Environment and Sustainability Policy for Green Campus

Preamble:

At Atmiya University, we are committed to creating an environmentally responsible and sustainable campus that reflects our dedication to ecological balance and compliance with environmental regulations. Guided by the **Gujarat Pollution Control Board (GPCB)** and **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** rules, this policy aims to protect the environment, reduce pollution, and promote sustainable development in all aspects of university operations.

This commitment is further strengthened by the **Water (Prevention & Control) Act 1974**and the principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution, specifically:

- **Article 21,** which guarantees the right to life and dignity, including the right to live in a healthy and safe environment.
- **Article 51(A),** which places a fundamental duty on every citizen to protect and improve the natural environment.

By integrating these constitutional values and regulatory mandates into our governance, Atmiya University aims to foster a green campus, ensuring environmental sustainability and contributing to the well-being of present and future generations.

Scope:

The Environmental and Sustainability Policy of Atmiya University encompasses all campus operations, including academic, administrative, infrastructural, and extracurricular activities. The scope includes the following key areas:

- Sustainable campus infrastructure focusing on eco-friendly designs and green spaces.
- Conservation of energy resources through audits and renewable energy adoption.
- Judicious use and recycling of water, including rainwater-harvesting systems.
- Implementation of waste segregation, reduction, and scientific disposal practices.
- Regular environmental, green and energy audits to ensure compliance and sustainability.
- Pollution control measures to minimize air, water, noise, and soil contamination.
- Protection and restoration of biodiversity through native plantations and habitat conservation.
- Integration of environmental principles into academic curricula and research.
- Engagement of students, staff, and communities in sustainability initiatives.

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Objective

Atmiya University aims to create a clean, green, and sustainable campus by:

- Developing, monitoring, and evaluating policies that guide green campus initiatives.
- Minimizing the ecological footprint through sustainable practices and resource conservation.
- Educating students and staff on environmental issues and fostering a harmonious relationship with nature for a sustainable future.
- Promoting innovative environmental practices to enhance sustainability efforts.
- Cultivating an environmentally responsible culture across both curricular and extracurricular activities.
- Addressing local and regional environmental challenges with sustainable solutions.
- Ensuring efficient resource use and minimizing wasteful practices.
- Protecting biodiversity and reducing pollution to preserve the environment.

Environmental Goals and Targets

At Atmiya University, we are committed to achieving the following specific environmental goals to enhance sustainability:

- Reducing Energy Consumption: Implement energy-saving measures and promote the use of renewable energy sources to reduce overall energy usage.
- Minimizing Waste Generation: Adopt practices to reduce waste production and encourage reusability and recycling.
- Conserving Water: Implement water-saving techniques, rainwater harvesting, and wastewater recycling to ensure efficient water use.
- Waste Management: Ensure proper segregation, recycling, and environmentally safe disposal of waste, including e-waste and hazardous materials.
- Promoting Biodiversity: Enhance green spaces, protect natural habitats, and plant native species to support local biodiversity.

Key Focus Areas:

1. Clean Campus Initiatives:
    - Conduct regular cleaning drives, implement waste segregation, and launch beautification projects.
2. Green Energy:
    - Install renewable solar energy to reduce reliance on non-renewable energy.

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3. Landscaping and Biodiversity:
    - Develop green spaces, plant neem trees, and prioritize biodiversity conservation.
4. Energy Efficiency:
    - Install energy-efficient appliances, utilize natural lighting, and improve ventilation.
    - Establish **EV charging stations** for both 2-wheelers and 4-wheelers to promote sustainable transportation.
5. Water Conservation:
    - Implement rainwater-harvesting systems, use low-flow fixtures, and recycle RO wastewater.
    - Operate a **Sewage Treatment Plant (STP)** to treat wastewater on campus for plantation.
6. Air pollution Control
    - Implement alkaline wet scrubbers, fume hoods, and cupboards to effectively treat acidic and toxic fumes, neutralizing harmful emissions and ensuring a safer, cleaner environment for all.
7. Waste Management:
    - Segregate solid, liquid, e-waste, and bio-waste for recycling and composting.
    - Collaborate with local authorities and waste management companies for efficient waste disposal.
    - Develop **Parivartan- paper-recycling** units and composting initiatives for organic waste.
    - Use a **Wet Scrubber** for air pollution control and install an **Incinerator** for safe biomedical waste disposal.
8. Transportation and Mobility:
    - Encourage biking, carpooling, e-vehicles, and public transport.
    - Provide **EV vehicles &charging stations** for 2-wheelers and 4-wheelers to support electric vehicle use.
9. Green Building Standards:
    - Incorporate eco-friendly designs in all construction and renovation projects.
10. Curriculum Integration:
    - Integrate SDG awareness and environmental science into all academic disciplines.
    - Address SDGs 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 13, and 15 to ensure a holistic approach to sustainability.

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11. Community Engagement:
    - Conduct workshops, seminars, and outreach programs on environmental issues.
    - Adopt villages under the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) for community development and environmental initiatives.

11. Paperless Administration and E-Governance:
    - Implement digital systems for administrative processes to reduce paper consumption.
    - Promote **e-governance** for efficient communication, document management, and decision-making.

Key Practices

1. Energy Efficiency:
    - Transition to energy-efficient devices and systems.
    - Promote behaviour changes to conserve energy.
    - Encourage the use of renewable energy solutions such as solar power and biogas.
2. Waste Management and Recycling:
    - Implement comprehensive waste management with dedicated recycling and composting units.
    - Initiatives like **Parivartan** (Paper Recycling Unit) and **Sarjan** (Agricultural Waste Recycling Unit)&**Niramay** (Advance Farming Techniques), **Satyakam** Gaushala create sustainable products.
    - Implement comprehensive e-waste segregation, recycling, and safe disposal practices to minimize environmental impact and promote responsible electronic waste handling.
3. Water Conservation:
    - Install rainwater-harvesting systems with over 17 lakh-litrecapacity.
    - Practice xeriscaping and responsible water usage to reduce dependency on municipal sources.
4. Air pollution Control - Treatment of Acidic and Toxic Fumes
    - Usages of alkaline wet scrubber and fume hoods & cupboards to treat acidic and toxic fumes, effectively neutralizing harmful emissions and ensuring a safer, cleaner environment for all.

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5. Biodiversity and Green Spaces:
    - Develop gardens, and tree plantations on & off campus, outdoor educational visits to promote biodiversity.
    - Integrate sustainable farming practices using **Panchgavya** and **Jivamrut** fertilizers.
6. Transportation and Mobility:
    - **EV vehicles &charging stations** for 2-wheelers and 4-wheelers to support electric vehicle use.
7. Education and Awareness:
    - Organize campaigns like "Use Solar-Save Nature", "Save Energy-Water", and tree plantation drives.
    - Incorporate sustainability topics into the curriculum to promote awareness and innovation.

Implementation and Monitoring

- Incentives and Recognition:
    - Reward individuals and groups actively participating in sustainability efforts.
- Budget and Funding:
    - Allocate resources for sustainability projects and seek grants for green initiatives from sponsoring bodies.
- Compliance and Legal Adherence:
    - Well established**GPCB-recognized Environmental Audit and Monitoring Cell**on campus to oversee compliance and improve sustainability practices.
- Periodic Review:
    - Continuously monitor the policy's impact and revise it based on feedback and emerging environmental challenges.

Conclusion

At Atmiya University, our commitment to environmental sustainability is integral to our mission of fostering holistic education and responsible citizenship.

By implementing a wide range of eco-friendly initiatives, from energy conservation and waste management to biodiversity conservation and paperless administration, we aim to create a campus that not only meets regulatory standards but also sets a benchmark for future generations.

Through strategic collaboration, innovative practices, and active community engagement, we are determined to contribute to a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable world.

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Our continuous efforts towards environmental stewardship align with the university's core values and our dedication to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring a brighter and more sustainable future for all.

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