



NORTH BENGAL ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE

GREEN POLICY

North Bengal St. Xavier's College is a Jesuit institution whose main aim is not only to nurture the young minds but also to nurture the environment. A Green Policy is our institution's statement or declaration about the commitment to sustainability and environmental management that we are prepared to make. Our formal green policy shows that managing environmental issues is a high priority for our institution.

SCOPE AND GOALS OF GREEN POLICY

Green policy serves as a means to identify opportunities to sustainable development practices, enhance environmental quality, improve health, hygiene and safety, reduce liabilities and save money and achieve values of virtue. Green policy can be a highly valuable tool for college in a wide range of ways to improve their environmental and economic performances and reputation -- while reducing wastages and operating costs. Once a baseline data is prepared after the auditing process, the data can serve as a point of departure for further action in campus greening. It will also help the college to compare its programmes and activities with other peer institutions, identify areas for improvement and prioritize the implementation of future projects. The data will also provide a basis for calculating the economic benefits of resource conservation projects by establishing the current rates of resource use and their associated costs.

The aim of green policy is to help the institution to apply sustainable development practices and to set examples before the community and young learners.

OBJECTIVES OF GREEN POLICY

We are dedicated to taking the following actions to achieve our green vision:

- Promote environmental awareness among our employees and students and encourage them to work in an environmentally responsible manner,
- Train, educate and inform our employees and students about environmental issues
- Minimize our waste and then reuse or recycle as much of it as is possible.
- Minimize energy and water use within our buildings and processes in order to conserve supplies and minimize the consumption of natural resources.
- Purchase products and services that do the least damage to the environment as far as is possible.

- Communicate our environmental commitment to employees, students and also the public and encourage them to support it
- Finally, to create an environmentally safe and friendly workplace where every process has been “greened”.

ACTION PLAN

We shall establish and maintain procedures necessary to identify the environmental issues which are most significant in terms of our activities such as the consumption of resources including material, energy and water; the use of transport and fuel; the production of waste, etc. and over which we can be expected to exercise an appropriate level of control and influence.

We shall ensure that the aspects related to these significant impacts are considered in setting our objectives. On a regular basis, green audit will be conducted by an internal green audit committee and annually by an external green audit team to review our action plans and modify them as appropriate to ensure that agreed objectives are effectively addressed.

- **Establishment of dedicated Nature Club**

Environmental awareness means being aware of the natural environment and making choices that benefit the environment. Environmental awareness is important as it fosters a sense of connection to the natural world and more importantly helps to identify the environmental issues.

With this objective in mind, our college already has a functional Nature Club ‘X-sistence’, established in 2012, which is headed by the coordinator (HOD, Department of Botany) and consists of two representatives from Student Council and few other staff as the committee members. Interested students are able to join the committee/club through a formal selection process carried out by the committee members.

The main objective of the Nature Club is to sensitize, create awareness, motivate and educate students about the environment. The club is responsible for organizing all the activities and awareness programmes related to the nature or environment and has been conducting several programmes such as tree plantation programmes in and around college, awareness seminars, field trip, celebration of important events such as Earth Day, World Environment Day, World Animal Day, etc. and also awareness programs for the nearby villages such as snake bite awareness, since its establishment.

- **Waste Disposal And Management**

Since our Institution is an educational institution, so our dependence on paper is more as compared to other non-educational institution/companies. However, we are aimed to limit our paper waste production for which staff will be encouraged for printing documents as little as possible. We will also maximize correspondence by e-mail and other electronic media and

electronic storage to reduce waste paper unless it is an important document which needs to be given in writing/print form.

At our institution, we are well aware of the high environmental impact of non-biodegradable materials such as plastics. We aim to work towards minimizing this impact over the coming years by implementing a strategy to reduce our dependency on such materials as much as possible. Our aim will be to turn our campus a 'plastic-free zone' over the coming years.

For the purpose of plastic waste management we will specially work on certain aspects, such as, encouraging the use of eco-friendly materials in college occasions, use of cloth banners and digital display system, prohibition of use of plastic/thermocool items and polythene carry bags, etc.

We will have a proper system for separation of all types of wastes generated in the campus. There will be colour-coded bins for bio-degradable and non-biodegradable wastes. Bio-degradable wastes, such as paper, leaves, etc. will be dumped in a pit for manure formation, which can be utilized for plantation purposes within the campus, whereas non-biodegradable waste will be burned in incinerators on a regular basis.

Biological Waste is also a nuisance as well as harmful for the environment and the mankind. The minimization, safe handling, and ultimate elimination of these materials are essential to the long-term health of the environment and the planet. These wastes, therefore, need to be treated in a different way. All the biological wastes, such as microbiological media, culture, etc. that are generated in the campus will be first autoclaved for decontamination before dumping them in a proper way.

We will also have an appropriate collection, disposal and recycling measures for e-waste that are generated within the campus.

We will also work on facilitating appropriate disposal mechanism for used sanitary napkins and generate awareness among students about their appropriate disposal.

- **Transport**

Our institution is situated away from the main city and most of our staff and students travel to and fro on a daily basis. We as an institution is really concerned about the vehicular pollution and we would like to do our part to help reduce such kind of pollution as much as possible. Our institution has dedicated college buses which ply through different locations across the main city. Students and staff are always encouraged to opt either for college bus service or to use public transport or car-share where possible. This serves two purposes: first it is convenient for all the students and staff to reach the destination without any hassle and second it helps to reduce the vehicular pollution to some extent.

We always ensure to regularly maintain our college buses to improve fuel efficiency and also to reduce vehicular emissions.

- **Energy use**

Energy use is an important aspect of campus sustainability and thus requires no explanation for its inclusion in the assessment. All employees and students will be encouraged to limit energy use as far as possible. Most of our offices and classrooms have sufficient access to windows which will help us make maximum use of natural light. Computers will be operated in a power saving mode and will be turned off when not in use. Similarly all the lights and fans will be turned off when not in use.

Other areas where we will try to focus are

- Introduction of energy efficient fans and LED lights.
- Introduction of automated power switch off systems.
- Replacement of conventional computers with LED monitors.
- Conducting energy awareness programme for students and staff members.

We would always explore options for installing renewable energy technology where practicable. Some solar lamps will be installed in and around the campus gates.

- **Water management**

Water should be saved and managed efficiently to avoid scarcity in the coming years. For saving and reuse and healthy water management of rain water, college will establish rainwater harvesting system. The collected water could be used for plantation, watering gardens as well as for flushing toilets, etc.

For the management of other water related issues college authority will focus on the following points-

- Removal of damaged taps and installation of sensitive taps as much as possible.
- Conducting awareness programmes on conservation of water.
- Installation of display boards to control over exploitation of water.
- Replacement of conventional gravity flush toilet with high efficient water saving pressure-assisted toilet flush.

- **Plantation**

Our institution aims to have a 'Clean and Green campus' where one can breathe fresh air and feel at peace. Tree plantation is one of the important activities which makes our environment green and healthy and also maintain ecological balance in the earth. It also promotes to enrich biodiversity of the particular area by providing healthy environment for birds, butterfly, bees, insects, etc. and also enrich the microflora of the soil. With this in mind, we are regularly conducting tree plantation programmes 'Van-Mahotsav' and will try to plant as many as possible number of plants in and around the campus in the coming days. We will also be working on scientific naming of all trees inside the campus.

We also have plans to extend our Tea plantation in the areas surrounding the campus. This will certainly add scenic beauty to the campus as well as will make it greener.

There is a proposed plan for the establishment of Medicinal plant garden which will be executed by Department of Botany, NBSXC very soon in the college campus which will also enrich the biodiversity of the campus.

The college will also focus on following things for the good management of green campus:

- Creation of more space for planting trees.
- Green landscaping and plantation of shade trees and ornamental plants on and off the campus.
- Providing more funds to Nature Club for making the campus greener.
- Establishment of enriched herbarium and botanical museum for generating awareness about the economic importance of plants.
- Conducting competitions among departments for making students more interested in making campus green.

MONITORING AUTHORITY

Nature club of the college, headed by its Coordinator, will be the monitoring authority for the Green policy. The College will create adequate budget for maintenance of the policy and to meet all the respective objectives of the policy. All the administrative body, staff (teaching and non-teaching), students, alumni, shall be responsible for compliance with all the objectives of the policy.

POLICY VIOLATION

Any violation of the basic objectives and areas mentioned under the Green Policy of the College shall be considered as a violation and as a misconduct under College Rules.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

From time to time Nature Club, the monitoring authority for Green Policy, will propose necessary rules for implementation of this policy to be finally decided and approved by the College authority.

