

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY



Since 1947

PSG College of Arts & Science

Autonomous & Affiliated to Bharathiar University
Accredited with 'A' Grade Level by NAAC (3rd Cycle)

College with Potential for Excellence
(Status Awarded by the UGC)

Star College status awarded by the DBT-MST

An ISO 9001:2015 Certified Institution

Civil Aerodrome Post

Coimbatore - 641 014

SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

Preamble

PSG College of Arts and Science enable students and employees to acquire the skills and knowledge to contribute to a sustainable future, to ensure that its commitments under environmental, health and safety, equity and diversity and financial legislation are met and that the College continues to improve its sustainability performance.

Need and Objective

PSGCAS recognizes its role in educating future leaders and moulding values, attitudes, and behaviors. The college recognizes and adopts the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals and follows India's Plan of Action. It keeps the following 3 responsibilities as the core values of sustainability:

1. Social Responsibility
2. Environmental Responsibility
3. Economic Responsibility

One of the values that guide our Institute's performance is to sustain our local and global environment, organizational health, and ability to create a positive and viable future. This policy outlines the Institute's commitment to integrate sustainability principles into its vital functional areas. PSGCAS aims to:

- a. Incorporate the principles and understanding of Sustainability into teaching, student learning, research, consultancy, and community engagement
- b. Minimize the environmental impact of its operations and move towards reestablishing environmental integrity
- c. Promote communal justice, equity, and diversity
- d. Contribute to human health and wellbeing
- e. Preserve financial viability.

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Scope

This policy applies to all Faculty members, Administrative and Support staff, Students, Visitors, Contractors and other Stakeholders.

Policy Statement

The term Sustainability focuses on *meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs*. The College recognises that it can contribute to achieve sustainability through teaching, learning, research, innovation and various processes of translation, including entrepreneurship into an opportunity by conceptualizing policies to achieve targets of Sustainable Development Goals.

1. Social Responsibility

- Building capacity in the community by producing graduates who are sustainability literate through their experience at the College.
- Embed inclusion of sustainability principles in the curriculum and support research in relevant areas.
- Providing opportunities for students to learn about sustainability through the formal and informal curriculum, including extensive volunteering programs.
- Working with students, staff, businesses and local organizations to develop resilient partnerships that enhance community and the local economy.
- Fulfill all the institutions legal and other compliance obligations.
- Undertake research to extend and strengthen regional partnerships that address sustainable development.
- Exploit Opportunities to be a responsible member of the community by accomplishing shared goals, participatory decision-making, cooperative efforts, acknowledgment of community accomplishments etc.,
- Partner with the community to respond to the regional needs for a sustainable future and provide leadership in our region.
- Endow with nutritious food in college hostels, canteens and avoid the wastage of food.
- Strengthen the women empowerment cell to improve access to educational attainment, health status, employment and social security of all women and girls.

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Regulations

- Social Responsibility (SR) has been a soft law and is considered voluntary, self-regulated and beyond the scope of legislation. The concept of SR is associated with voluntary activities to achieve social and environmental objectives during the course of regular operations.
- The Companies Act, 2013, a successor to The Companies Act, 1956, made CSR a compulsory act. Under the notification dated 27.2.2014, under Section 135 of the new act, CSR is compulsory for all companies- government or private organizations.
- The Amendment Act, 2020 provides for replacement of the penalty section inserted by the Amendment Act, 2019

Processes

- To enlighten the society regarding the sustainable practices through Awareness programs.
- Encouraging all staff, students and public to carryout sustainable practices in their day-to-day life activities.
- Motivating all members to adopt Basic Social Skills viz., cooperation, conflict management, taking the perspective of others, presenting ourselves to ourselves etc..
- Identification, sensitization and active participation in social contributions such as community service, students helping students, in-house service, examples of individuals and organizations making a difference for a social cause.
- Developing basic participatory understanding and skills like organizing skills, consensus-building skills, group problem-solving skills, long-term thinking skills, team spirit, and responsibility towards work.
- Exploring real world issues through inquiry, critical thinking, dialogue, negotiation by developing an understanding of our Interdependence by adopting global education, multicultural education, environmental education, systems analysis to have wholistic approach towards social responsibility.

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2. Environmental Responsibility

i) Green Campus Initiatives

- Manage a green campus to encourage and maintain biodiversity and the natural environment
- Monitor water utilization to aid in identifying areas of possible savings
- Explore opportunities for installing water management measures, such as rainwater harvesting and sustainable drainage systems
- Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport and reduce emissions footprint from all forms of transportation
- Adopt sustainable transportation through shared public transport system
- Engage with other institutions and the wider community to share environmental best practices and to demonstrate environmental responsibility.
- Research on the environment, social justice, and development, consistent with addressing the sustainable development goals, will continue to be a strategic priority of the institute. Similarly prioritize the sharing of research findings with the public and decision-makers.
- Compliance with all relevant environmental legislation, regulations, and agreements by following appropriate control measures delivered via Environmental Management System to prevent pollution and work to reduce emissions and discharges to air, land, and water.

ii) Energy Usage

- Reduce use of natural resources such as energy and water
- Continually improve energy utilization and reduce carbon emissions by implementing energy efficiency and carbon reduction projects within the existing buildings.
- Recognise the potential impact of climate change and the strategic operational need to control, manage and reduce carbon dioxide and other GHG emissions.
- Investigate opportunities for wide renewable energy at the college campus to increase the volume of energy generated from onsite as well as offsite renewable sources.

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iii) Waste Disposal

- Consider waste as a resource, recognizing its value, encouraging prevention and reduction, reusing resources before recycling or disposal, and joining with procurement activities to ensure assets are used to their fullest extent.
- Reuse resources whenever possible rather than dispose them off
- Use recycled materials and follow recycling initiatives
- Prevent pollution by reducing emissions and discharges by regularly reviewing practice against standards
- Ensure sustainable approaches in all construction, refurbishment and incorporate energy-efficient approaches.
- Provide appropriate sustainability and environmental training for all staff and students and encourage them to practice sustainability
- Find ways to best utilize our built environment to reduce environmental impact while improving staff and student welfare.

Regulations

PSGCAS acknowledges the importance of protecting environmental values as part of the global community. Through its planning and practice, the institute is committed to ensure the protection of environment by keeping environmental harm to a minimum in a sustainable, economically rewarding, and technically feasible manner.

This policy states the Institute's commitment to conduct its activities under the *Environmental Protection Act (1986)* and associated legislation. The Institution has adopted the following Environmental and waste management guidelines endorsed by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate change.

- The Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 as guidelines to counter the problems and reduce the emissions associated with air pollution.
- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to prevent and control water pollution and maintain or restore the wholesomeness of water in the locale.
- Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 2016 to handle dry and wet waste generated from college premises.

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- Electronic waste management act (2016) and construction & demolition waste management act (2016) to manage and dispose these wastes appropriately.

Processes

- Sewage treatment plant (STP) to efficiently treat the sewage generated in hostel, mess, food court.
- Treated water from the treatment plant for gardening in the campus.
- Treated water from the STP would be utilised as a flush out water source in the hostels, to conserve water
- Rain water harvesting facilities to conserve rain water collected within the campus.
- Segregation of solid waste generated in the campus into recyclable materials and biodegradable solid waste. Reduced waste to landfill through proper management of solid waste.
- Recyclable waste such as paper, plastics, glass and metals to be stored and sent for recycling .
- Converting decomposable solid waste into manure and use in the college garden.
- Converting food waste from the hostel mess into biogas, which is further utilized as cooking fuel in the mess.
- Installation of solar panels to switch over to renewable energy resources.
- Reduce the vehicular emissions of air pollutants through the usage of battery powered vehicles within the campus
- Discouraging single use plastic usage in the premises and food court.
- E-waste to be recycled and disposed as per regulation.
- Construction & demolition waste to be recycled and utilised as per the standard norms.

3. Economic Responsibility

- Higher education sector is a natural partner to the knowledge-based economy. Knowledge creation has been identified by economists as a key driver of economic growth. Highly-skilled staff in college requires less supervision, are more productive, and add greater value.
- Endeavor to ensure that our investments provide a good return for the institute, without compromising the objectives of this Policy.

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- Continually improve sustainable purchasing practices
- PSGCAS endeavours the **SDG 12** of "*Responsible Consumption and Production*".
- Recognizes green economy values and invests in natural capital.
- Digitization changes the landscape for faculty, staff and students an opportunity to enhance existing knowledge and learn new skills. For employers, this has a positive impact on productivity, output, and staff morale. It also helps companies to drive efficiency and thus profitability.
- Offering employability skills training helps college attract diligent, forward-thinking students who are ready to embark upon successful careers. This feeds back into the rankings and employment prospects lists, strengthening the reputation of college as both centers of innovation and places where the future of the economy is made.

Processes

- Usage of battery powered vehicles inside the college campus to reduce the fossil fuel consumption.
- Identification of alternate onsite renewable energy resources to avoid procuring commercial energy.
- Expanding Green areas with in the campus to safeguard and maintain the sufficient open space.
- An environment that promotes research also allows students to learn transferable skills that will help them succeed in the workplace, further strengthening the knowledge-based economy.
- Implementing Programs to manage the recyclable materials to save expenditure.
- Increasing regional human capital, innovation and planned expansion with the aim of finding solutions to global challenges.
- Economic contribution to Institution through innovation output is measured as patents and technology transfers produced from the college.
- Broad employability skills help graduates give employers precisely what they need, technologically-minded workers who are flexible, organised, and resourceful.
- Collaborative partnership with local industries to create research hubs that attract the best academics and continued industrial investment.

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- Support all aspects of continuing education and take advantage of existing relationships, such as research agreements, to bring the college and businesses closer together.
- Automated processes make manual tasks less labor-intensive, allowing expansion of capacity without substantially larger staff costs.
- Through the roles in education, innovation, knowledge transfer, and community engagement, marching toward spurring economic growth and prosperity.

