

GREEN CAMPUS POLICY

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**INTERNAL QUALITY
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College of Social Work
[Empowered Autonomous]

The **Green Campus Policy** was formulated by the College of Social Work in 2025 to institutionalize environmental consciousness and foster a sense of responsibility towards eco-friendly measures.

Objectives of the Policy

1. To minimize the ecological footprint of the College
2. To promote environmental sustainability, resource conservation, and eco-friendly practices
3. To empower all collaborators to take an active role in supporting eco-friendly initiatives within the campus community.
4. To regularly conduct energy and environmental audits to measure and improve sustainability metrics.

The focus areas of this policy are:



The College has pledged its commitment to ensuring collecting, treating, and disposing of solid material through effective solid waste management measures; the use of water management/conservation strategies promoting responsible use of water resources; maintaining biodiversity and ensuring high-quality green cover on the College campus thus enhancing CO₂ sequestration; promoting environmental education through curriculum, extracurricular events; community engagement through initiatives of Field Action Projects demonstrating the implementation of the principles of sustainability; networking and collaboration with organizations for joint initiatives; and ensuring accountability and commitment to environment protection through Energy and

Green Audits. The College pledges to create a healthy ecosystem and maintain a symbiotic relationship with nature.

The practice principle of the Green Campus Policy of the College is inspired by the 6 Rs of Sustainability: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink, Refuse, and Repair, which aim to minimise waste and environmental impact through conscious choices and proactive interventions.

Energy Conservation

The College of Social Work is committed to reducing its energy consumption through various energy conservation measures.

The institution has installed energy-efficient LED lighting across the campus, optimized HV AC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) systems for better efficiency, and promoted the use of renewable energy sources such as solar panels. A total of 229, 143 LED lights and 86 conventional lights are installed in various areas of the college. A total of 86 conventional CFL lights are installed in various areas of the college. Total light load is 5.7 kW.

College has installed the solar PV plant of 30 kW on the rooftop & 10kW on the Extension Centre's rooftop to generate electricity and reduce CO₂ emissions. The College hostel has successfully installed a solar photovoltaic (PV) plant for water heating, harnessing renewable energy to provide an eco-friendly and cost-effective solution for heating water, while reducing the carbon footprint of the campus. Water heating requirement in the hostels is being fulfilled by solar water heaters.

Waste Management

Effective waste management practices are essential for fostering environmental sustainability, reducing operational costs, ensuring health compliance, and educating all collaborators on sustainable practices. The College has implemented a comprehensive waste segregation system to ensure that recyclable, non-recyclable, and hazardous wastes are properly disposed of.

There are separate bins for wet and dry waste, as per the Brihanmumbai Corporation Guidelines. The housekeeping staff and gardeners assist with waste segregation, which is done at the source and collected by *Safai Karmacharis* for proper disposal at the Municipal Corporation's dumping yards.

Bins are placed in classrooms and across the campus to encourage students and staff to properly dispose waste. The importance of environmental cleanliness is taught to students through regular

announcements in class, and display of one poster in every classroom encouraging personal commitment towards environmental protection. Students are urged to maintain cleanliness by cleaning their classrooms by cleaning them independently through activities like *Shramdaan*. Fines are imposed on a class if waste is not properly managed, as both a preventive and promotive measure.

Waste is collected in an organized manner, segregated into different categories, and then sold to approved vendors for recycling.

The College actively encourages paperless work practices across various departments and activities to reduce paper consumption and minimize waste. A paperless system is encouraged, with the use of electronic methods such as WhatsApp, email, and Google Classroom for office work. Additionally, the practice of using one side of paper for tasks like faxes, printing drafts, meeting minutes, memos, and notes in the office is promoted to reduce waste. Staff and students are encouraged to creatively utilize wastepaper and newspapers in various subject-based workshops, extracurricular activities, and college events. This practice allows students to explore innovative ways of reusing materials, fostering creativity and environmental awareness. For example, wastepaper and newspapers are often repurposed to create decorations, art, and other creative projects, such as the backdrop for the Annual Day celebration.

The College recently took a significant step by handing over 179 kg of e-waste for recycling on July 19, 2024. Through this initiative, the College aimed to raise awareness about the importance of proper e-waste management and reduce its environmental impact.

In keeping with its strong commitment to environmental responsibility, the college has taken a firm stance against the use of plastic on campus. Recognising the detrimental effects of plastic on the environment, the institution strictly prohibits its use in all activities and events. Instead, the college prioritizes the use of eco-friendly alternatives, such as materials sourced from paper and indigenous materials. This change not only reduces plastic waste but also encourages the use of biodegradable and reusable materials. Thus, the College facilitates the reduction of plastic footprint through banning of single-use plastics [plastic bags, and disposable cutlery]; use of reusable alternatives [Switch to cloth bags, reusable water bottles/tea cups] and promoting conscious consumerism [supporting organisations with sustainable practices].

A Vermicomposting Plant had been installed on the extension centre to promote sustainable waste management practices. The plant would be used for composting organic waste, converting it into nutrient-rich soil, which could later be used for the college's gardens and landscaping projects.

The College has installed biogas at Gnanjyoti College Campus, Dahanu. The biodegradable waste material is effectively utilised for the production of bio-gas. This process involves the segregation of organic waste, such as food scraps and other biodegradable materials, from the general waste stream. The collected waste is then processed in a bio-digester, where it undergoes anaerobic digestion. During this process, microorganisms break down the organic matter, producing biogas, primarily methane, which can be used as a renewable energy source. This initiative not only helps in waste management but also contributes to reducing the college's reliance on traditional energy sources, promoting environmental sustainability.

Water Conservation

Water conservation is another critical aspect of the Green Campus policy. The College utilizes rainwater harvesting systems to collect and store rainwater for various non-potable uses, such as irrigation and flushing. Wastewater recycling systems are in place to treat and reuse wastewater, further reducing the campus's water footprint.

The College has constructed a bore well and tank, both equipped with specially marked red connections, distinct from the municipal water supply system. The bore well and tank are primarily intended for non-drinking purposes, such as washing, gardening, and other essential tasks that do not require potable water. By utilizing these resources, the college aims to reduce the consumption of treated municipal water, promoting environmental sustainability and efficient water management across the campus.

The College has implemented a water harvesting initiative at its Extension Center to capture and store rainwater for various non-potable uses across the campus. The rainwater collected through this system is directed to a dedicated storage tank, which is then used for activities such as landscaping, gardening, and other operational needs that do not require potable water. By harnessing rainwater, the college reduces its reliance on municipal water supply, thereby conserving valuable water resources and lowering the overall water consumption of the College.

An effort to conserve water is made by providing access to Indian-style toilets in addition to western-style toilets.

A caretaker is given the responsibility to take quick action to stop any water leaking from taps, pipelines, tanks, and toilet flushes, among other things.

In addition to the physical infrastructure, the College is committed to creating awareness among collaborators about the importance of water conservation. Educational campaigns, workshops,

and informational materials are provided to emphasize the role that water harvesting plays in sustaining the environment.

The College took the initiative of Wet Waste Management, focusing on organic and food waste, a crucial component under Goal 12. On 7th November 2025, the Indian Pollution Control Association, under the CSR initiative of *Swarn Lata Motherson Trust*, installed the Aerobin composter at the College of Social Work, Extension Centre, Goregaon, which helps with recycling and treatment of wet waste.

Green Building Practices

The construction and maintenance of campus buildings [Goregaon East and Churchgate] adhere to green building standards. Sustainable materials are used in construction, and buildings are designed to maximize natural light and ventilation, reducing the need for artificial lighting and air conditioning. The institution also focuses on the efficient use of resources during the construction and operation of buildings, ensuring minimal environmental impact.

Biodiversity and Landscaping

Enhancing green spaces on campus is a priority for the College. The College takes immense pride in its meticulously maintained landscaping, which is not only aesthetically pleasing but also serves an environmental purpose. The institution has undertaken various landscaping projects to increase the green cover and promote biodiversity. Native trees and plants are planted and maintained in gardens and green areas, providing a habitat for local wildlife and improving the campus's aesthetic appeal.

The campus features a diverse array of trees and plants, many of which are known for their medicinal properties. This wide variety of flora contributes to the overall ecological health of the environment, while also offering valuable resources for research and learning. The landscaping design focuses on sustainability and creating a green, vibrant atmosphere that enhances the commitment to environmental conservation.

As a token of appreciation, guests and visitors to the college are often presented with saplings from the college garden. This gesture not only symbolizes the institution's dedication to environmental stewardship but also encourages individuals to participate in green initiatives by planting and nurturing these saplings in their own environments.

Environmental Education

The College integrates environmental education into its curriculum and conducts regular workshops, seminars; and events to raise awareness about environmental issues and sustainable practices. These educational initiatives aim to instill a sense of environmental responsibility in students and staff, encouraging them to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives.

In order to give a better understanding and clarity for the students in the area of sustainability, an elective paper is introduced for the second year Master of Social Work students titled Sustainable Development and Environment. As part of this programme, a *Pollution Mapping* session was organised combining the lessons on different kinds of pollution and the Participatory Rural Appraisal [PRA] technique of community mapping in Social Work. Students also provided various solutions that can be put into practice to prevent these pollutions.

Noise pollution remains a serious concern, especially in cities. Mumbai, being a fast-growing metropolitan city, also witnesses development at a speed that is much higher than most of the cities in the country. Along with an increase in the infrastructural facilities and other advancements, increasing pollution is also the flip side of the coin. Noise pollution, although being a serious concern in cities, is the least discussed type of pollution. Though there are a few efforts by the government and the municipal corporations to curb this issue, it remains one of the major concerns that will also have a serious impact on the quality of human life. In order to spread awareness about the reality of noise pollution and also to ensure responsible behaviour towards reducing and controlling noise pollution, an oath was taken by staff and students. The oath-taking ceremony addressed issues of areas of honking in public, soundproofing, and usage of excessive fire crackers, high-frequency mike systems and so on.

The College is a smoking free Campus. The use of smoking products is banned in the College.

A Wellness Programme was organised for management representatives and staff in collaboration with Health Promotion Trust's Naturopathy Residential Wellness Centre in association with the National Institute of Naturopathy [NIN] Pune, to offer holistic health options emanating from nature's healing resources and the importance of reducing the food footprint through dietary shifts [eating more plants and reducing consumption of animal products]; reducing waste and sustainable sourcing [choosing organic products]

The Rotaract Club of the College has been proactive in promoting environmentally friendly initiatives. An Ecology Field Trek was organised to Karnala Bird Sanctuary on 24th August 2025 to promote environmental awareness, teamwork, and experiential learning. Participants included

a group of 28 students and two teachers. The trek through the forest terrain provided students with an opportunity to observe biodiversity and natural ecosystems first-hand. Participants enhanced their understanding of environmental conservation and ecological balance, while reinforcing values of teamwork, responsibility, and sustainable interaction with nature. The Green Class Initiative of the Rotract Club is based on a Behavioural Change Model as it promotes awareness, reshapes attitudes, and encourages sustainable daily practices among students through continuous reinforcement and environmental support. The Rotaract Club is also coordinating with Stri Mukti Sanghata to organise a training programme for non-teaching staff on Waste Management.

Community Engagement

The institution actively engages with the community to promote environmental sustainability. The College participates in and supports various community-based environmental initiatives through its Field Action Projects and fosters partnerships with external organizations working for environment protection. These collaborations help extend the impact of the Green Campus policy beyond the campus boundaries.

Spandan, the Field Action Project of the College, promotes sustainable development for better livelihood and focuses on malnutrition issues in the Talsari and Dahanu blocks of Palghar district, Maharashtra. The project *Satwaabar: Promoting Sustainable Nutrition Gardens* of Spandan focuses on setting up eco-friendly projects, particularly nutrition gardens, to improve families' food security and dietary conditions. The initiative includes training programs on sustainable farming practices and eco-friendly gardening techniques; establishing community and school-based nutrition gardens with support from partner organizations; distribution of seeds to promote local-level sustainable farming practices; herbal medicinal training to encourage the use of natural remedies; and the development of model nutrition gardens to serve as training and demonstration. Spandan's *Unnati* project provides alternate livelihood options through eco-friendly skill development initiatives, including training on coconut shell artefact production, where participants learn sustainable crafting techniques; bamboo artefact training in collaboration with research and training institutions, equipping participants with the skills to create eco-friendly products such as vases, mats, photo frames, and pen stands; sales of eco-friendly bamboo products through various community markets and institutions, promoting sustainable economic opportunities.

Anubhav Youth Development Center another Field Action Project of the College of Social Work, conducts sessions on the Environmental Justice module of the *Labex* programme with NSS students of various Suburban Colleges. The sessions are aimed at raising awareness about

environmental justice issues, engaging the community, and inspiring action for a sustainable and equitable future. Through the sessions, participants not only gain a better understanding of environmental justice but also recognise the importance of addressing environmental issues equitably, ensuring that vulnerable communities are not unfairly affected. Participants are engaged throughout the session, offering thoughtful responses to the questions posed and reflecting on the injustices happening to the environment.

The College collaborates with various organisations to promote dry waste collection drives, beach cleaning initiatives and field visits to promote environmental consciousness among collaborators. Rotaract Club of the College collaborated with *Green Soul* collaboration for waste collection boxes and promoted the products of *Paryavaran Dakshata Mandal*, Thane, during Junoon Festival. Paryavaran Dakshata Mandal, Thane, sold eco-friendly products at their stalls and also promoted the importance of healthy lifestyle changes.

Implementation of Energy and Green Audit

The College has decided to conduct Energy and Green Audit regularly. An Energy Audit is an inspection, survey and analysis of energy flows, for energy conservation in a building, process or system to reduce the amount of energy input into the system without negatively affecting the output(s). The objective of carrying out a Green Audit is to secure the environment and cut down the threats posed to human health; to make sure that rules and regulations are taken care of; to avoid the interruptions in the environment that are more difficult to handle and their correction requires high cost; and to suggest the best protocols for adding to sustainable development.

On March 6, 2025, the College of Social Work conducted the Energy and Green Audit in collaboration with Power Tech Energy Solutions to track the eco-friendly measures adopted by the College and explore areas and scope for improvement and implement corrective actions. The formulation of a **Green Campus Policy** is a key outcome of recommendations by the External Team, serving as a comprehensive roadmap for the College to implement sustainable and eco-friendly practices. This policy documents the strategic approach to environmental management, reducing the ecological footprint, and fostering sustainability among students, faculty, and staff

This policy will be applicable for the next three years and will be reviewed based on the feedback and recommendations received periodically and updated accordingly.

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