



VIKRAMA SIMHAPURI UNIVERSITY

Nellore – 524 324, Andhra Pradesh, India

Green Campus and Environment Policy

VikramaSimhapuri University is spread over 72 acres adjacent to the NH-5 highway. The main campus located in Kakatur village, Venkatachalam (M) comprises the SPSR Bhavan, (Administrative building), APJ Abdul Kalam Building (Academic block), Pinakini Boys Hostel, and Swarnamukhi Ladies Hostel. Though the university was established in the rice growing fieldshaving 6-8 Palmyra Palm (*Borassus flabellifer*), the university successfully established a lush green campus with more than 350 plant species which has a huge collection of the avenue, fruit-bearing, timber, medicinal trees and a variety of herbal and ornamental plants. Since 2016, the university has had sustainable green campus practices/initiatives by instilling environmental ethics among students and staff. The University also promotes a clean and green campus through adopting, practicing, and promoting environmentally friendly practices among students and staff to generate Eco-consciousness among them and the world around them.

Vision

VSU's vision for a green campus is to make the campus and its surrounding green and clean and conserve Nature and natural resources in the surrounding area and to educate on how to live Eco-friendly. VSU create awareness to avoid plastic as well as go for a non-polluted environment.

Mission

To help the students/faculty understand each individual's responsibility to taken initiative to save the environment.

To bring awareness among the students/faculty about the hazards of spoiling the environment

To help students/faculty take small steps in saving the environment.

Scope of the Policy

Green Campus, Energy, and Environment Policies of the University aim to preserve and strengthen the University's commitment to the protection of the environment and conservation of biodiversity. Further, the policy will seek to build exciting new extracurricular and co-curricular

sustainable initiatives that encourage staff and students to take the lead in bringing positive change in terms of protecting the environment and mitigating climate change. These initiatives include a comprehensive assessment of all infrastructure and administrative functions in terms of energy efficiency, sustainability, and environmental impact.

The focus areas of this policy are:

- Clean and Green Campus Initiatives
- Clean Air Initiatives
- Water and Energy Management Policy & Initiatives
- Waste Management Policy & Initiatives
- Awareness Initiatives
- Landscaping Initiatives
- Biodiversity conservation Initiatives
- Smoke-Free campus
- Green Audit
- Energy Audit
- Plastic-Free Campus

Objectives

- To create an environmentally friendly, sustainable campus and to spread the notion of environmentally friendly culture to the surrounding community and wherever practicable
- To teach students about the importance of the environment and the issues
- To protect and conserve biodiversity, ecological systems, and resources within the campus.
- To ensure judicious use of environmental resources to meet the requirements of the present and future generations
- To integrate environmental concerns into policies, plans, and programs for social development through the outreach activities of the University

- To work with all the stakeholders and the local community to generate awareness towards adopting sustainable practices that reduces any of its adverse effects with an aim to protect the environment
- To improve the efficient use of resources such as water and energy, and to reduce their consumption where possible
- To create the awareness programmes on Reduction of environmental Pollutants
- To teach students about compatability with the concept of a recycling society and with business sustainability.
- To adopt practices that reduce global warming and climate change and to create awareness on means and methods to mitigate climate change and adapt to a changing environment
- To reduce the amount of waste produced and recover andrecycle waste wherever possible
- To conduct environmental and energy audits from time to time
- To minimize the use of paper in administration by having policy for E-governance
- To make the campus plastic free

Policy:

Clean Campus Initiatives

VSU had pledged to actively coordinate cleanliness activities both on the university campus and beyond the campus in accordance with the vision of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Toward the fulfillment of this goal, the broad vision is as follows:

1. Creating mass awareness of cleanliness and hygiene amongst students, staffmembers, and the community by holding regular cleanliness drives. To motivate students to maintain clean classrooms, playgrounds., hostel rooms, and common rooms by following proper waste disposal methods,
2. Activities under ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ are keyfactorsin all the communitywork being done by NSS volunteers of the University in the neighboring villages.
3. Students and staff members will be encouraged to participate in the cleanliness driveson the university campus.

4. Rallies on themes pertaining to 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' are conducted in and around the University campus and in the community to create mass awareness and motivation among students and the community.
5. Disposing of all kinds of waste material like damaged furniture, unusable equipment, etc. following the guidelines of the university
6. Administer the pledge by students and staff members to maintain the cleanliness of the university campus and its surrounding areas on an annual basis
7. Conduct workshops or seminars on the 3Rs: Reduce, reusing, and recycling of waste.
8. Commit to managing waste and maintaining a clean campus, especially during the events organized.

Clean Air Initiatives

Staff and students are encouraged to use public transportation and University vehicles as much as possible. The entry of automobiles inside the campus is restricted to discourage the use of private vehicles. University encourages the use of bicycles or battery-powered vehicles to commute inside the campus. Wide awareness is created amongst the staff and students on the environmental and health benefits of cycling.

Further, University encourages staff members to opt for carpooling to the university, an activity that helps control air pollution and strengthens social interactions. Smoking is strictly banned on campus as also the open burning of solid waste. In compliance with the framework set by the National Tobacco Control Program (NTCP) 2007-2008, the University prohibits smoking and the use of other tobacco products in and around the campus.

VSU campus is also located in a rural part of SPS Nellore. For this reason, we feel responsible to maintain our green cover. The abundant natural landscape established inside the university campus not only cleans the air on campus but also serves as an extension of the green lungs of Nellore city.

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 about the environment.

Vikrama Simhapuri University is spread over 72 acres adjacent to the NH-5 highway. The main campus located in Kakatur village, Venkatachalam (M) comprises the SPSR Bhavan, (Administrative building), APJ Abdul Kalam Building (Academic block), Pinakini Boys Hostel, and Swarnamukhi Ladies Hostel. The lush green campus of VSU has more than 300 plant species and a huge collection of avenues, fruit-bearing, timber, medicinal trees, and a variety of herbal and ornamental plants. The plantation was mainly taken up on roadsides, around the buildings, parking area, and around the compound wall as fencing. A noteworthy aspect of VSU greenery is artificial forest development through the Akira Miyawaki method of plantation. With the support of the Dept. of Social Forestry, Nellore, 64,000 plants from a variety of plant species were planted as a part of the artificial forest development with a >90% survival rate. VSU NSS Cell has been relentlessly working towards improving the greenery inside the VSU campus with the support of staff and students. Apart from the regular tree plantation drives, the plantation is being taken on important occasions like World Environment Day, World Earth Day, Karthika Vana Samaradhana, Vanam Manam, and vanamahotsava. VSU's main campus was established in the paddy fields and is now turned into a mini forest/Miyawaki forest with no time. The Miyawaki forest has now an attractive habitat for a variety of birds, insects, and butterflies.

The University commits to enriching this healthy habitat and maintaining the symbiotic relationship of the institution with nature by

- Organizing regular tree plantation drives
- Encouraging students to hold tree-planting events.
- Planting of medicinal plants and more fruit plants and trees to clean the atmosphere

Pedestrian-friendly pathways:

Building pedestrian-friendly pathways for the safe and easy movement of staff & students on the university campus

Construction of accessible roadways with pavements and paths between the buildings

Cleaning and maintenance of roads and accessible pathways by maintenance staff on a regular basis

Water and Energy Management Policy & Initiatives

Water Conservation through Rainwater Harvesting System

Vikrama Simhapuri University is an emerging University of excellence situated in a rural area of SPSR Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh. VSU envisions conserving and nurturing natural resources for future generations. Water scarcity is a major concern, especially inside the University. Two open wells and six bore wells are the major sources of water. Due to sporadic rainfall in recent years even the groundwater levels have gone down alarmingly. University has faced severe water scarcity during the summer times. Hence, VSU has committed itself to the effort to replenish the groundwater table by practicing rainwater harvesting. This practice helps in the replenishment and recharge of the groundwater. Rainwater harvesting facilities are available at every water source and will be established at every building in the University and in the hostels. This practice helps in the replenishment and recharge of the groundwater and avoids the wastage of water. The following practices are mandatory to avoid a water crisis by recharging groundwater.

- To sensitize the students and staff regarding the safe and sustainable use of potable drinking water provided through purified (RO aqua-guard) drinking water facilities within the campus.
- Regular maintenance of water bodies through dredging and flushing and cleaning borewells
- Recharge open well/bore wells by constructing percolation pits
- Construction of tanks and bunds to utilize canal water following through the campus to avoid surface runoff
- Conduct workshops or seminars on conserving water and recycling wastewater.

- Involving students and staff in on-campus and off-campus water conservation activities in accordance with the vision of Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign initiated by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Celebration of World Water day on 22nd March involving students and staff to highlight the importance of freshwater
- Constitution of an active vigilance team with students and an active plumbing team for routine maintenance and to prevent leakages
- Maintenance of separate drainage systems and water pipelines to avoid seepage and pollution of water
- The Institution uses mist aerators for taps in order to reduce water loss and proximity-based taps to prevent unnecessary water loss.
- Construction of water basins around trees for saving or conserving rainwater

Waste Management

Vikrama Simhapuri University strives to have a minimal impact on the environment and is dedicated to reducing and managing the waste generated by the college campus. The following specific procedures will be undertaken to ensure VSU's contribution to protecting the environment. The center for best practices has been established in the year 2019 with the objective of developing or achieving an eco-friendly campus i.e., a clean hygienic, and healthy campus. To promote environmental hygiene inside the campus and attain the Swachh campus, the center for best practices works in association with the VSU NSS cell.

Solid Waste Management

With its aim to provide holistic education that also has a positive impact on the environment, the University will adopt practices that will mitigate the generation, and manage solid waste through the following methods:

- Implementation of environment-friendly 3Rs (Reduce, followed by reuse, and then recycle) waste management strategy. The strategy includes reducing the waste generated to the possible extent and reusing materials or products which have usable aspects and recycling waste generated after proper segregation.

- The solid waste generated on the university campus includes both biodegradable and non-biodegradable solid and liquid waste.
- The non-biodegradable solid waste generated in the VSU campus includes plastic pet bottles, paper, metal cans, etc. handed over to the grama panchayat as a part of the Swatch Bharat initiative. Biodegradable waste including kitchen waste, food waste, leaves, etc. is segregated or collected as wet and dry waste.
- Converting wet waste, and kitchen waste collected from hostels to valuable compost that can be used in the kitchen garden.
- The use of automatic sanitary napkin incinerators in ladies' hostels for disposal of sanitary napkins is done in hostels and it is one of the eco-friendly practices in waste disposal implemented.
- 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 the use of paper by supporting the digitization of attendance and internal assessment records
- Reduce the requirement for printed books by updating the e-books and e-journals collection of the college library.
- Reusing old tires for landscaping and beautification purposes
- 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 installing more Indian-style toilets instead of western style toilets.
- Pump operators and other staff take immediate steps to address water leakage, if any, through taps, pipes, tanks, toilet flush, etc.

- Utilization of wastewater generated from the Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants for watering garden plants.
- Use of grey water through the installation of an eco-friendly sewage treatment plant with zero power and zero management for recycling of grey water for irrigation of plants and lawns on the University campus.
- Draining of grey water through concealed cemented drainage channels into soak pits for gradual recharging of groundwater

E-Waste Management

VSU ensures that its usage of technology and generation of e-waste does not impact the environment. For this purpose, the Institution works towards:

- More provisions for the disposal of the institutional e-waste
- Awareness amongst students about the reduction of e-waste and environment-friendly disposal practices for e-waste.
- Collaboration with e-waste recycling companies to get electronic waste recycled.
- Having an AMC that periodically reviews the effective functioning of CPUs, Monitors, Printers, Laptops, and all other electronic equipment
- The E-waste of the university must be properly handed over to approved E-waste handling agencies so that they do properly discard and dispose of it in a scientific manner.
- Selling of obsolete workable computers, printers, and other equipment discarded by departments as scrap through a technical expert committee nominated by the Vice Chancellor

Renewable Sources of Energy

VSU is dedicated to minimizing and sustainably managing the use of electricity. The university firmly believes in reducing the consumption of electricity produced by non-renewable resources by switching to clean and renewable energy sources like solar energy for purposes like lighting the campus. LED-based solar lighting systems have been installed on the approach CC road and in the premises of the Swarnamukhi Ladies hostel.

- To sensitize the students/Faculty to minimize the use of electricity.
- Design and construction of classrooms with proper natural ventilation and adequate sunlight
- To Use Solar Energy on College Campuses by installing Solar Lamps and Solar Water Heaters in Girls' and Boys' Hostels.
- Conduct awareness programs in the university and in the neighborhood community on judicious use of electricity, electricity conservation through highly efficient LED lights, and benefits of non-renewable sources of energy such as solar
- Installation of rooftop solar grid for energy generation
- Implementation of sensor-based energy conservation systems for turning on and off lights, fans, and laboratory equipment when not in use.
- Installation and use of power-efficient equipment and environment-friendly electrical appliances such as purchasing instruments with 4-star to 5-star power consumption.

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 VSU supports and encourages awareness campaigns, seminars, workshops, conferences, and other interactive sessions to facilitate the effective implementation of the Green Campus, Energy, and Environment policies.

Environment-centric Student Societies and Department Activities

VSU encourages all the departments and specific student societies like Green clubs, NSS, and others to organize events, competitions, and training sessions that will bring about positive environmental changes at the grassroots level. The university supports departments and student societies in molding the students into active agents of environmental protection and conservation.

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

university 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 the reduction of resource use. It is imperative that the university evaluate its own contributions toward a sustainable future.

Energy Audit

An Energy Audit has 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 the 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

VSU 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 university administration strictly bans the use of single-use plastics in its premise to make it a 'Plastic Free Campus'.

Creating massive awareness among students and staff about the ill effects of single-use plastic
Erecting sign boards and providing dustbins for achieving plastic free campus.

Celebration of world earth day and world environment day to reiterate the impact of pollution on environment.


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