ST. THOMAS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
THRISSUR, KERALA - 680 001

NAAC 5ᵗʰ Cycle Accreditation

NAAC (4ᵗʰ Cycle): A++ Grade, 3.70 Score
NIRF Ranking 2022 : 53

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POLICY DOCUMENTS

(Revised in 2019)

ST. THOMAS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)

Thrissur, Kerala

College with Potential for Excellence
Re-accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade

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12. ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY POLICY

The college is committed to maximize energy efficiency and conservation especially during the time of rampant climate issues and increased awareness for environmental awareness. This policy will help the institution to navigate and develop an environmentally sustainable and economically feasible campus that will reflect our core values of engagement and accountability.

Strategies & Principles for use of Environment & Energy

- Strategizing the environmental impact of the institution's development, communications, procurement, curriculum, research, and campus activities.
- Broadening its obligation to environmental education by introducing/enhancing relevant environmental content to curriculum material.
- Minimizing environmental impacts through the promotion of best practices to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Boosting the conservation of native ecosystems on campus, where possible.
- Minimizing damage to non-target biological organisms through the elimination of pesticides in lawn, garden and cultivation applications, with limited exception.
- To promote the use of environmentally conscious transportation, including use of public transit and car-pooling.
- To partner with other educational institutions and government agencies to improve best energy conservation practices in its operations
- Personal computers, other office equipment, lighted, window air conditioners and personal heaters should be turned off when not in use.
- To maximize the use of solar energy by categorically increasing the production of solar energy through the increased installation of solar panels by 2030.
- To conduct Green audit to verify compliance, identify problems, formulating environmental policy, measuring environmental impact, measuring performance, measuring performance, confirming environmental management system effectiveness, providing a database, developing the organization's environmental strategy, and communicating its environmental performance to its stakeholders.

New Renovation and Construction

- All new renovations and construction to be designed to minimize energy use with high efficiency lighting and minimum incandescent lighting.
- Alternative energy sources such as biomass to be considered
- To start waste segregation and recycling stations across campus.
- Maintenance and operational procedures will incorporate sound, resource conservation practices so as to reduce waste and minimize energy expenditure to the extent possible.

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13.PLASTIC BAN POLICY

Introduction

Plastic pollution is currently one of the biggest environmental concerns. The short-term benefits and convenience of plastic and plastic goods have led to a boom in the production and consumption of plastic. Over the past century, excess-consumption of plastic has surpassed management of plastic waste and led it to become a scourge to the planet. Plastic is a menace that impacts the environment as well as our health and wellbeing. This policy is an initiative to work to reduce and eliminate plastic pollution. The policy takes institutional efforts to actively contribute to the effort of banning the use of single use plastics.

Ban of Single Use Plastic

St Thomas College, Thrissur, by virtue of this policy, bans single use plastic in the campus. All the members of St. Thomas family should strictly follow Plastic Ban Policy. By conducting campaigns and awareness programmes let us join hands to mould a cleaner and greener earth free from harmful plastics. The policy mandates all stakeholders to adopt the following:

- Ban on use of single-use plastics in college premises, hostel and canteen.
- Organise workshops inside and outside the campus to create awareness on the harmful impacts of plastic.
- Strictly avoid bringing non-biodegradable items inside the campus.
- Use of alternative sources like switching over to cloth bags, paper pens and providing drinking water facility in order to avoid plastic water bottles inside the campus.
- Waste generated should be segregated at the source and the segregated wastes should be sent to authorized waste processing centres or disposal facilities or deposition centres through the authorized waste collection agency.
- All events organised inside the campus should strictly follow plastic ban guidelines.

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14. WATER CONSERVATION POLICY

The aim of the policy is to minimise water usage and conserve water. We strive to follow National Water Policy guidelines in the campus by adopting water conservation measures.

- Measures are taken to undertake annual water audit in the institution.
- In the campus water conservation is mainly done by rainwater harvesting. During rainy season rainwater is collected and directed to the wells for percolation.
- Open well and bore well are maintained in the campus to meet water requirements. Measures are taken to conserve water like bunds, rain pits, well and ground water recharging.
- Sensitization on Water conservation is promoted by planting trees, by conducting green campus promotion activities and by organizing seminars and workshops.
- Restricted and optimal Utilization of water is ensured by installing sensor-based taps and aerator taps.
- Reusing and recycling water is done to reduce the usage of water. Recycled water is used for irrigation purposes inside the campus.
- Extension activities are organized to sensitize and educate the local community about the importance of water and the methods to conserve it.
- Improving water quality by cleaning the water bodies and by controlling garbage disposals in the water bodies.

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15.WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

This Policy underlines our commitment with regard to sustainable waste management. It outlines a set of agreed aims and deliverables for all aspects of sustainability, including recycling and waste management.

The college adheres to the following principles of the waste management:

- Prevent – avoid creating waste
- Reduce – minimising the amount of waste produced
- Reuse – repair, refurbish or relocate items
- Recycle – promote segregation of waste to increase the quantity of waste recycled
- Recovery – send non-recyclable waste to energy recovery
- Disposal – this will only be used as a last resort if all other options are exhausted.

Solid Waste Management

- Measures shall be taken for minimal or optimal use of papers: Instead of taking hard copies of documents, keep in digital format as far as possible.
- Strategies to lessen the generation of paper waste are adopted: double-sided printing, printing in reduced font size, printing in "fast draft" mode etc.
- e-billing is promoted to reduce use of paper.
- Use of paperclips (over staples) is encouraged.
- Reusing of envelopes with metal clasps and file folders by sticking a new label over the previous one is promoted.
- Colour coded dustbin system is employed for segregation of solid waste: green dustbins for biodegradable wastes like food; blue dustbins for disposal of plastic wrappers and non-biodegradable wastes; yellow dustbins for papers and glass bottles.
- Biowaste from laboratories are disposed with agencies approved by the government.
- Food waste is used to generate biogas using the plant installed in the campus.
- Cleaning or emptying of dustbins is ensured at regular intervals daily.
- Sanitary napkins are disposed in incinerators installed in the campus.

Chemical Waste Management

- Implement Lab Pack Service: The lab pack disposal process involves first identifying, categorizing, and segregating each chemical by type (solvent, acid, or base), re-packaging them, then depositing the packaged chemicals into a drum or a tank.
- Academic strategies are taken to reduce the amount of chemical waste generated in the laboratories.
- Promote existing reuse schemes and develop additional recycling schemes to stream more waste at source.
- Communicate effectively with our employees, students, and residences to increase engagement and participation in the recycling initiatives across campus.

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E-Waste Management

- Obsolete electronic devices are disposed through approved agencies.
- Purchasing of devices with increased life time is encouraged.
- The buyback policy of the retailers will be utilized to purchase new computers and batteries for out-dated computers and laptops.
- MoUs with relevant agencies are renewed time to time.

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