



**THE GREEN CAMPUS AND ENVIRONMENT  
POLICY**



**GOVERNMENT AUTONOMOUS COLLEGE,  
ROURKELA**





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## The Green Campus and Environment Policy

### Context

The relationship between GACR and nature is a long and enduring one, something that students and staff of the college are aware of. The buildings of this educational institution stand in the confluence area of Sankha & Koel river, a topographical feature that the Congregation has consciously chosen to preserve and protect.

Since 1961, the college has always had sustainable initiatives at the core of all activities. 20% of the 30.1acre campus is covered by lush green plantation. The rest of the campus can be categorized as institutional buildings, playgrounds, lawns and gardens. A huge area is left in its natural form and acts as a natural habitat for biodiversity and a large variety of species of grasses, herbs, shrubs and trees.

### Scope of the Policy

The Green Campus, Energy and Environment Policies will develop exciting new co-curricular and extracurricular practices that encourage students to take the lead in creating positive change. These initiatives call for a thorough review of all infrastructural, administrative functions from the standpoints of energy efficiency, sustainability and the environment.

The focus areas of this policy are:

- Clean Campus Initiatives
- Landscaping Initiatives
- Clean Air Initiatives
  - Tobacco free campus
- Infrastructure



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- ◆ Installation of Energy Efficiency Equipment
- ◆ Water Conservation through Rainwater Harvesting System
  
- Waste Management processes
  - Solid Waste Management
  - Liquid Waste Management
  - E-Waste Management
- Awareness Initiatives
- Environment-centric Student Societies and Department Activities
- Green Audit
- Energy Audit
- Plastic-Free Campus

**Objectives of the Policy**

- To protect and conserve ecological systems and resources within the campus.
- To ensure judicious use of environmental resources to meet the needs and aspirations of the present and future generations.
- To integrate environmental concerns into policies, plans and programmes for social development and outreach activities.
- To work with all stakeholders and the local community to raise awareness and seek the adoption of environmental good practice and the reduction of any adverse effects on the environment.
- To continuously improve our contribution to climate protection and adaptation to climate change and to the conservation of global resources.
- To continuously improve the efficient use of all resources, including energy and water, and to reduce consumption and the amount of waste produced, recovering and recycling waste where possible.
- To make the campus plastic free.

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- To conduct environmental and energy audits from time to time.
- To minimize the use of paper in administration through having policy for E-governance.

**Policy:**

**Clean Campus Initiatives**

GACR had pledged to actively coordinate cleanliness activities in the college and beyond the campus in accordance with the vision of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. It commits to continue with this Programme. The broad vision is as follows:

1. Generating mass awareness on cleanliness and hygiene amongst students and staff members by holding regular cleanliness drives. The idea is to motivate them to contribute in a proactive manner.
2. Activities under 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' will be a key component of all the community work being done by NSS, NCC and YRC volunteers of the college.
3. Staff Members will be encouraged to participate in the cleanliness drive in the college campus.
4. Events such as poster and slogan competitions, essay writing, spoken word poetry, speeches, skits on 'Swachh Bharat' will be organised.
5. Rallies on themes connected with 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' in and around the college campus will be conducted to create mass awareness.
7. Remove all kinds of waste material like broken furniture, unusable equipment etc.
8. Administer of the pledge by students and staff members to maintain cleanliness of the college campus and its surrounding areas on an annual basis.
9. Conduct workshops on the 3Rs: Reduce, reusing and recycling of waste.
10. Commit to manage waste and maintain clean campus especially during college events.



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### **Landscaping Initiatives**

The campus landscape, like its buildings, can be seen as the physical embodiment of a college's values. It is a vital part of the life of a campus, providing space for study, play, outdoor events, relaxation and aesthetic appreciation. Green campus landscapes also manage runoff, help recharge groundwater, and clean and cool the air on campus. The landscape serves as a visual representation of the campus community's commitment to sustainability. As campus landscapes are so visible and accessible, landscaping initiatives are a great way to build awareness around the environment.

There are more than 200 trees and more than 500 shrubs on campus along with 1.5 acre of grass cover. The landscape of trees and plants provide the 4000+ students and staff with clean and cool air and is a soothing environment.

The diverse green cover of GACR is also home to a number of animals and birds across at least 24 species, creating a campus rich in biodiversity. The college commits to enriching this healthy habitat and maintaining the symbiotic relation of the institution with nature by

- Organizing annual tree plantation drives.
- Encouraging student societies to hold tree planting events.

### **Clean Air Initiatives**

We encourage our students and staff to use public transportation. We encourage carpooling to college, an activity that will control air pollution and strengthen social interaction. The entry of automobiles inside the campus is restricted to discourage the use of private vehicles.

#### **◆ Tobacco Free Campus**





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In compliance with the framework provided by the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) 2007-2008, the college prohibits smoking and the use of other tobacco products. Government Autonomous College, Rourkela has partnered with Rourkela Police in promoting a tobacco free environment. As a step in this direction, smoking and use of tobacco in and around the campus is strictly prohibited. The anti-smoking committee of the college ensures enforcement of the anti-smoking policy.

### **Infrastructural Initiatives**

#### **◆ Renewable Sources of Energy**

GACR is dedicated to minimize and sustainably manage its use of electricity. The college believes in reducing the consumption of electricity by modern methods.

#### **◆ Energy Saving and Energy Efficient Equipment**

We commit to install environment-friendly electrical appliances that save energy and reduce wasteful inefficiencies. The college believes in using cleaner energy such as LED lighting.

#### **◆ Water Conservation through Rainwater Harvesting System**

As this institution is located in the part of western Odisha which face water crisis every year, it is foremost duty of this institution to conserve rain water and use it during the time of needs.

### **Waste Management Processes**

GACR strives to have a minimal impact on the environment and is dedicated to reduce and manage the waste generated by the college campus. The following specific procedures will be undertaken to ensure GACR's contribution in protecting the environment.

#### **◆ Solid Waste Management**

With its aim to provide holistic education that also has a positive impact on the environment, the college will adopt practices that will mitigate



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the generation, and manage solid waste through the following methods:

- Systematically engage with the 3Rs of environment friendliness (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle).
- Collect paper waste produced on campus and collaborate with scrap dealers for recycling.
- Reduce solid waste by developing a technology-centric teaching and administrative model.
- Reduce use of paper by supporting digitization of attendance .
- Encourage the students and teachers to use emails for assignment submissions.
- Take initiatives to spread awareness amongst students about
  - ✓ Food wastage and ways of minimizing it.
  - ✓ Minimizing the use of packaged food.
  - ✓ The habit of reusing and recycling non-biodegradable products.
  - ✓ Organizing workshops for students on solid waste management.

◆ **Liquid Waste Management**

- Maintain leak proof water fixtures.
- Minimize the use of water by constructing more Indian style toilets instead of western style toilets.
- Continued employment of a caretaker to take immediate steps to stop any water leakage through taps, pipes, tanks, toilet flush etc.
- Prevention of release and mixing of oil from the college canteen liquid waste in the municipal drainage system by use of Grease trap

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mechanism. This way the Biochemical Oxygen Demand is reduced in the effluent waste water produced by the GACR canteen.

◆ **E-Waste Management**

GACR ensures that its usage of technology and generation of e-waste does not impact the environment. For this purpose, the college plans to strive towards:

- More provisions for the disposal of the institutional e-waste.
- Collaboration with e-waste recycling companies to get electronic waste recycled.
- Awareness amongst students about reduction of e-waste and environment friendly disposal practices for e-waste.
- Encouraging department and society level activities pertaining to e-waste management.

**Awareness Initiatives**

Outreach and education are of utmost importance so that all members of the campus community may value the objectives of the policy and aid in its implementation. This is why GACR supports and encourages awareness campaigns, seminars, workshops, conferences and other interactive sessions to facilitate effective implementation of the Green Campus, Energy and Environment policies.

**Environment-centric Student Societies and Department Activities**

GACR encourages all the departments and specific student societies like NSS, NCC, YRC and others to organize events, competitions and training sessions that will bring about positive environmental changes at the grassroots level. The college supports departments and student societies in moulding the students into active agents of environment protection and conservation.

◆ **Go Green Club**

Institutional changes towards sustainability and eco-friendly practices have percolated down to the students which have led more and more students to join Go Green Club. Making the society a compulsory one will

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provide it a bigger platform to broadcast the institution's environmental values to raise awareness. Because compulsory club expect the fulfilment of a specified number of hours of work and commitment, this will aid the green initiatives and practices that are a part of this policy to grow exponentially.

### **Conduct Green Audit**

The college aims to regularly conduct a Green Audit of our college campus to assess our strengths and weaknesses to further our goals of long-term sustainability. A green audit is a useful tool to determine how and where most energy or water or resources are being used. The college can then consider how to implement changes and make savings. It can determine the type and volume of waste. Recycling projects or waste minimization plans can be adopted. It will create health consciousness and promote environmental values and ethics. It provides a better understanding of the impact of eco-friendly practices on campus. Green auditing will promote financial savings through reduction of resource use. It is imperative that the college evaluate its own contributions toward a sustainable future.

### **Conduct Energy Audit**

An Energy Audit to be conducted as and when required to further reduce its carbon footprint. The importance of reducing energy consumption cannot be overstated. The energy audit, with its specialized tools will identify wastage of energy. Such an inspection often reveals several different flaws which cause a loss of significant amounts of energy which the college will not be able to detect. These flaws often have easy and affordable solutions and provide significant savings.

### **Plastic-Free Campus**

GACR has been observing most of its duties in terms of solid waste management since its inception. In view of the Government of India's resolution to ban all single use plastics due to the hazardous impact of plastic use and pollution, the college administration strictly bans the use of single use plastics in its premise to make it a 'Plastic Free Campus'.

Principal

Government Autonomous College,  
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