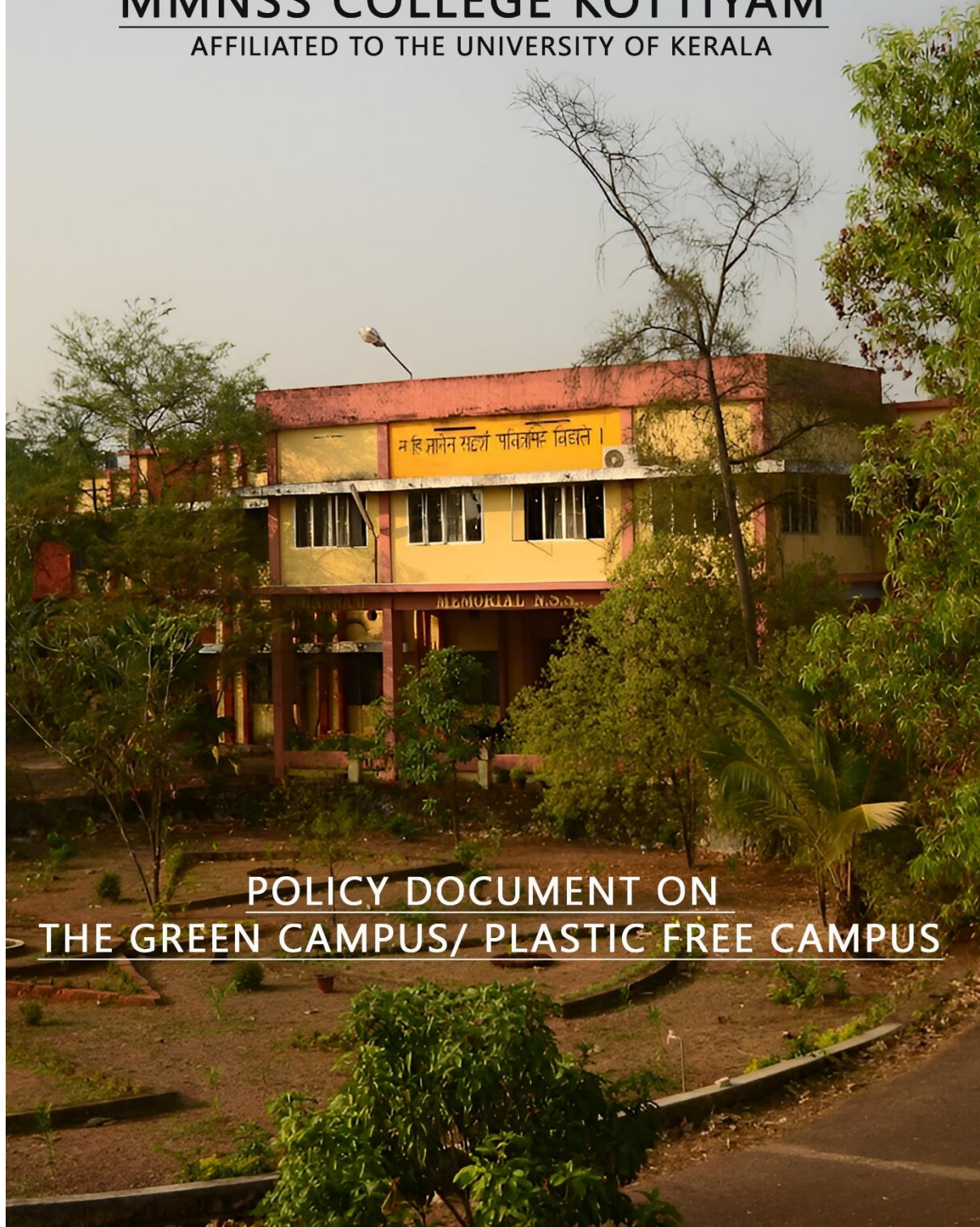




MMNSS COLLEGE KOTTIYAM

AFFILIATED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF KERALA



POLICY DOCUMENT ON THE GREEN CAMPUS/ PLASTIC FREE CAMPUS

MMNSS College Kottiyam is located in the heart of Kottiyam town on the National Highway NH 66. Hence it is well connected by public transport buses viz., the state-owned Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) and private operators. A majority of the students, teachers and non-teaching staff utilizes public transport system to reach the college. A few teachers who use their cars for commuting has successfully implemented car pooling as a part of adopting sustainability. The roads in and around the campus are pedestrian friendly with Zebra crossings and pedestrian walk ways to ensure accident-free traffic. The Nature Club and Bhoomitrasena club educates the students about the Plastic misuse and has adopted proactive measures to reduce it. The students are encouraged to bring water in steel bottles instead of plastic disposable bottles. They are also encouraged to reduce the use of plastic carry bags. To reduce the use of paper as a part of Green Campus campaign, all official communications including university circulars, mark sheets, etc. are e-mailed to the faculty members and students. The college office also uses mobile phone based applications like SMS, Whatsapp, etc. for official communication. The college is located in a 26 acre plot, the majority of which is occupied by cashew plantation. We also maintain a small garden in the front of the main building to ensure aesthetic sense. A large number of precious trees like Sandalwood are also grown in the campus.

The Highlights of Green Campus Policy

- MMNSS College should stand dedicated to promoting sustainability through green campus initiatives.
- The college must restrict automobile entry to reduce vehicular emissions, encouraging the use of bicycles and battery-powered vehicles.
- Pedestrian-friendly pathways must be provided, promoting safety, accessibility, and a healthier lifestyle by reducing reliance on motor transport.
- The campus should enforce a ban on plastic use to minimize waste and pollution.
- The college campus which is landscaped with trees and plants, enhancing aesthetic appeal, air quality, and contributing to a greener environment must be safeguarded and bettered for the use of futurity.
- The college must be committed to educating and creating awareness among students about sustainability and cleanliness.

- The college must endeavour to align itself with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to conduct and support cleaning drives both on and off campus.
- Awareness campaigns and cleaning initiatives must be conducted periodically to educate students and staff about cleanliness and hygiene.
- Community service projects through NSS, Bhoomitrasena, and Nature Club should be incorporated under co-curricular activities for students.
- Competitions such as poster making, essay writing, speeches, and spoken word poetry on themes of environmental protection and cleanliness should be organized periodically for students.
- Rallies and awareness campaigns on cleanliness and environmental issues should be conducted on campus and in nearby areas.
- The college must undertake the cleaning of beaches, lakes and other ecologically sensitive areas.
- The college must ensure the conduct of energy and environmental audit.
- Proper disposal of waste materials, including e-waste, broken furniture, and obsolete equipment, must be ensured with a focus on reducing, recycling, and reusing.
- Students should receive training in waste management and maintaining campus cleanliness under the guidance of NSS, Nature Club, and Bhoomitrasena.

SIGNIFICANT GREEN CAMPUS/CLEAN CAMPUS INITIATIVES

A. Comprehensive Waste Management

MMNSS College has established a strong commitment to environmental sustainability, demonstrated through its comprehensive waste management practices. By focusing on the principles of reducing, reusing, and recycling, the college ensures that its campus remains clean, safe, and environmentally friendly. This commitment extends to managing various types of waste, including solid waste, liquid waste, biomedical waste, e-waste, and hazardous chemicals.

I. Solid Waste Management

Solid waste management at MMNSS College is structured around the effective segregation and disposal of waste. Different types of dustbins are strategically placed throughout the campus

to facilitate the separation of solid waste into biodegradable and non-biodegradable categories. Biodegradable waste is collected daily and disposed of in designated areas, where it is used as manure for the trees on campus. This practice not only reduces waste but also contributes to the college's green initiatives by supporting the growth of vegetation.

Non-biodegradable waste, including plastics and other non-compostable materials, is carefully sorted, collected, and stored before being transported for recycling. The college collaborates with *Haritha Karma Sena*, a group of trained workers under the Haritha Kerala Mission of the Government of Kerala, to ensure that non-biodegradable waste is collected and sent to shredding units for recycling. This partnership highlights the college's dedication to reducing its environmental impact through sustainable waste management practices.

II. Liquid Waste Management

The college takes a proactive approach to liquid waste management. Liquid waste generated on campus is segregated, collected, and stored in appropriate containers before being transported to treatment facilities. To ensure the safety of those handling waste, the college advises the use of personal protective equipment such as masks, headgear, eye covers, aprons, gloves, and boots. These precautions help to prevent the transmission of infections and protect the health of waste management personnel. Additionally, the college encourages immunization against Hepatitis B for staff members involved in waste handling as an extra precautionary measure.

III. Biomedical Waste Management

Biomedical waste generated in the college's laboratories is managed with strict adherence to safety protocols. Waste bins are provided in each laboratory for the disposal of biomedical waste, which is then collected by trained personnel. Special containers are used for sharp objects, broken glassware, and chemically contaminated materials to minimize the risk of injury or contamination. The college ensures that biomedical waste is transported to authorized disposal facilities, where it is treated to prevent environmental contamination.

IV. E-Waste Management

E-waste management is another area where MMNSS College demonstrates its commitment to sustainability. Outdated and non-functional electronic devices are collected and stored securely

until they can be handed over to certified e-waste recyclers. This practice prevents hazardous materials from entering the environment and promotes the recycling of valuable electronic components.

V. Hazardous Chemicals Management

The college also places a high priority on the safe management of hazardous chemicals. Laboratory waste, including hazardous chemicals, is placed in specialized containers and stored securely until it can be safely disposed of by authorized waste management services. This careful handling ensures that hazardous materials do not pose a risk to health or the environment.

B. Organic Farming

MMNSS College Kottiyam has placed predominant importance on Organic Farming. Organic farming aims at the development of viable and sustainable agriculture. As part of encouraging organic farming, the NSS volunteers of our college periodically engage themselves in the use of nature friendly farming techniques. They prepare the soil for cultivating different vegetable breeds such as ladies finger, bitter guard, pea, tapioca, plantain etc. The students use botanical pesticides extracted from neem, tobacco and other medicinal plants. Selective microbial pesticides, for example, *Bacillus thuringiensis* is also used for better results. Organic materials such as farm yard manure, compost and green manure are used to enhance growth. At the end of each term of cultivation a 'Vilaveduppu mahotsava' or harvest festival is conducted at the campus. At the end of the day the yields are distributed to the needy and the poor and are also utilized as food resources at the college canteen.

C. Anti-Plastic Awareness Campaigns

The IQAC, NSS, Nature Club, Bhoomithra Sena and other clubs and departments working in the college are committed to strong and persistent Anti-Plastic Awareness Campaigns. As part of this commitment the college frequently organises hands on training for students to make paper bags, paper pens, cloth bags etc by collaborating itself with Kollam Haritha Kerala Mission, an initiative of the government of Kerala to create a sustainable society. The college has also associated itself with the local self-government, the Mayyanad Grama Panchayat to ensure that the campus is plastic free. There are periodic cleaning drives conducted in the campus as part of this and the waste collected are handed over to the green volunteers of the

local self-government for recycling. In order to combat the pestering issue of littering exhausted plastic pens, the the Mayyanad Grama Panchayat has placed a box in the campus called “thoolikacheppu”, a used pen deposit bank where students can dispose their exhausted pens, to ease the task of collecting. The college conducts periodic awareness classes as part of celebration of days connected to the protection of environment like World Environment Day, World Forestry Day and Ozone Day to spread message on the harmful effects of plastic and the need to practice sustainable alternatives.

D. Water conservation

MMNSS College is dedicated to effective water conservation through a range of strategic facilities. Rainwater harvesting systems have been implemented across the campus to capture and utilize rainwater, reducing reliance on external water sources. The college also focuses on borewell and open well recharge techniques, which enhance groundwater levels and promote sustainable water use.

The maintenance of water bodies and the distribution system within the campus ensures that water resources are managed efficiently and effectively. These efforts not only contribute to the sustainability of the college’s water supply but also support the broader goal of environmental stewardship. Through its comprehensive water conservation measures, MMNSS College exemplifies its commitment to preserving water resources and promoting sustainable practices.

E. Environmental Stewardship

MMNSS College Kottiyam firmly believe in nurturing socially responsible citizens who are dedicated to preserving the environment. As part of this commitment, the students of the institution, particularly those from the NCC and NSS Units, frequently undertake significant environmental initiative aimed at cleaning and protecting two of our region's vital natural assets—Kollam Beach and Ashtamudi Lake. Encouraged by the college's ethos of community service and sustainability, the students periodically engage in collecting plastic waste from these areas. Their efforts have led to the successful removal of plastic litter, which are responsibly handed over to the district authorities for proper sorting and processing. This initiative not only reflects our college's values but also contributes to the larger goal of environmental conservation. In addition to the cleanup activities, the students organize

awareness campaigns in these locations to educate the public on the importance of keeping our natural surroundings clean. These campaigns align with the college's mission to foster environmental consciousness among both students and the broader community. MMNSS College Kottiyam remains committed to supporting and encouraging such initiatives, as they represent the core values of civic responsibility and environmental stewardship that we strive to instill in our students.

Conclusion

Through its staunch green campus/clean campus initiatives, MMNSS College demonstrates a strong commitment to environmental sustainability. By effectively managing resources and disposing wastes, the college minimizes its environmental footprint and fosters a culture of environmental responsibility among its students and staff. The efforts made by the college stands itself as an adaptable model for sustainable practices in educational institutions, setting a standard for others to follow.