

Green Policy



Internal Quality Assurance Cell **RAMA DEVI WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY**

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1. Introduction

In an effort to frame a 'Green Campus Policy', the Rama Devi Women's University in after referred to as RDWU recognizes that its use of resources and activities has an impact on the external environment through physical, economic or social interventions. Conservation of natural resources, zero waste zone, carbon footprint, water conservation, renewable energy are key factors when it comes to sustainability of environment. RDWU, through its faculty members, students and staff seeks to make a positive impact on the environment at every campus through significant environmental sustainability initiatives. RDWU plays a leading role in developing a culture of growth and development through sustainable practices. RDWU as a University plays a crucial role in protecting the environment and keeping campus green. In accordance with this broad vision focusing on developing 'Green Campus', the RDWU 'Green Campus Policy' affirms its commitment to recognizing environment and sustainability related issues at campuses and demonstrates its intention to address those issues through continual improvement in developing sound environmental policies and safe operational and sustainable practices in compliance with the national mandates and guidelines framed by the Govt. of India.

2. Aim and Objectives

- i. RDWU aims to develop high standards of 'Green Campus' through utilization of green technologies and best practices with its own distinctive character through the following key aims and objectives:
- ii. To generate and instill awareness about environmental issues, resource use and sustainability amongst all stakeholders of the university for an overall perspective of environmental protection.
- iii. To demonstrate institutional green initiatives and practices that promote environmental sustainability through continuous education and training.
- iv. To create a platform for students, faculty members and staff to gain knowledge about biodiversity, environmental sustainability, case studies of best practices, green waste management systems, conservation of natural resources, renewable energy sources and overall environmental protection through every individual action and initiative through research, relevant curriculum programmes and field visits.
- v. To conduct research for development of sustainable practices and actions for clean and healthy surrounding.

- vi. To promote and implement collaborative partnerships with relevant stakeholders such as government organizations, industry, civil society organizations, NGOs and academic institutions to improve policy and understanding of Green Campus initiatives to enhance capacity of organization.
- vii. To conduct regular environmental audits for improvement and sustainability of all campuses of RDWU.
- viii. To organize and participate in national events, workshops, seminars, conferences for promoting environmental sustainability, best practices for a clean and green campus.
- ix. Develop an integrated sustainability action plan for RDWU which can be incorporated as a priority area in decision making of the University's mandate.
- x. To ensure that all activities at the University meet applicable environmental standards, regulations, and guidelines at National and international levels.

3. Policy Statement

The present policy will seek to develop strategies for a sustainable green campus and promote analysis for environment sustainability which may be relevant to the regional and global scenarios, leading to sustainable and equitable development. RDWU will actively pursue a policy of advocating a green Campus culture through environmental sustainability initiatives and best practices across its Constituent institutes. The mission of the policy is to prioritize all aspects of environmental responsibility into policies, programs and practices. The initiative will directly stimulate the development of projects that enhance the sustainability of both the educational and physical landscape.

4. Activities

The activities pertaining to Green Campus at RDWU will revolve around the following areas of sustainable development through activities on education and capacity building, research, campaigns and awareness, biodiversity documentation and resource use, knowledge resources, development of best practices, etc.

4.1 Education and capacity building

RDWU will develop capabilities in the environmental sustainability areas for building capacity of students and professionals through integrated education programmes as well as niche-oriented certification programmes to suit the needs of all relevant stakeholders.

4.1.1. Green Initiatives

RDWU intends to extend learning beyond the classroom to inculcate and develop responsible attitude, habits and lasting commitment towards environmental conservation and protection, be it at home, on the campus or in the wider community. The core of the initiative is a strategic plan to be used as a reference for staff, faculty and students. The plan identifies aspects of management where resources are not environmentally and economically utilized. In such areas community members will work to implement more sustainable alternatives. The campus environmental initiative aims to raise awareness amongst all stakeholders about local and low-impact living and operational practices for building sustainability. The success of the initiative will be evaluated periodically through environmental audits that evaluate its progress in achieving the objectives and commitments. The policy advocates green initiatives and commitments towards, but not limiting to:

- i. Formation of Green-Campus Committee at different levels of university management, staff, students and local community for execution and monitoring of green initiatives and impact monitoring at campus.
- ii. Awareness on biodiversity conservation and protection through group meetings, field visits, nature interpretation centers
- iii. Conducting events on important environmental days to promote environmental sustainability
- iv. Improving green cover through afforestation of local habitats using sound ecological methods and practices.
- v. Promote a plastic-free campus through plastic collection drives, reducing disposable plastic use through awareness creation.
- vi. Establish a zero-waste culture on campus by integrating it into education curriculum and other activities on campus, so members of the campus community will leave as Zero Waste leaders.
- vii. Providing curricular opportunities for study of campus and local environmental issues.
- viii. Improving sanitation and hygiene through enabling access of tools for sustainability
- ix. Initiate waste management through primary action of reducing campus waste generation and management of campus waste by utilizing on-site waste processing green systems such as composting, biogas, biological waste water treatment, systems for pre-processing and recycling of recyclable waste.

- x. Water and other natural resource management through initiatives such as rain waste harvesting, recharge pits, reduction in paper use, utilizing regional and organic food sources, etc.

4.2. Research

The policy advocates faculty and student's interaction in green campus sustainability related research across the Institute and University level, and develop links with campus sustainability initiatives in water, energy, waste, biodiversity, land use and transportation. The policy emphasizes and encourages inter-and trans-disciplinary research in the environment sustainability areas by:

- i. Encouraging students to conduct environment related research on campus and in local areas (communities) and industry.
- ii. Promoting interdisciplinary research amongst faculty members by providing appropriate research infrastructure with relevance to issues around environment, management, and society.
- iii. Conducting environmental audits that could highlight possible environmental research issues for efficiency improvement of the green campus program.
- iv. Ensuring that research carried out at RDWU is based on sustainable practices and is ethically and environmentally sound.
- v. Conducting Conferences/Seminars/workshops/Symposia of Regional, National or International level to generate a platform for the faculty, students, researchers and civil society network to share and exchange their thoughts and ideas through their research work.

4.3. Campaigns and Awareness

As a part of promoting Green Campus and Sustainability as a key aspect of RDWU's vision, RDWU will seek to promote and implement environment related campaigns and awareness programs across all its constituent institutes. These include:

- i. Involvement of staff, faculties and students in conducting of camps, seminars, workshops, drives, rallies for communicating environmental concerns and issues from classroom to field action.
- ii. Involvement with local communities and industries through a participatory approach.

- iii. To develop academic—industry focused campaigns on matters of current interest and needs.

4.4. Resource Use

The use of natural resources is a key aspect of understanding how effectively we are using our existing resources. The policy strives to develop periodic assessments of the utilization of various resources at RDWU by measuring its environmental footprint with regard to key natural resources like water, energy, biodiversity, land use and buildings, solid waste etc.

4.4.1. Water

Each campus location draws on the resource of water based on local land use and terrain. Every location may develop a sustainable water management plan which will look at the following activities:

- i. Describe the applicable types of water comprising water systems, including but not limited to potable water, non-potable water, industrial water, sterilized water, reclaimed water, and wastewater.
- ii. Develop water conservation and water efficiency strategies taking into account local ecological and regional conditions and regulatory requirements.
- iii. Review and report water usage at each building location in a systematic manner by way of metered utilization, implementing leak detection program
- iv. Outline location specific strategies for achieving the target for reduced potable water consumption for other activities where reuse of treated water is possible.
- v. Encourage implementation of innovative water-efficient technologies as part of capital projects and renovations (e.g. installation of Water efficient technologies, fixtures and appliances, gray water reuse, rainwater harvesting, and watershed restoration)
- vi. Identify Indirect costs and savings associated with reduced energy consumption due to the energy use embodied in water use,
- vii. Activities that have the potential to pollute the water shed (e.g., construction; trenching; storage of outdoor equipment, materials, and waste; landscaping maintenance; outdoor cleaning practices; vehicle parking)
- viii. Identify opportunities for new and innovative practices with regard to water use and management.

4.4.2. Energy

RDWU will strive and work towards developing a sustainable energy framework by implementing energy conservation and energy efficiency related activities at all campuses. This will include activities aimed at reducing consumption of nonrenewable energy through approaches that will include a combination of energy efficiency projects, implementation of local renewable energy for existing and new facilities, renewable energy purchase through the grid, and other energy saving activities which will lead to significant measures and a positive effect on the environment. In doing so, RDWU will follow the following approach in tune with the universities' Energy Policy':

- i. Create awareness among students, faculty members, and all relevant stakeholders on the efficient use of energy, electricity consumption on campuses and encourage energy conservation in operational activities.
- ii. Promote student driven projects and studies on energy conservation and optimal use of usage of energy utility systems.
- iii. Plan and progress towards conducting energy audits and monitoring of energy use at all campuses.
- iv. Create a platform for generating power through appropriate renewable energy at all campus locations to the extent possible.
- v. RDWU will make efforts to use energy efficiency as the basis to retrofit appliances and technologies at all its campus locations and infrastructure through a long-term plan to reduce energy consumption keeping in mind growth of the University.

4.4.3. Waste Management

As part of the Green Campus Policy, Waste Management Policy, Environmental Sustainability Policy and Energy Policy, RDWU will strive to develop a holistic approach to addressing waste and waste related issues at its campus locations in a view to maintain sustainable green campus. The various aspects of waste considered within the purview of this policy will be all forms of waste discarded from campus locations, residential locations within campuses including wet waste, solid waste, any recyclable waste, bio medical waste, hazardous waste, e-waste, waste water from campuses, etc. RDWU will:

- i. Nurture a high level of awareness of waste minimization and advocacy using the principle of reduce, reuse and recycle (Rs 3) practice within campuses.

- ii. RDWU will develop a strategic policy and action plan to address all sorts of waste generated on the campus and resource use.
- iii. Make efficient use of resources to minimize waste production whilst increasing recycling and reuse within campuses.
- iv. Work towards adopting a paperless work culture in the campus to reduce environmental footprint and to improve overall operational efficiency.
- v. Development of demonstrative model for on-site waste processing and recycling green technologies/systems and recovery of resources/ useful products from wastes.
- vi. Development of innovative technologies and improvement of existing technologies through research for sustainable Green Campus development and development of advocacy programmes with communities and stakeholders.
- vii. Formulate an integrated waste management policy and action plan involving all stakeholders of society and communities (students, policy makers, NGOs, Urban local bodies, corporators, Academic institutions, Industry and other agencies) complying the guidelines of the Govt. of India for Swachh Campus', which is an integral part of Green Campus development.

4.4.4. Biodiversity, Land use and Buildings

Being a health promoting University in India, RDWU 's responsibilities towards environment and for its society is an ongoing responsibility to enhance and protect the biodiversity landscape at RDWU and its constituent institutes as also develop sustainable infrastructure systems. RDWU shall make every endeavor to create, maintain and strengthen the existing proportion of green space at its campus by addressing:

A. Biodiversity

- i. Establishment of a Biodiversity Cell to conduct, monitor and review programs and projects related to various biodiversity related activities
- ii. Make a habitat map of the campus or of particular areas within campuses.
- iii. Conduct an inventorisation and status survey of flora and fauna diversity of all campuses. Efforts will be made to identify threatened and endangered species of flora and fauna.
- iv. Develop a biodiversity action plan aimed to protecting indigenous habitats and key species.

- v. Investigate ground management methodologies, especially the use of herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, water use for irrigation etc.
- vi. Carry out afforestation, plantation and maintenance of appropriate trees, shrubs and other indigenous vegetation through ecologically sound practices.
- vii. Investigate risk of invasive species introduction and methods to prevent or manage a potential or existing problem.
- viii. Follow environmentally sound practices in maintaining existing landscape and its vegetation.
- ix. Conduct awareness campaigns for faculty, students and staff through nature walks and biodiversity surveys
- x. Development of Butterfly Gardens on campus to bring awareness and sensitivity among students and faculty regarding ecology and environment.
- xi. Create a Nature Interpretation centre for sensitizing all stakeholders including visitors to RDWU on the importance of ecology and environment. This includes appropriate signages, dioramas, exhibits, books and periodicals on ecology, environment and wildlife conservation.
- xii. Implement suitable strategies for domesticated animals including stray dogs.
- xiii. Use Citizen science platform through security guards, garden staff and housekeeping staff for regular documentation of biodiversity of campus
- xiv. Conduct University Biodiversity Committee meetings to discuss and review implemented actions on all above.

B. Building Design

- i. Infrastructure establishments (campus academic blocks, hostel blocks, residential sites for employees) will be designed, constructed, and commissioned using the latest sustainable building design norms, materials and technologies with a special emphasis on environmental conservation and protection.
- ii. RDWU will strive to achieve green building certification for its campuses using the established green building rating systems, ISO norms for all its establishments wherever possible within the constraints of RDWU needs and standard budget parameters.
- iii. RDWU will develop its internal quality management systems with regard to sustainability processes with a long-term vision to attain campus sustainability certification through global campus sustainability standards.

C. Building Renovation

All refurbishments of campus infrastructure will consider use of appropriate sustainable technologies for fixtures, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems, and landscaping as per accepted norms of the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).

5. Green Campus Policy Benefits

Green Campus Policy envisages RDWU to strongly support the implementation of the policy through:

5.1. Institutional benefits:

- i. Development of a forum for university management, academic/research staff and students to meet and interact on common interest
- ii. Empowerment of University fraternity
- iii. Promotes and encourages innovation and change
- iv. Help prevent and reduce negative environmental impacts
- v. Enhances branding, promotion and publicity as a Sustainable University

6. Policy Responsibilities and Steps of Green Campus Program

- i. RDWU will constitute a Green Campus Committee to regulate the implementation of this policy. It will be a representative of campus community directing the campus involvement in the program.
- ii. The Committee, will conduct a campus review from environmental and Green Campus perspective to identify targets for improvement.
- iii. RDWU will develop an action plan based on Green Campus Committee inputs with achievable targets with completion dates and responsibilities.
- iv. RDWU will establish proper mechanisms for monitoring and evaluation of Green Campus program to ensure that progress towards targets is checked and amendments made wherever necessary.
- v. RDWU will link the Green Campus activities/program to learning on campus.
- vi. RDWU will communicate its activities involving the wider community through publicity, awareness raising and focused outreach.
- vii. RDWU will develop a guidance document on how to manage 'Green Campus' as a Green Charter.

6.1. Review of Policy

The Policy will be reviewed, once every five years or earlier subject to matter of exigencies, as the case may be. The policy will be reviewed with the sole intent of understanding the efficacy of

- i. Implementing sustainable 'Green Campus' practices at RDWU.
- ii. Its facilities for creating an infrastructure for developing and strengthening implementation, provisions and operations including the aspects of resource usage, building infrastructure, transportation, use of services, advent of local, national and international regulations and standards. To this extent RDWU will facilitate the active participation of its stakeholders, particularly students, faculty, administrators and staff as well as external organizations in the implementation of this policy.

6.2. Compliance

All Directors, Campus administrators and others holding responsible positions will implement the policy guidelines as stated above. The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of RDWU may facilitate conduct of annual sustainability audits of campuses to ensure compliance of the policy.