POLICY DOCUMENT – GREEN & SMART CAMPUS

Preamble:

Dr. M. G. R. Educational and Research Institute is a clean and green campus, holding environmental sustainability as one of its priorities. The Institute of Sustainable Development (ISD) at Dr MGR ERI, fosters improvement with a focus on promoting environmental awareness to achieve United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through sustainable principles and practices on and outside our campuses. The ISD at Dr MGR, was set up in the year 2019, for formulating action plans to upgrade the university campuses as Green and Smart Campuses, for environmental, social and economic benefits. The University has multidisciplinary and multifarious expertise available in this domain to promote sustainable development goals among students. The ISD aims to promote education, training, research and consultancy projects and to document case studies in thrust areas of Sustainable Development (SD) to benefit the overall community. As a leading Institution for Higher Education in India, we are committed to promote Sustainable Development and Green Initiatives by adopting and promoting eco friendly practices amongst the faculty and students to inculcate eco-consciousness in all MGRERIians. The Institution also addresses all the environment related issues and works with the aim of taking "little steps to save the big world" from environmental degradation.

Scope:

All the MGRERIians shall adhere to the green policy and the code stated herein.

Institutional Green Committee:

The ISD has a core team and also co-opt the other faculty members of the university and experts from outside based on the nature of the programme/activity/assignments.

The ISD team is as follows.

1. Prof. Dr. C. B. Palanivelu, Registrar as Member Secretary
2. Prof. Dr. P. Kalidoss, Senior Addl. Registrar as Advisor
3. Prof. Dr. Edwin D. Thangam, Chief Engineer, Dr.MGRERI, as Advisor
4. Prof. Dr.R.M.Narayanan, Dean – Green & Smart Campus as Convenor
5. Prof. Dr.P.Gomathi Nagajothi, Deputy Dean - Green and Smart campus as Co-convenor
6. Prof. Dr. M. Narmatha, Deputy Dean - Green and Smart campus as Co-convenor
7. Prof. Dr. Sathya Priya, ACS Medical College as Member
8. Prof. Dr. Madhan Jeyaraman, SLMCH as Member
9. Prof. Dr. K. Senthil Kumar MGRERI as Member
10. Prof. Dr. Jothi Lakshmi, RRMCH as Member.

Roles and Responsibilities of Committee:

The Institutional Green Committee shall perform the role of overall planning, executing and monitoring of the eco friendly initiatives of the University. The roles and responsibilities of the committee are as below.

- To use the campus as a test bed for pilot projects involving professors and students
- To help understand the individual's responsibility to save the environment
- To create awareness among the students, staff and public in the surroundings about the significance of conservation of nature and natural resources
- To educate on the ways to lead an eco friendly campus life.
- To create a self-sustained environment in the context of solid and liquid waste disposal
- To minimize the environmental hazards and create a pollution free campus environment
- To adopt and practice environmentally and socially responsible purchasing policies
- To minimize the campus wastes
- To maximize the energy efficiency and to use sustainable energy resources
- To enhance sustainability in land use and building planning
- To encourage low fossil fuel transport system
- To create a platform inside and outside the campuses for discussion and debate on sustainability topics
- Encourage cross-campus collaborations among various sustainability-focused organizations
- Strengthen relationships between the academic and policymaking communities
- To provide curricular opportunities for the study on environmental issues
- To follow environmentally and socially responsible development investment
- To review and implement the suggestions arising out of Environmental audit
- We are empowered to shape, implement and continually improve sustainable practices at our campuses and outside through our leadership.

Objectives of ISD at Dr MGR:

- To create awareness about sustainability concepts to all stakeholders which would benefit the society economically, environmentally and socially.
- To act as a referral, in disseminating information to various stakeholders about the significance of SD
- To communicate the latest developments in SD in support of the governmental initiatives towards sustainable India.

- To promote 'Academia – Industry' interaction and integrate the existing systems, structures, models and mechanisms associated with different SD initiatives and suggest solutions towards SD

- To document and disseminate successful case studies in thrust areas of Sustainable Development.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES AT Dr MGR ERI

- **GREEN CAMPUS POLICY**

Green campus policy is aimed at promoting green initiatives on water and energy conservations, use of alternate energy sources, increasing green cover, efficient waste management systems through policy decisions and environmental promotion activities.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY**

The Environmental Management policy of Dr MGR focus on saving the existing natural ecosystem from degradation and focus on initiations for Zero waste in the campus. Upgrading the environment through water conservation, waste recycling, air and noise pollution management, solid waste management through bio composting and efficient energy management system towards achieving SDGs. Continuous monitoring of environmental happenings at the University campuses and management plans for degradation process through Environmental audits are of prime objectives.

- **WATER MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Our water management policy aims at conserving fresh water through efficient effluent treatment and Rain water harvesting.

- **WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Systematic waste management is a key focus of our green policy. We endeavor to reduce the waste generated in the campus, reduce environmental impact through segregation, reuse, recycling and composting of biodegradable waste.

- **POLLUTION MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Pollution management policy aims at clean air ambience and noise free environment at our campuses.

- **ENERGY MANAGEMENT POLICY:**

Energy management policy aims at conserving energy to the maximum and to promote use of alternative sources of energy (Biogas, Solar and wind energy) to pave way for a sustainable green environment at our campuses.

- **RECYCLING SYSTEM POLICY**

Recycling system policy aims to bring awareness on waste recycling with a special focus on plastic ban, waste segregation and handing over the recyclables to the authorized vendors for recycling process.

1. **WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY**

Systematic waste management is a key focus of our green policy. We endeavor to reduce the waste generated in the campus, reduce environmental impact through segregation, reuse, recycling and composting of waste. Our strategies are as below.

1.1 Solid waste Management

A structured systematic and multi-level solid waste management is adhered.

·Waste segregation and collection is done at all places through color coded and labeled bins.

·Exclusive support staffs are appointed for waste collection, segregation, treatment and disposal.

·The collected wastes are sent to appropriate disposal and recycling units.

·Single-Use plastic products are banned inside the campus.

1.2 Management of Biodegradable waste:

Vermicomposting yard of necessary capacity is setup to decompose the organic waste. The resulting bio-fertilizer is used to nurture the flora in the campus.

1.3 Liquid waste Management

A total of 1100 KLD capacity of Sewage Treatment Plants are operated inside the campus to treat the sewage generated in the campus. The effluent is used to water the plants and trees in the campus.

1.5 E-waste Management

The rapid technological growth has led to large scale usage of electronic gadgets, thus leading to the disposal of a large quantum of e-wastes. The institute adopts scientific and eco-friendly e-wastes disposal mechanisms. AMC is maintained to periodically review the effective functioning of all electronic items and expert recommendations are followed to dispose the same in the market. All electronic waste scrap items are periodically sent to the market for resale or reuse. The institution has a contract for approved e-waste management and disposal facility to facilitate e-waste disposal in a safe manner. Obsolete workable computers, printers and other equipments discarded by departments are sold as scrap. The cartridges of printers are refilled outside the college campus. UPS batteries are recharged and repaired by the suppliers. Sustainable budget is allocated to upgrade the systems.

1.6 Hazardous chemicals and Biomedical waste management

·Laboratories display protocols for safe handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals and wastes.

·Hazardous wastes are collected in strong containers (labeled red) that prevent leakage and breakage.

·Only trained lab personnel are allowed to handle hazardous wastes with standard precautions

·The segregated wastes are disposed safely as per standard guidelines.

2. WASTE RECYCLING SYSTEM

2.1 Solid waste recycling

·Major points of paper waste generation, plastic waste generation are identified, collected and sent to authorize recycling units.

·Metal scraps are recycled through authorized vendors.

·Wood scrap and reusable construction wastes are reused to a maximum extent.

2.2 Liquid waste recycling

·Effluent from Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) is treated through activated Sludge Process (ASP) and reused for gardening purpose at our campuses.

· The STPs are operated and maintained to meet the outlet standards prescribed by District Pollution Control Board. The outlet parameters are strictly adhered to the standards prescribed.

·A fulltime caretaker to fill the water tanks, inline plumbers to stop water leakage from water connections and to deal with related issues.

3. GREEN CAMPUS

3.1 Air and noise pollution management

· Clean air ambience is maintained in the campus by restricted use of automobile entry through its clearly laid out parking policy.

· Students are permitted to bring only two wheelers and not four wheelers. In sync with the green policy, only 40 to 50% of the staff bring their own private vehicle, while the rest of the staff and most of the students depend on public and college transport.

· The security guards ensure the smooth entry and exit of the students without any noise.

· Smoking and burning of wastes is strictly prohibited inside the campus.

· Use of tobacco and its products are strictly banned within the campus.

3.2 Water Harvesting

·MGRERI has committed itself to replenish the groundwater table by practicing rainwater harvesting.

·Rain water is harvested through designated recharge pits and connected to bore wells.

·We have sufficient number of bore wells and recharge pits to harvest the rainwater.

3.3 Environmental Audit

The University has a policy to regularly conduct Environmental Audit to assess our strengths and weaknesses to plan our goals of long-term sustainability. This serves as a useful tool to evaluate all our activities from the point of view of environmental concern. This audit deals with resource utilization, waste disposal and its associated aspects. This initiative creates health consciousness and promotes environmental values and ethics.

Dr MGR E&RI is deeply committed to prevent accidental pollution of water system, and in the event of any incidents, it promptly takes measures to safeguard the main water system and natural resources by acts swiftly cutting off the water supply from the source of the

contaminated water. This proactive approach reflects the university's dedication to environmental preservation and its ability to adapt swiftly to protect the integrity of its water supply system.

Prevention and control system:

- Dr MGR E&RI has a well-established water management system that includes prevention, control and emergency preparedness in pollution prevention of water bodies and supply.
- The Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) team conducts regular risk assessments to identify potential sources of water pollution in the university and hostel campuses.

Infra structure and Design:

- The water distribution network has been planned in such a way that water is supplied through gravity and any damage to water lines can be repaired without affecting the distribution of water to the buildings.
- Sewerage lines of the buildings are laid separately far and deeper from the water lines to ensure non mixing of waste water with the water supply. Regular inspection of water and sewer lines is done by inspection by the dedicated health and safety team to prevent failures that could lead to water pollution.

Natural disaster preparedness:

- An emergency plan is in place specifically for natural disasters to protect water system from floods and runoff.
- Early warning systems are established and in practice by the university EHS team through regular mock drills for water safety.

Training and Awareness:

- The Dr MGR E&RI green campus policy includes providing training for all relevant staff on pollution prevention, emergency procedures and best practices in water management and use at the university campuses.
- Every faculty and department is advised to include courses in the curriculam and ISR activities for increased awareness among the university community about the importance and conservation of water and pollution prevention.

Emergency response plan:

- Following the best practices for storage and handling of hazardous materials to prevent contamination of water on all ways is in practice at all campuses of the university.
- Hazardous chemicals handling is taken care at all respective labs and areas by proper training and monitoring to prevent pollution of water.
- Laboratories display protocols for safe handling and disposal of hazardous chemicals and wastes.
- Hazardous wastes are collected in strong containers (labeled red) that prevent leakage and breakage.
- Only trained lab personnel are allowed to handle hazardous wastes with standard precautions
- The segregated wastes are disposed safely as per standard guidelines.
- The polluted water from the laboratories and other wastewater is properly transferred to the STP by a proper and well-connected sanitary system.

Collaboration with Local Authorities:

- Coordinate with local water management and environmental protection agencies to align efforts and ensure compliance with all regulations.

More details and pictures, kindly visit

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by
REGISTRAR

Please Note: Policy revision done in 2022