packaged food products.
- Developing habits of reusing and recycling non-biodegradable materials.
- Participating in workshops on effective solid waste management.

Awareness Initiatives

Outreach and education play a pivotal role in fostering a culture of sustainability and environmental responsibility within the campus community. Meerut College actively supports and promotes various awareness campaigns, seminars, workshops, conferences, and interactive sessions aimed at creating a deeper understanding of environmental issues and the importance of adopting sustainable practices.

These initiatives are integral to the effective implementation of the Green Campus, Energy, and Environment Policies at Meerut College. By engaging students, faculty, and staff, the college seeks to instill a sense of shared responsibility and commitment toward building an eco-friendly campus and contributing to global environmental conservation efforts.

Environment-centric Student Societies and Department Activities

Meerut College actively encourages all departments and student societies, such as the Tree Plantation and Environment Committee, National Service Scheme (NSS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), and other student-led groups, to organize events, competitions, and training sessions focused on environmental conservation and sustainability.

These initiatives aim to bring about positive environmental changes at the grassroots level by fostering awareness and action among students. Meerut College provides support and resources to these departments and societies, empowering students to become proactive agents of environmental protection and conservation. Through such efforts, the college nurtures a generation committed to sustainable development and ecological responsibility.

Conduct Green Census

Meerut College aims to periodically conduct a Green Census of the campus to assess its environmental practices and identify areas for improvement in achieving long-term



sustainability. A Green Census serves as a valuable tool to evaluate the usage of energy, water, and other resources. It also helps determine the type and volume of waste generated, enabling the college to adopt recycling projects or waste minimization plans.

Conduct Energy Census

Meerut College periodically conducts Energy Censuses to monitor energy usage and reduce its carbon footprint. A key aspect of the Energy Census involves counting the number of energy-efficient LED bulbs installed across the campus. This provides insight into the college's progress in transitioning to sustainable energy solutions.

Plastic-Free Campus

Meerut College has consistently upheld its responsibilities in solid waste management since its establishment. In alignment with the Government of India's resolution to eliminate single-use plastics due to their harmful environmental impacts, the college administration has implemented a strict ban on the use of single-use plastics within its premises. This initiative underscores the institution's commitment to creating a sustainable and eco-friendly 'Plastic-Free Campus.