

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY USE POLICY

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PREAMBLE

The protection of environment has been mandated in the Constitution in Articles 48 A and 51 A (g), strengthened by judicial interpretation of Article 21. The National Environment Policy (NEP), 2006 was an effort towards India's commitment to clean environment and making positive contribution to international efforts. The NEP builds on the various earlier policies which had addressed the challenges of environment and need of sustainable development prior to this policy. Some of them were:

- National Forest Policy, 1988
- National Conservation Strategy and Policy Statement on Environment and Development 1992
- Policy Statement on Abatement of Pollution, 1992
- National Agriculture Policy, 2000
- National Population Policy, 2000
- National Water Policy, 2002

OBJECTIVES

- To protect and conserve critical ecological systems and resources.
- To ensure equitable access to environmental resources and quality for all sections of society, and in particular, to ensure that poor communities, which are most dependent on environmental resources for their livelihoods, are assured secure access to these resources.
- 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, programmes, and projects for economic and social development.
- To ensure efficient use of environmental resources in the sense of reduction in their use per unit of economic output, to minimize adverse environmental impacts.
- To apply the principles of good governance (transparency, rationality, accountability, reduction in time and costs, participation, and regulatory independence) to the management and regulation of use of environmental resources.
- To ensure higher resource flows, comprising finance, technology, management skills, traditional knowledge, and social capital, for environmental conservation through mutually beneficial multi stakeholder partnerships between local communities, public agencies, the academic and research communities, investors, and multilateral and bilateral development partners.

By following the National Environment Policy (NEP), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur-Green Campus Initiative (GCI) expresses its commitment to be always creative and work for enhancement of local environment and sustainable development through teaching, research and administrative support. The University is committed to develop a culture of environmental responsibility in both the campus as well as in the community.

Environmental education

Information must be widely disseminated through formal and informal education campaigns so that the required actions for enhanced environmental protection are widely understood. Environmental education for students is integrated into our education system at all levels.

Principles

The management, administration and the students of the University look after the environment carefully. Every year, during rainy season, we perform tree-plantation and look after the planted trees carefully. As a result, now we have about 5000 trees in our campus. Besides, we are having eco-friendly units like rain-water-harvesting units, solar panels, vermin-composting unit, biogas plant, etc.

We have our own environmental policy that includes-

- To follow with all requisite environmental legislations and government guidelines, wherever applicable.
- To ensure that there is optimum utilization of resources and waste generation is minimized.
- To integrate environmental concerns in decision-making, e.g. purchasing policy, teaching-learning process, communications, etc.
- To implement an environment management system.
- To strive towards continual reduction in ecological footprint of the university it grows.
- Education and training of students, staff and society in environmental issues and the environmental effects of their activities.
- Monitoring progress and reviewing environmental performance against targets and objectives on a regular basis.
- To maintain the campus pollution-free by all possible ways like maximal use of green-energies like solar energy, wind-mill energy, natural light, etc.

PRIORITY AREAS

Energy

The University shall minimize the usage of energy in various means viz., no use of automobiles inside campus, maximum use of LED bulbs etc and significantly reduces CO2 footprint of the university campus. Green Campus Initiative will carry out various monitoring programmes to conserve the energy source of our university campus.

Water

The University shall conserve and minimize the wastage of water and buildup recycling process. The University GCI team has initiated various programmes and activities to promote the habits to save water among teachers, students and our staff. GCI ensures the minimum wastage of water as use of sprinkler or drip irrigation in its gardening practices. University shall support practices of rain water harvesting and recharge of ground water level.

Waste management

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur is committed to provide a clean and green campus and several efforts are being made in this direction. Waste management policy has been framed to take care of different wastes generated in the campus and Gorakhpur Municipal Corporation, Gorakhpur and private firms are being explored to address management issues related with solid, liquid, bio-medical and e-wastes separately. Recently as part of "Green Initiative Project" launched by the University, several steps are being taken like provision for e-rickshaws apply within the campus to facilitate mobility and discourage the use of vehicles in the campus; creating plastic-free zone and encouraging for environmentally sustainable and eco-friendly products, like the use of clay cups and glasses for serving tea/water. Substantial efforts are being made to promote sustainable and holistic waste management practices in the campus to create a safe and healthy environment for faculty members, students and visitors. The university adheres to the existing policy of waste management as laid down by the state and central government.

The University shall adopt the principles of the 'best practicable environmental option' in the delivery of its waste management services. The University will apply a 'waste hierarchical approach', to reduce, reuse, recycle and recover waste products in preference to the disposal of waste to landfill. The University recognizes the importance of meeting these legal requirements and to manage its waste responsibly, reduce the volume of waste sent to landfill and maximize reuse and recycling where possible. The University requires all the teaching and non-teaching staff, students, guests and anyone else making use of the premises to comply with this Policy and associated "University Environmental Guidance" to ensure compliance with all waste legislations. Any solid waste generated in the campus shall be managed and handled in accordance with the compliance criteria and the procedure laid down in Municipal Solid Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1999, published under the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of 3 Environment and Forests number S.O. 783(E), dated, the 27th September, 1999 in the Gazette of India, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii). There is a legal requirement for all who produce, keep or dispose hazardous/radioactive waste/chemical waste of any type to comply with the various regulations under national and international environmental protection legislation.

Objectives

- Waste management strategies to be adopted as per the norms of state and central government waste management legislatives.
- Effort to minimize the waste generation at source.
- Promote reduce, reuse, recycle approach for waste management in a cost-effective manner.

- To ensure safe handling and storage of wastes in the university.
- Drive awareness programmes for waste management for teachers, resident, staff, students and other stakeholders.
- To adopt effective strategy for solid, liquid, biomedical and e-wastes collection and disposal in consultations with Government and private agencies.

Organization and Management:

An advisory board comprising of following members will have the responsibility for executing the waste management policy of the University. It will include

- (1) Vice-Chancellor-Chairman
- (2) Deans representing different faculties-Members
- (3) External expert (to be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor)
- (4) Co-ordinator Green Campus initiative Member

The function of the advisory board shall be

- (i) To develop appropriate strategy for solid, liquid, biomedical and e-wastes management and carry out the task with the aid of government and private agencies.
- (ii) To explore relevant Memorandum of Agreement (Understanding) (MOA/MOU) with both government and private firms involved with waste management.
- (iii) To conduct conferences/seminars/ workshops/ meetings for promoting awareness for holistic sustainable waste management practices in the university campus.
- (iv) To frame relevant environmental performance indicators to promote waste management.

ACTION PLAN:

Solid Waste Management:

It involves collection, segregation, transportation, treatment and disposal of solid materials that is no longer useful and has been discarded. If not, properly managed solid wastes generated from different point sources would create unsanitary conditions, which might serve as breeding ground for several vector-borne diseases. The solid waste management at the University level needs active participation of the faculty members, students, non-teaching members in collaboration with the staffs of Municipal Corporation, Gorakhpur.

To manage solid wastes generated at the campus following action plan has been taken

- (i) Under "Green University Campus Initative Project" the solid wastes generated are first segregated and collected in the big containers with the help of supporting staffs.
- (ii) These collected wastes are taken by the staffs of Municipal Corporation, Gorakhpur by specialized vehicle for disposal and management.

(iii) Parts of the solid wastes are also being used in "Biogas plant" set up in Department of Biotechnology to generate energy.

Bio-medical Waste Management

Bio-medical wastes includes wastes generated in most of the healthcare facilities, research labs and centres dedicated for medical research and is mandatory for Medical colleges and Institutes. The University has BRD Medical Colleges as affiliated college, where biomedical waste management is being practiced. The amount of the biomedical wastes generated in the University campus is quite less and recently university authority has decided to hire a private firm which is offering services in the BRD Medical College, Gorakhpur and Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC), Gorakhpur for biomedical waste management. It will be dealing with the collection, transportation and disposal of the wastes.

E-waste Management:

E-waste generally represents all electronic products that are unwanted, not working, and nearing or at the end of their "useful life." Computers, televisions, VCRs, stereos, copiers, and fax machines are everyday electronic products. These could be quite dangerous as several toxic chemicals might be naturally leached out from the metals inside if not managed properly and just buried in ground. With advances in technology the problem of ewaste management is also witnessed, and institutions need to adopt policy for its proper management. The University action plan in this direction is highlighted here:

- (i) The various electronic gadgets used in the University predominately computers, printers, xerox machines along with several instruments used by faculty of sciences etc. are recorded in the Estate Office after purchase and once decided that it is non-functional it is again collected by the Estate office and is auctioned.
- (ii) The efforts are made to promote "reuse" in many items like refiling of cartridges several times.

The University is in the process of adopting the policy of donating the lower version of computers to the needy once newer version are being procured based on enhancing the efficiency by the advanced technology.

