



KANNUR UNIVERSITY

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Re-accredited by NAAC with 'B++' Grade



Policies of Kannur University

**Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)
Kannur University**

Green Charter & Environment Policy

1. Introduction

The total of all external conditions affecting the life, development, and survival of organisms is termed as the environment. It consists of living and nonliving components and their interactions. The existence of all living organisms including human beings depends upon the surrounding environment. The proper cycling of materials and energy also depends on a stable environment. Anthropogenic activities severely affect the environment at a global level. Non sustainable developmental activity by man severely affects the equilibrium of various ecosystems. In the context of various environmental issues such as climate change, global warming, greenhouse effect, ozone depletion, pollution, loss of biodiversity, depletion of natural resources, floods, pandemics, etc, we need to re-frame our environmental policies. Human beings are an integral part of any environment and hence the developmental activity should be sustainable and capable to ensure the continuous supply of pure oxygen, food, clean drinking water, and a healthy environment. The protection of the natural environment is our responsibility and irrespective of the spheres of activity, proper policy, and plans have to be developed to safeguard the environment.

Kannur University was established in 1996 to promote higher education in the Kasargode and Kannur revenue Districts and Mananthavady Taluk of the Wayanad District in Kerala State, which are supposedly the educationally backward districts of the state. The University is also focused on conserving and enhancing natural resources and preventing environmental pollution to bring about continual improvement in its environmental performance. The University will follow the environmental rules and officially approved codes of practices and will make regular efforts to reduce its carbon footprint through the implementation of an Environmental Policy with **objectives and targets such as:**

- ❖ To implement environmental management policies and practices in all spheres of the university.
- ❖ To develop awareness about environmental responsibilities amongst staff and students.
- ❖ To collaborate with other agencies locally, nationally, and internationally to promote appropriate environmental policies.
- ❖ To implement policies to reduce the carbon footprint of the University.

- ❖ To minimize the emission of pollutants and wastes, and to implement effective waste management procedures.
- ❖ To avoid the use of single-use plastics for all University activities.
- ❖ To reduce the consumption of fossil fuels.
- ❖ To reduce water consumption (judicious management and conservation of available water).
- ❖ To promote a purchasing policy to enable the use of environment-friendly products and services.
- ❖ To minimize or avoid the use of environmentally damaging materials and processes.
- ❖ To maintain the grounds and buildings of the University campuses in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- ❖ To have sustainable and environment centered developmental activities at the University.
- ❖ To encourage modes of transport which reduce the environmental impact.
- ❖ To impose fines or penalties on concerned persons for any breach of environment policy.

2. Need of a policy:

This policy will help us to develop environmentally friendly, sustainable, and economically viable campuses which will reflect the commitment and accountability of University to the environment and society. Through this policy, the University will meet the requirement of students, faculty, and staff while preserving the environment for future generations. Kannur University commits to prepare its students, to become environmental citizens on the campus. The University will educate the students and staff about best practices to improve the environmental footprint of University campuses and its operations.

3. Scope of Policy:

This draft policy applies to the members of the Kannur University community, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

4. Guidelines:

- Kannur University will address the environmental impact during planning, development, procurement, communications, curriculum, research, and all other campus activities.
- The University will ban the use of single-use plastics and will encourage the use of recyclable materials within the premises.

- The University will encourage the use of renewable energy resources instead of fossil fuels within the premises;
- The University will extend its commitment to environmental education by introducing relevant environmental content in the syllabus and curriculum.
- The University will promote the use of environment friendly/conscious transportation by all its members, like public transit, carpooling and use of manually driven cycles, electric cars/vehicles.
- The University will provide waste diversion and recycling stations and item-specific collection options on the campuses.
- The University will purchase BIS/ISO certified appliances, computers, paper products from responsible suppliers.
- The University will maintain a user-friendly sustainability website with tips, links and suggestions to meet the policy guidelines.

5. Making & Review of Policy:

The University level Environmental Committee will act as the apex authority to review and implement Environment policy according to the following policy objectives:

- (a) Continuous monitoring of the Environment policy and to report to and update the Vice-Chancellor.
- (b) Submitting annual Environmental action plans to the Vice-Chancellor; consisting of defined goals, action points, and timelines to facilitate the application of this policy and improvement of environmental footprint and performance of the University over time.
- (d) Allocating reviewed and recommended priorities for the implementation of environmental initiatives in the annual budget.
- (e) Make use of academicians and researchers in the strengthening and updating process of the policy.
- (f) Up to date reporting of environmental achievements and issues affecting the implementation of the environment policy to the Vice-Chancellor.

6. The mechanism for Implementation:

The mechanisms to meet the aims and objectives of the policy are given below:

- a. The Staff and Students of the campuses are responsible for the protection of the environment.
- b. Every member of the University should take up the duty and responsibility to comply with the mandates of the environment policy of the university.
- c. The University will implement the policy directly and through administration, various teaching departments and Colleges.

Few of the guidelines of the action plan for University Departments and Colleges are listed below:

- i. The University Department will be the responsible authority for arranging training classes and raising awareness among students about environment conservation and protection while seeking academic goals.
- ii. They will coordinate and encourage the setting up of biogas plants, wind energy farms, solar energy panels, and other renewable sources of energy.
- iii. They will supplement, complete, and extend the environment protection efforts undertaken by village panchayats and grass-root organizations so that the benefit will be maximized.

7. Standard Operation Procedure (SOP):

To implement the Environment policy under the jurisdiction of Kannur university campuses, the following 'SOP' is to be adopted.

7.1. Freshwater resources - Groundwater and Rainwater:

Measures for the conservation of water resources:

- i. Quantification of potable water available in each of the University campuses and equating it with the demand for various administrative and academic activities.
- ii. Monitor demand and supply of freshwater and regulation of water utilization.
- iii. Rainwater data will be recorded in each campus and rainwater harvesting made mandatory.
- iv. Sewage treatment plants to be constructed and the outlet water will be used for flushing toilets, watering plants, etc.

- v. A University level water literacy mission will be constituted to educate the staff and students for appropriate utilization and conservation of water.
- vi. Assessment of drinking water requirement per person at the campus level to be done.
- vii. Provide clean drinking water to all the staff and students.
- ix. Water testing facilities in selected Departments.

7.2. Forest and wildlife:

- i. Biodiversity conservation along with the preservation of sacred groves without tampering its cultural integrity
- iii. Protection of mangroves if any, within the campuses and restoration wherever possible.
- iv. Increase the tree cover in the university premises through collective efforts of students and staff, afforestation, and social forestry programmes.
- v. Monitor and prevent the entry of invasive and alien species of plants into the campuses.
- vi. Extensive documentation of campus biodiversity.

7.3. Wetland Ecosystem:

Wetlands are natural water bodies, which play an immense role in ecosystem maintenance by carbon sequestration, water conservation, prevention of soil erosion and floods, etc. Most of the Kannur University campuses are located near mangrove forests. The University will give utmost priority to the conservation and management of these wetlands.

7.4. Biodiversity conservation at University premises:

Biodiversity within the campuses will be protected by adopting the following methods:

- i. Documentation of the biodiversity by preparing a 'Campus Biodiversity Register' at each campus and affiliated college.
- ii. Judicious use of plant and animal genetic resources for various research activities.
- iii. Measures for the conservation of indigenous genetic diversity.
- iv. Documentation of traditional knowledge related to biodiversity conservation.
- v. Preparation of a list of threatened and endangered plants and animal species and take measures for conservation of these through biotechnological methods.
- vi. Regulate the entry of exotic species into the campuses.

- vii. Introduction of biodiversity-related topics in the syllabus of courses at the college level.

7.5. Waste Management:

- i. Action will be taken to reduce the quantity of all type of waste emerging from University compounds.
- ii. Measures will be taken to place recycling bin to dispose the plastics, paper and other materials correctly.
- iii. Decomposable waste will be utilized for making compost and biogas.
- iv. Sewage treatment plants will be installed in selected campuses.

7.6. Built Environment:

Action will be taken to provide eco-friendly buildings to staff and students of the University. Encourage the use of energy-efficient designs, layout, and eco-friendly construction materials (green buildings). The following measures will be taken to achieve the goal for green building:

- i. The university level environment oversight committee will be consulted and included while creating and finalizing building and infrastructure plans and for other development activities. The approval by the committee to be made mandatory before approving the plans for implementation.
- ii. Use of eco-friendly techniques and materials for construction of buildings on the University premises.
- ii. Appreciate indigenous and energy-efficient building materials for the construction of buildings.
- iii. Support and encourage the planting of shade, fruit-bearing, and ornamental trees within the campuses and minimise cutting of trees for new construction.
- iv. Construction of green parks and gardens for visitors, students and the promotion of environmental awareness;
- v. Establishment of medicinal gardens within the premises of the University.
- vi. Maintenance of open yards for proper infiltration of water.
- vii. Prevention of environmental degradation and resulting health problems.
- ix. Creating environmental awareness to prevent the spread of epidemics.
- ix. Effective waste sorting, management, and recycling in university premises.

7.7. Transportation:

An environment-friendly transport system will be adopted within the campuses. Following measures will be implemented to promote the environmentally friendly transportation system within the University:

- i. Provide efficient and safe transportation within University premises to reduce the consumption of fuel, traffic congestion, and environmental pollution.
- ii. Encourage the use of bicycles and vehicles using LPG and electricity within the campuses;
- iii. Strict enforcement of traffic rules for the safety of users within campuses.

7.8. Promotion of Renewable Energy Resources:

To promote efficient and sustainable energy production and use without waste, the following measures are proposed.

- i. Use of clean technologies for energy production.
- ii. Energy conservation to be followed by all sectors of the University.
- iii. Measures for energy conservation, education, and awareness activities to be undertaken.
- iv. Incentives for energy conservation may be implemented.
- v. Steps will be taken to popularize the use of renewable energy sources.
- vi. Scheme for incentives and plan for making bio-fuel plants within campuses.
- vii. Environment-friendly and energy-saving technology and LED lights to be installed wherever possible and to be followed for future constructions in the university.

7.9. Prevent Pollution

To control the air and noise pollution, the focus shall be on the following:

- i. Adoption of clean fuels and green technologies, energy-efficient equipment, and air pollution control systems within University premises;
- ii. Construction of green belts for mitigating air pollution;
- iii. Adoption of green technologies to minimize the emission of green house and ozone-depleting gases within campuses.
- iii. Encourage recycling of plastic.

7.10. Purchase Policy

- i. The purchase policy of the university should be environment friendly and the purchase

committee should be directed to adhere to environmental rules. All purchases should be BIS/ISO certified appliances/ products.

8. Organization for Implementing the Policy:

To implement the Environmental Policy, the University will constitute an apex body at the university level with clear responsibilities. The affiliating Colleges are required to make arrangements for promoting environmental awareness and implementing the policy. They are to deal with the environmental issues encountered within their sphere of activities.

I. University Level Environment Committee (Green Committee)

To implement the Environment Policy, Environment Committee (Green Committee) will be the apex authority at the university level. The jurisdiction of this committee will be the premises of all University campuses and affiliated colleges. The members of this committee will be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor and the committee should submit reports to the Vice-Chancellor periodically. The committee shall consist of members representing the

1. University (Example - syndicate members, development officer, engineering wing, registrar)
2. University campuses
3. University departments
4. Administrative staff
5. Affiliated colleges
6. Experts in the domain.

The responsibilities of this committee include:

- Preparation of environment policy applicable for University and affiliated institutions
- Regular monitoring of Environment Policy and to ensure the full implementation of the same.
- Regular review of the effectiveness of the present policy.
- Environmental training and awareness activities to be conducted
- Publicize environmental information, policies and provide guidance
- Action plan to bring out notices and guidelines for implementation of the Environmental Policy among the various constituents of the University.

II. Environment Oversight Committee:

Nominated members of the Environment Committee at University Level will be the members of this committee. The Development officer and specialists in the field will head the Environment Oversight Committee. The committee is responsible for the planning and development of buildings, purchases, and other infrastructure development. The Committee is responsible for general planning and development of the campuses of the University as part of the overall corporate plan of University.

This includes the acquisition, development, and disposal of buildings and sites and approval of new buildings and infrastructure plans.

III. Environment Committees at Campus/ Administration/ College Level

To implement the Environment Policy of the University, and Environment Committee shall be constituted at each university Campus, and college, including one at the Administrative unit at Thavakkara. The members of this committee will be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor in the case of University committees and by College Administration in the case of affiliated colleges. This committee will be responsible for the implementation of the Environmental Policy that has been formulated at the university level in their campuses/ colleges. This committee shall give periodic reports regarding the implementation of the University Environment Policy to the Green Committee at the university level.

References:

1. www2.msvu.ca
2. www.admin.cam.ac.uk
3. www.environment.bham.ac.uk