

**SONOPANT DANDEKAR ARTS, V.S. APTE COMMERCE
AND M.H. MEHTA SCIENCE COLLEGE, PALGHAR**



<https://www.vecteezy.com>

Environmental Sustainability Policy

Prepared by
IQAC & Nature Club

Last revised in August 2023

Originally prepared in October 2018

Available at Website, Library, Nature Club

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

In pursuit of harmonizing with nature while fostering academic excellence, our institute has embraced a progressive environmental sustainable policy underscored by a commitment to sustainability, meticulous assessment, waste reduction, and the maintenance of a clean and green campus.

Our tagline, "**Enlightening Minds, Enriching Environment**", encapsulates the essence of this endeavour, serving as a daily reminder that intellectual growth and environmental stewardship must advance hand in hand.

The vision of our institution is to be a torch bearer of sustainable practices, not just in education but in every aspect of campus and community at large. By embedding environmental consciousness in our core values, we strive to cultivate a community of responsible citizens who are equipped to lead the transition towards a greener future.

The mission statement fortifies this vision, laying out a comprehensive framework where every learner, faculty, and staff member is encouraged to engage in proactive assessment of their ecological footprint, actively participate in waste reduction initiatives, and contribute to the ongoing efforts of sustaining a vibrant campus and environment around us.

Through this shared purpose, the institute aspires to collaborate with various agencies for improved harmonization of environment sustainable practices.

I) SCOPE

The policy applies to all the stakeholders of the institution.

II) POLICY COMPONENTS

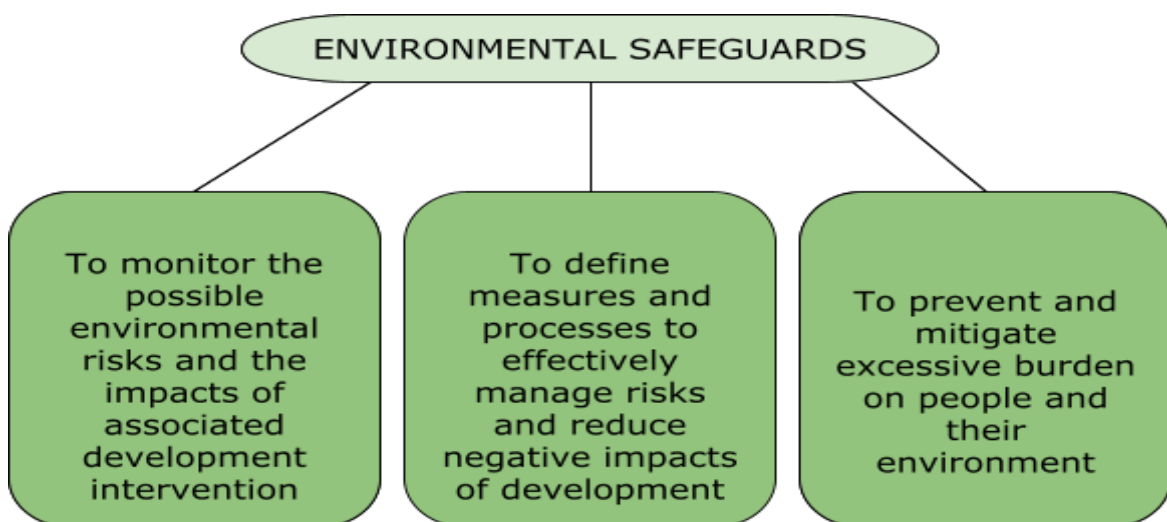
- Continuous improvement in environment protection practice
- Conduct environmental management programs according to the objectives and aims to minimize environmental impacts.

- Implementation of effective pollution prevention and waste management programs to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- Ensure that water and energy are used properly and conserved using the right techniques.
- Conduct seminars or workshops on environmental issues and resolution for the same. This is will be able to meet the policy and goals of the institute to prevent negative environmental impacts.
- Determine the standards met towards environmental goals.

III) GUIDING POLICIES AND FRAMEWORK

- Guidelines and Curriculum Framework for Environment Education at the Undergraduate Level
UGC (https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/4111559_Environment_Guideline.pdf)
- Environmental Education, Awareness and Training (EEAT), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate
Change (<https://moef.gov.in/moef/division/environment-divisions/environment-educationee/introduction/index.html>)
- ESG Framework for Educational Institutes.

IV) BROAD OBJECTIVES OF THE POLICY.



Source: Food and Agriculture Organization's Environmental Safeguard Strategies.

V) Goals of the Policy to be achieved in the next 3 years.

Achievable Goals :

A. Efficient Use of Resources:

- **Goal:** Reduce paper usage by 20% within one year through implementing double-sided printing and encouraging digital resources.
- **Action Steps:**
 - Provide printers with default double-sided printing.
 - Invest in digital whiteboards or projectors for classrooms.
 - Encourage online assignments and resources.
 - Use of ERP and OER solutions.
 - Conduct Audits

B. Reduced Carbon Emissions:

- **Goal:** Reduce energy consumption by 10% within one year by promoting energy-saving practices.
- **Action Steps:**
 - Conduct workshops on energy conservation for staff and learners.
 - Turn off lights and equipment when not in use.
 - Upgrade to energy-efficient lighting and appliances.
 - Encourage alternative transportation like cycling or walking to institute.
 - Encourage renewable use of resources
 - Maintenance of equipment's.
 - Conduct Audits

C. Water Management:

- **Goal:** Reduce water usage by 5% within one year by implementing water-saving measures.
- **Action Steps:**
 - Install low-flow faucets and toilets in bathrooms.
 - Encourage shorter showers and responsible water use in labs.
 - Fix leaky faucets and pipes promptly.
 - Promote use of rain water harvesting
 - Promote clean and safe drinking water facilities.

D. Waste Management:

- **Goal:** Increase recycling by 15% within one year by expanding recycling options and promoting awareness.
- **Action Steps:**
 - Implement a multi-stream recycling system for solid, liquid, electronic and chemical waste.
 - Prepare standard operating procedures for waste management.
 - Conduct educational campaigns on proper waste disposal and recycling.
 - Partner with local recycling companies for efficient waste collection.

E. Conserving Biodiversity:

- **Goal:** Create consciousness about regional trees on campus within one year to create a green space and enhance biodiversity.
- **Action Steps:**
 - Organize plantation drives
 - Establish a botanical/ butterfly garden to promote sustainable agriculture practices.
 - Partner with local environmental organizations for educational initiatives.

F. Community Engagement:

- **Goal:** Partner with a local community organization for a clean-up event within one year to foster community engagement and environmental awareness.
- **Action Steps:**
 - Identify a local organization focused on environmental issues.
 - Participate in a clean-up project.
 - Promote the event and the partnership within the institute and community.

VI) BROAD INITIATIVES FOR REFERENCES

1. Assure that the institutions' campuses are free of single use plastic. To accomplish this, professors and learners must operate in electronic mode. Plastics below 50 microns shall no longer be used in canteens, commercial centres located on the campus of the college, etc.

2. Organising exhibitions, poster competitions, and other activities to promote ecological and eco-friendly products to cut down on the use of single-use plastic.
3. Use of “ SWITCH OFF” labels across Campus
4. Use of “ Keep your surroundings clean” labels across Campus
5. In case of documents use, Narrow Margin tabs.
6. Promote “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” by adopting waste management practices in the college campus and creating awareness among society.
7. Protect and conserve ecological systems and resources within the campus.
8. Minimize paper consumption by the students and staff members.
9. Utilise chemical-free or organic sanitation fluid to clean the floors in restrooms, classrooms, and college campuses to avoid skin allergies or other negative health effects on students and staff.
10. To encourage sustainable development and lifestyle through workshops, participatory activities, and awareness campaigns.

VII) RECORDS USED

Green Audit Reports, Audit Statements

VIII) RELATED POLICIES

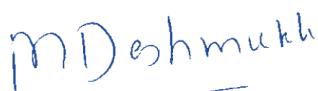
Policy for Maintenance and Utilization of Physical, Academic and Support Facilities.

IX) FEEDBACK

Staff and learners may provide feedback about the environmental practices and policy in the suggestion box.

X) REVIEW

The policy requires yearly review.



Prof. Mahesh Deshmukh
IQAC Convener

Prof. Mahesh M. Deshmukh
Vice Principal & IQAC Convenor
Sonopant Dandekar Arts V S Apte Commerce and
M H Mehta Science College Palghar



Dr. Kiran J. Save
PRINCIPAL Principal
Sonopant Dandekar Arts College,
V.S. Apte Commerce College &
M.H. Mehta Science College
PALGHAR (W.R.)
Dist. Palghar, Pin-401404