

# **Green Policy of Osmania University**

## *Preface*

In an era defined by environmental challenges and the urgent need for sustainable practices, Osmania University stands at the forefront of commitment to green initiatives and environmental responsibility. As a venerable institution of learning and innovation, Osmania University recognizes its pivotal role in nurturing not only the minds of future generations but also the very environment that sustains us all.

This Green Policy is a testament to Osmania University's unwavering dedication to fostering a campus that thrives in harmony with nature. It reflects our pledge to uphold the principles of environmental stewardship, conservation, and sustainable development. It is a resounding affirmation of our commitment to make Osmania University a beacon of sustainable practices and a shining example for all educational institutions to emulate.

At the heart of this policy lies a profound understanding of the interconnectedness of human existence and the natural world. We firmly believe that our actions today shape the environment of tomorrow, and thus, we are compelled to take decisive and conscientious steps towards a greener, more sustainable future.

The pillars of this Green Policy encompass a wide spectrum of initiatives, from the prudent utilization of resources and energy conservation to waste management, sustainable transportation, and environmental education. Through these endeavors, we aim to create a campus where the vibrant greenery coexists harmoniously with the pursuit of knowledge, where water and energy are conserved with diligence, where waste is minimized, and where sustainability is not just a concept but a way of life.

This policy is a living document, a dynamic blueprint for action that continually evolves to meet the ever-changing challenges of environmental responsibility. It is a testament to our willingness to learn, adapt, and innovate, always striving for excellence in our commitment to the environment.

As we embark on this transformative journey, we extend our hand in partnership to our faculty, students, staff, and the wider community. Your active involvement, dedication, and enthusiasm will be the driving force behind the success of this Green Policy. Together, we can create a campus that not only nurtures intellectual growth but also serves as a sanctuary for nature's wonders.

In this spirit, we invite you to join us in the pursuit of a greener, more sustainable future. Let us, as members of the Osmania University community, unite in our shared responsibility to protect and preserve our precious planet. Together, we can achieve a truly green and thriving campus that sets a shining example for all to follow.

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<b>Drafting Committee</b>		
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<b>Purpose of this Policy:</b>		
<p>The purpose of Osmania University's Green Policy is to foster sustainability, preserve biodiversity, and mitigate the environmental impacts of urbanization within our campus. It aims to create a harmonious coexistence between education and nature, setting a standard for responsible environmental stewardship and inspiring the broader community to embrace sustainable practices. This policy underscores our commitment to safeguarding the environment for present and future generations while enhancing the quality of life on our campus and beyond.</p>		

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## **Green Policy of Osmania University**

### **1. Preamble:**

In the hallowed halls of Osmania University, where knowledge is nurtured, minds are sharpened, and aspirations take flight, we recognize that our destiny is intertwined with the Earth's. We stand as a testament to the enduring pursuit of wisdom and the relentless quest for progress. It is in this venerable institution that we find the inspiration to embark on a transformative journey towards a more sustainable future.

The preamble to Osmania University's Green Policy serves as a guiding beacon, illuminating our path towards environmental responsibility and ecological harmony. As we look beyond the confines of our classrooms and campus, we embrace the profound connection between human existence and the natural world. We acknowledge our responsibility to safeguard the environment for future generations.

The aim of the Green Policy of Osmania University is to maintain the Campus clean and green in order to conserve the nature and natural resources available in the Campus. In the heart of a bustling city, nestled amidst the rapid urbanization and the ceaseless march of progress, lies the verdant haven known as Osmania University Campus. Within its sprawling expanse, nature has flourished, nurturing a rich tapestry of life. It is here that the wisdom of the ages converges with the resilience of the natural world, and in this convergence, we find inspiration.

Osmania University Campus is not just an institution of higher learning; it is a testament to the enduring bond between knowledge and nature. With 646 species of higher plants from 122 families, it is a sanctuary where biodiversity thrives, where every plant tells a story, and where the ebb and flow of seasons paint a vivid picture of life's ever-changing tapestry. It is a place where rare species find solace, and where the very essence of life is nurtured.

Yet, we are not untouched by the challenges of our times. The inexorable march of urban development has cast a shadow, threatening the delicate balance of our environment. With it comes pollution in its many forms, the depletion of our water tables, and the encroachment upon our green sanctuaries. The city of Hyderabad, in which our campus resides, bears witness to these changes, and as one of the largest and oldest universities in India, we recognize our responsibility to address them.

Today, Osmania University Campus emerges as an oasis of green amidst the urban sprawl, a sanctuary that holds the promise of a sustainable future. It is in this spirit that we embrace the concept of the 'Green Campus.' We pledge to be stewards of this precious ecosystem, to preserve and protect the life that thrives within our boundaries, and to extend our influence to the city we call home.

Our commitment to a 'Green Campus' is not just an aspiration; it is a declaration of our dedication to environmental responsibility. It is a promise to safeguard the lush green cover that defines our campus, to mitigate the impacts of urbanization, and to confront the challenges of our times head-on.

In this endeavor, we invite all members of the Osmania University community to stand beside us, to nurture and protect our natural heritage, and to become champions of sustainability. Together, we will ensure that Osmania University remains not only a beacon of knowledge but also a symbol of our collective commitment to a greener, more sustainable world.

As we embark on this journey, let us remember that we are not just shaping the future of our campus but also contributing to the well-being of our city, our planet, and the generations yet to come. With this 'Green Policy' as our guide, we set forth on a path of harmony, where education and nature coexist, and where the legacy of Osmania University lives on in a flourishing and sustainable world.

Activities under the green policy are as follows:

## **2. Green Campus:**

Osmania University shall ensure that the constructed area and human disturbed area shall not increase more than the 50% of the campus area.

To encourage maintenance of green campus through the following activities shall be taken up:

- a) Create more green areas by taking up regular plantation.
- b) Ban use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.
- c) Ensure that natural habitats are left undisturbed.
- d) Planting native species to promote conservation of local biodiversity.
- e) Stake holder participation to create awareness on wildlife conservation.
- f) Renovation of the existing water bodies to ensure ground water recharge.
- g) The proposed new buildings shall follow the green building guidelines to ensure energy efficiency.
- h) Create awareness to discourage plastic use on campus to make Osmania University as plastic free campus.
- i) Regular conduct of plastic waste removal activities in collaboration with agencies involved in plastic recycling.

## **3. Water conservation:**

Osmania University will aim to reduce its water consumption by 20% within the next 5 years. To ensure water conservation and reduce water consumption throughout the campus through the following activities:

- a) Fixing leaks, using water-efficient fixtures, and reducing

water consumption where ever possible.

- b) To setup sewage treatment plant to treat waste water and recycle the treated waste water for gardening and other such activities.
- c) Reinforce Rainwater Harvesting system to collect and store rainwater.
- d) Conduct regular water audits, leak detections, and track water usage for managing water consumption.
- e) To foster Partnership with Hyderabad Metropolitan water supply and sewerage board to implement remedial measures in case of emergency.

**4. Energy Conservation:** Osmania University will aim to reduce its energy consumption by 20% within the next 5 years by promoting energy conservation.

This could include:

- a) Switch off all electrical fixtures, appliances, equipment, instruments etc. when not in use.
- b) Use energy-efficient lighting and appliances.
- c) Encourage staff and students to use stairs instead of lifts, wherever possible.
- d) Implementing energy-saving practices such as monitoring and optimizing ventilation and air conditioning systems.
- e) Promote the use of renewable energy sources such as solar power and wind power.
- f) Installing solar panels on campus buildings.
- g) Promote use of biogas as power alternative.

**5. Waste Management:**

Osmania University shall implement a comprehensive Waste Management Policy to reduce waste, promote recycling, and minimize the amount of waste sent to landfill.

This could include:

- a) Reduce waste by promoting reuse and recycling.

- b) Promote paperless communication and documentation through e-Office and UMS.
- c) Implement an e-waste management policy for electronic devices.
- d) Encourage the use of reusable bags, bottles, and containers.
- e) Providing recycling bins around campus, reducing the use of disposable materials, composting organic waste, and implementing a waste reduction program.
- f) Provide separate bins for waste segregation.
- g) Compost kitchen waste from hostels to produce biogas and manure.
- h) Promote green waste management through regular shredding and composting.

#### **6. Sustainable Transport:**

Osmania University shall encourage sustainable transportation options such as:

- a) Promote the use of bicycles and e-vehicles on campus by staff and students.
- b) Encourage carpooling and promote the use of electric vehicles for general commuting by teaching and non-teaching staff.
- c) Develop bicycle parking facilities and solar powered e-vehicle charging points (Pay and use mode).
- d) Improve pedestrian infrastructure on campus to encourage walking mode of transportation.
- e) Encourage use of bicycles and public transportation by stakeholders in general outside the campus.

**7. Environmental Education:** Osmania University shall promote environmental education by offering courses, workshops, and seminars on sustainability and environmental issues. This could include

- a) Promote awareness among staff, students, and the wider community about environmental issues and the importance of sustainability.



- b) Incorporate sustainability education and research into the academic curriculum.
- c) Organize events and campaigns to promote environmental sustainability on campus and in the community.
- d) Establishment of Center for “Green Audit and Environmental Impact Assessment”.

## **8. Other activities**

### **a) Green initiatives in curriculum**

- i. Integrate environmental sustainability concepts across various disciplines.
- ii. Encourage research and projects related to green technologies, conservation, and eco-friendly practices.

### **b) Community engagement**

- i. Forge partnerships with local communities for joint environmental initiatives.
- ii. Organize tree-planting drives and clean-up campaigns in surrounding areas.

### **c) Reporting and accountability**

- i. Regularly monitor and report progress on green initiatives to stakeholders.
- ii. Establish a transparent system for tracking and evaluating the implementation of the Green Policy.

### **d) Continuous improvement**

- i. Conduct periodic assessments to identify areas for improvement and innovation.
- ii. Regularly review and update the Green Policy to stay aligned with emerging best practices.

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