

# **GREEN CAMPUS POLICY**

## **1. Introduction**

Holy Cross College is identified as a “Clean and Green Campus” and the relationship between the college and nature is long and enduring. The college promotes eco- friendly sustainable practices in our campus. The college inculcates environmental consciousness among the faculty members and students by providing various opportunities and thus redefining its environmental culture.

## **2. Vision**

The policy envisions developing a community that is resource-efficient, ecologically healthy, and prosperous by effective waste management and implementing 3Rs – Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. The college educates its student community and disseminates to the general public to conserve nature and to be environmentally conscious.

## **3. Objectives**

- To develop an eco-friendly and sustainable campus by educating the faculty and students
- To enable a plastic free campus
- To create awareness among all the stakeholders and the local community to seek the adoption of environmental good practice, and reduce negative effects on the environment

- To integrate environmental concerns through extension and outreach activities
- To increase the green cover area both inside and outside the campus
- To continuously improve the efficiency and effectiveness in use of all resources, including energy and water, and to reduce consumption in the amount of waste produced, recovering and recycling waste where possible
- To conduct Environmental and Energy audits from time to time.
- To minimize the use of paper in administration by following the policy for E-governance.
- 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 work with all stakeholders and the local community to raise awareness and seek the adoption of environment friendly practices for minimising of any adverse effects on the environment
- To continuously enhance our share for climate protection and to the conservation of global resources.

#### **4. Green Campus Committee**

- Principal (The Chairman)
- Office Superintendent

- Bursar
- Dean – Academic Affairs
- Co-ordinators of Eco club and Green Audit Committee
- IQAC Co-ordinator
- Dean of student affairs
- Dean of Extension Activities
- NSS Programme Officers
- Student representatives (Student Council members)
- Heads of the Departments

## **5. Green campus Initiatives**

The institute supports a clean and green campus by encouraging students and staff to adopt various initiatives thereby promoting eco-friendly behaviours in order to create awareness and to protect the environment both within their own communities and globally.

### **5.1. Landscape initiatives**

The college strives to plant and maintain different types of plants including medicinal plants, ornamental plants and wild species within the campus. Adequate support staff have been appointed for maintenance of gardens and also keeping the campus litter free. More than a hundred species of Arthropods and rare birds are found inside the campus thus contributing to the campus's high biodiversity. By organising yearly tree-planting initiatives, the college

demonstrates its commitment to enhance its healthy ecosystem and upholding the symbiotic relationship between the institution and nature. The clubs and committees are encouraged to organise tree-planting activities from time to time. Additionally, green campus landscaping controls runoff, aids in groundwater recharging, and purifies and cools campus air. Every year on June 5<sup>th</sup>, the "International Plantation Day" and "World Environmental Day" are observed by organizing various competitions for students. Among the 20 acres of the college campus two thirds of the area is green cover which produces more oxygen.

Besides these, the Department of Botany maintains herbal garden and Department of Zoology maintains the Vermi-compost unit. The tree-plantation drives are undertaken by the NSS and NCC Units of the college and also by the Departments of Botany, Zoology, Eco-Club, RUN and UBA on regular basis.

## **5.2. Clean Air Initiatives**

The college promotes the usage of public transit among our students and employees. In order to reduce air pollution and improve social interaction, the college practices "Shuttle Free Day" once a semester. The entry of automobiles is restricted inside the campus and to promote the use of bicycles and e-vehicles.

## **5.3. Infrastructural Initiatives**

The institution supports switching to clean green energy sources like solar energy for the energy consumption to reduce the consumption of power generated by non-renewable resources. As an initiative, the Department of Physics which consumes more energy for laboratory purposes is made fully solar powered. The

college pledges to reduce energy consumption by using sensor based smart electronic appliances and energy-efficient electrical appliances that minimise inefficient waste.

#### **5.4. Rainwater Harvesting**

The college uses rainwater harvesting to restore the groundwater level. The replenishment and recharging of the groundwater are aided by this approach. The college intentionally collects rainwater because it understands the importance of every drop of water. The college has developed a useful plan with numerous pits where rainwater is collected for storage. The rooftops are properly maintained so that unwanted trash does not mingle with the rainwater flowing into the well.

#### **5.5. Pedestrian friendly pathway**

All around the campus, pedestrian-friendly roads have been laid for the safety and comfort of the students and staff members.

#### **5.6. Paperless Office**

The college office operates on a paperless principle, displaying all notices and information digitally via email, Google groups, WhatsApp Groups, Google Classrooms, etc. Additionally, high-speed Wi-Fi is made available inside the campus. Reusing one-sided paper for notes, sketches, rough work, rough prints, and other purposes; using cashless transactions; and using multi-user printers at the central administrative areas in the college office are some other methods that try to reduce the usage of paper and using public address systems cuts down the amount of paper used in announcements and circulars. In addition to going

paperless in the classroom, the college has also introduced "Learning Management System" wherein references, notes, syllabus, question banks, study material is stored and shared on the e-platform, avoiding massive usage of paper. The teachers have also experimented with alternatives of paper - based testing with e - assignments and other skill -based tests like presentations, group discussions, etc., Marks, attendance, feedback and other details of staff and students are uploaded in ERP.

### **5.7. E-waste management**

Awareness programmes on e-waste reduction and environmentally appropriate e-waste disposal techniques are organised. Institutional waste has been disposed properly. The procured e-waste is given to e-waste shops for recycling. E-waste management initiatives at the departmental and societal levels are taken care of inside the campus. Departments dispose off faulty computers, printers, and other equipment that is then sold as scrap. Printer cartridges are replaced and the UPS batteries are recharged. Enough funds are allotted to modernise the systems.

### **5.8. Solid waste management**

The college employs the 3Rs - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. Paper waste generated inside the campus is collected, segregated and recycled. Steps are taken to create awareness among the student community about the following topics: reducing packaged food consumption; promoting the habit of reusing and recycling non-biodegradable products; and organising workshops on solid waste

management. As a part of the Swachh Bharat mission, solid trash is segregated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable categories before being delivered to the Municipal Corporation. Dustbins are available in all the departments and in the classrooms for the disposal of dry waste. Garbage is separated into dry and moist waste from the designated dustbins thus keeping the campus clean and environmentally friendly.

### **5.8.1 Vermicompost Unit**

The Department of Zoology has a vermicomposting unit. The students take an active role in managing this unit. Students gather organic trash from the college grounds and dump it in a designated vermicompost tank. The right quantities of vermin beds are created using broken bricks, coconut husks, dried leaves, organic waste, cow dung and earthworms. Students work together to install this mixture in the tank and correctly irrigate the vermicompost after 8 weeks. Vermicompost that is pure, odourless, and granular in texture is achieved in the first flush. Students are given technical guidance and help in the case of mass production. If there is too much water, a liquid called vermin wash can be drawn through a pipe from the tank. Vermi wash can also be used as manure.

### **5.8.2 Soil Management**

The vermicompost prepared by the Department of Zoology is used as fertilizers for the plants grown in college campus and make the soil fertile and nutrient rich. This process helps in maintaining the soil fertility without using chemicals.

## **5.9. Liquid Waste Management**

The college maintains water-tight fixtures. Indian-style toilets are more in number than western-style toilets so as to reduce the use of water. Support staff are appointed to promptly halt any water leaks from faucets, pipelines, tanks, toilet flushes, etc. The students are educated that conserving water also means conserving their future. The disposal unit for laboratory hazardous chemical waste receives the hazardous liquid containing chemicals. The laboratory waste liquid percolates into the soil using various water percolation systems. This percolation pit functions similarly to a rainwater collection system. For greater percolation, river sand is placed in the pit after gravel/pebbles. The administrative staff takes care in checking the frequency of cleaning the water tanks. Every stakeholder is knowledgeable about how to use water wisely and effectively. An oxidation pond with phyto remediating plants situated near the nursery garden filters the waste water from the hostel.

## **5.10. Plastic free campus**

Since its foundation, the college has been performing the majority of its obligations in terms of managing solid waste. The college management firmly prohibits the use of single use plastics in its goal to turn it into a "Plastic Free Campus" following the protocols of the Government's decision to outlaw all single use plastics due to its harmful effects. To reduce the use of plastic bags on campus, a new programme called "Manjappai- A fabric Bag" has been launched. Students and other stakeholders are the target of awareness campaigns

encouraging the usage of cloth bags rather than plastic ones. The Department of Zoology and the Eco Club collects the used plastic pens from all the classrooms and Departments and discard them safely to the Municipal Corporation. All the departments have put into practice the promotion of manjappai during seminars and conferences as conference kits.

### **5.11. HCIIC**

The Holy Cross Innovation and Incubation centre has initiated and motivated the students to start eco-friendly startups. HCIIC has start-ups such as Aha Oho sweets and Confectionaries (traditional sweets made of organic cereals and pulses), Alleure Heena (Chemical free henna), Triangle Beauty Care and Make Over (natural products), Eden gifts and handicrafts (handicrafts made of eco-friendly materials), Mushroom cultivation, Chem Clean (organic cleaners), Blossom Nursery (ornamental plants, trees and herbal plants), Green Crafters, Eco sparkles and Eco banners (Cloth Banners). HCIIC appreciates young Entrepreneurs with eco-friendly products.

### **5.12. Biogas Unit**

The college has a biogas plant constructed within the campus. It creates LPG equivalent to methane. Food waste from the canteen and the Hostel Mess are used as primary raw material. It is highly safe to utilise this gas because it is not as explosive as LPG. Gas leaks or storage are not a concern.

### **5.13. Green audit**

In order to advance our objectives of long-term sustainability, the college plans to regularly perform a Green Audit of our college campus to evaluate our strengths and weaknesses. A great method for figuring out how and where the majority of energy, water, or resources are being used is a green audit. The college adopts a policy of effective waste management thus fostering sustainability.

#### Major Green Campus Initiatives

- Observing Shuttle free day once a semester
- Power shut down once a month to conserve electricity
- Promoting the use of bicycles and battery powered vehicles among the staff and students
- Organizing rallies, seminars and workshops on environmental conservation
- Rain water harvesting
- Biogas is used as fuel for cooking in the hostel
- Solid waste management through vermi compost
- Pedestrian – friendly pathways inside the campus
- Use of majappai instead of plastic files as conference kits for seminars and workshops
- Eco-friendly banners for seminars and workshops instead of flex printing which is also a Startup initiative
- Landscaping with trees and plants

- Ban on single – use plastic
- Display Boards to Promote Environmental Sensibility on CollegeCampus
- The Green, Environmental and Energy Audit
- Use of LED Bulbs/Tubes and Power Efficient Equipments

The Institution will make all the necessary efforts to involve the students, faculty and staff in “Green Campus Initiatives” by designating the volunteers of Eco Club, NSS volunteers & NCC cadets, RUN and UBA to use manjappai (cloth bags) specially designed for the purpose. The college strives to perpetuate eco-friendly practices and will review the policy on a regular basis to evaluate continued relevance and to monitor compliance.