



GOVERNMENT ARTS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS),

(Nationally Accredited with 'A' Grade by NAAC and
Affiliated with Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli-24)

KARUR – 639 005

THE GREEN CAMPUS, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY

Introduction

The relationship between Government Arts College (Autonomous), Karur (GACK), and divine nature is a long and enduring one. The lush green ornamental plants with the golden jubilee pillar welcome the stakeholders. The buildings of this educational institution stand near the solid holy hillock of the Thanthonimalai, a topographical feature that the college has consciously chosen to preserve and protect. GACK has a huge Banyan tree on the facade, a symbolic representation of enlightenment, eternal growth and support. Since its inception in the year 1969, the college has always had sustainable initiatives at the core of all activities. The area of the college is about 24 acres. The college has a built-up area about 16439 sq.m. The rest of the campus can be categorized as playgrounds 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: 1. Clean Campus Initiatives 2. Green Initiatives 3. Clean Air Initiatives 4. Smoking Free Campus 5. Infrastructure 6. Solar Power Plant 7. Installation of Energy Efficiency Equipment 8. Water Conservation through Rainwater Harvesting System 9. Waste Management processes 10. Solid Waste Management 11. Liquid Waste Management 12. E-Waste Management 13. Awareness Initiatives 14. Biodiversity Studies 15. Green Audit 16. Energy Audit 17. 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 through NSS, NCC 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.
- 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

GACK has been actively coordinating cleanliness activities in the college and beyond the campus in accordance with the vision of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. It commits to continuing with this Programme. The broad vision is as follows:

1. Generating mass awareness of 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 Green Society 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 and skits on 'Swachh Bharat' will be organized.
5. Rallies on themes connected with 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' in and around the college campus will be conducted to create mass awareness.
6. Remove all kinds of waste material like broken furniture, unusable equipment, etc.
7. Administer of the pledge by students and staff members to maintain the cleanliness of the college campus and its surrounding areas on an annual basis.
8. Conduct workshops on the 3Rs: Reducing, Reusing and Recycling waste.
9. Commit to managing waste and maintaining a clean campus, especially during college events.

Green 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 755 trees and more than 1000 shrubs on campus along with a herbal garden maintained by the Botany Department. The landscape of trees and plants provides the students and staff with clean and cool air and is a soothing environment. The diverse green cover of GACK is also home to a number of fauna and flora, creating a campus rich in biodiversity. The college commits to enriching this healthy habitat and maintaining the symbiotic relationship of the institution with nature by organizing annual tree plantation drives and 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. Our campus is also located near the Southern Ridge, an area identified as the Green Lungs of Karur. For this reason, we feel responsible to maintain our green cover. The abundant natural landscape not only cleans the air on campus but also becomes an extension of the green lungs of the city.

Smoking Free Campus

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. GACK has partnered with Pollution Control Board in promoting a tobacco-free environment. As a step in this direction, smoking and the use of tobacco in and around the campus is strictly prohibited. The antismoking committee of the college ensures the enforcement of the antismoking policy.

Infrastructural Initiatives

◆ Renewable Sources of Energy GACK is dedicated to minimizing and sustainably managing its use of electricity. The college believes in reducing the consumption of electricity produced by non-renewable resources by switching to clean energy sources like solar energy for purposes like lighting the campus.

◆ Energy Saving and Energy Efficient Equipment - We commit to installing 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 an institution located in a semi-arid area the area that has seen maximum fall of groundwater levels, GACK has committed itself to this effort to replenish the groundwater table by practicing rainwater harvesting. This practice helps in the replenishment and recharge of the groundwater. Now Tamilnadu government made the laying of rainwater harvesting structures near the building

a mandatory one. So PWD of the state government compulsorily constructs the rain water harvesting pits near the building.

Waste Management Processes

GACK 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 GACK's contribution to 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 the generation, and manage solid waste through the following methods: 1. Systematically engage with the 3Rs of environment friendliness (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle). 2. Collect paper waste produced on campus and collaborate with scrap dealers for recycling. 3. Reduce solid waste by developing a technology-centric teaching and administrative model. 4. Reduce the use of paper by supporting the digitization of attendance and internal assessment records. 5. Reduce the requirement for printed books by updating the e-books and e-journals collection of the college library. 6. Encourage the students and teachers to use emails for assignment submissions. 7. 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, or 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.
- Reuse of wastewater generated by the Reverse Osmosis (RO) system to irrigate plants.

◆ E-Waste Management

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

- More provisions for the disposal of institutional e-waste.
- Awareness amongst students about the 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 GACK 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

GACK encourages all the departments and specific student societies like Department Associations, NSS, NCC 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.

Biodiversity Studies

The students are to be encouraged to do minor research projects on biodiversity and enrichment of flora and fauna. PG students of life sciences can be asked to do project works on biodiversity of plants, insects, and other fauna. Studies on the importance of plants can be carried out.

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

Conduct of Energy Audit

An Energy Audit is 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

GACK 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'.