

# DARJEELING GOVERNMENT COLLEGE

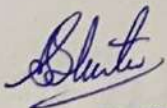
## Policy Document on Green Campus

### Introduction

Environmental issues and challenges have received major attention from all sections and fields in recent times. The rapid depletion and degradation of the environment due to urbanization, industrial development, and non-sustainable overpopulation have led to excessive exploitation of the environment which has resulted in adverse effects on ecology, health, sustainability, and posterity. Sensitization on environmental and sustainability issues is the most essential call of the hour. Educational institutions nurturing young minds provide an opportunity to create awareness and take self-responsibility to conserve and protect it. Therefore, it is an imperative to formulate a Clean, Green, and Environment-friendly policy focusing on and outlining our commitment to reducing, reusing, and recycling resources, conserving water and energy, reducing carbon emission, protecting biodiversity, and promoting sustainable practices in our college premises.

Darjeeling Government College is a co-educational fully government-funded college, established in 1948 in Darjeeling, West Bengal, India. The College is situated at an elevation of 2134 meters. It is near the famous Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, and the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. It offers postgraduate courses in Botany, Zoology, English, and Nepali and undergraduate courses in Nepali, English, Bengali, History, Hindi, Economics, Tibetan, Geography, Political Science, Philosophy, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Botany, Zoology, Microbiology and Commerce. Main Campus has a total area of 87,120 sq. feet with 38,976 sq. feet built-up area. Thus, the college has a green area of 55% which consists of different variety of trees, plants and gardens with local medicinal plants and herbs. The college also boasts of a wide variety of fauna inhabiting in the campus. It is surrounded by protected forest of PNZP from three sides and thus has thick green cover both inside and in the vicinity.

This college is committed to provide quality education and promote research that will contribute to the continual development of our society. The college is nearing towards 75<sup>th</sup> Year of its existence and we feel elated and proud to have achieved significant milestone at the same time acknowledging its responsibility. Taking into account the necessity of protecting environment for a sustainable, pollution-free and healthy life, the college has formulated its Green Policy.



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The college endeavors to follow this 'Green Policy' strictly by enacting and also creating environmental consciousness among the students and thereby in the society in general by organizing various activities within and outside the campus. The college is committed towards creating a green, pollution-free and healthy environment promoting environment sustainability and responsible use of resources in all aspects of its operation.

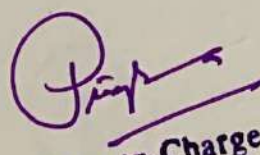
**Main focus areas for Green Campus Policy are:**

1. Landscaping Initiatives with trees and plants
2. Clean Campus Initiatives
3. Infrastructure
  - a) Installation of Energy efficient equipments
  - b) Water Conservation through Rain Water Harvesting System
4. Waste Management Processes
  - a) Liquid waste management
  - b) Solid waste management
  - c) E-waste management
5. Environment Centric Awareness Activities
6. Green Audit
7. Energy Audit

**Objective of the Policy**

- To educate and inculcate environment-friendly habits and values among students, faculty and non-teaching staff.
- To protect and conserve ecological systems and resources within the campus.
- To ensure judicious consumption and conservation of resources
- To integrate environmental concerns into policies, plans, and programs for social development through outreach activities.
- To work with all stakeholders and the local community to raise awareness and seek the adoption of environmental good practices and the reduction of any adverse effects on the environment.
- To continuously improve our contribution to environmental concerns.
- To continuously improve the efficient use of all resources, including energy and water, and to reduce consumption and the amount of waste produced, recovering and recycling waste where possible.
- To take necessary measures and monitor safe disposal of waste.

  
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- To make the campus plastic free.
- To conduct environmental and energy assessment audits from time to time and take measures as per their recommendation.

## Policy Statement

- ❖ **Sustainable Environmental Responsibility:** Darjeeling Government College is committed to promoting, conserving, and protecting the environment. It acknowledges its responsibility towards the environment and shall continuously engage in minimizing the adverse environmental impacts resulting from our operations and activities.
- ❖ **Maintenance and Promotion of Greenery:** Sustainable infrastructure is a vital part of the college campus, providing space for study, play, outdoor events, relaxation, and aesthetic appreciation. Green campus and landscape also help to reduce soil erosion in this hilly terrain and also provide clean air in and around the campus. There are several trees, shrubs, and medicinal plants in the campus along with grass cover. Green cover of college is home for number of biodiversities. The college shall actively hold drives for conserving, plantation, pruning, and cleaning. Since the college is nestled in the scenic beauty of the hills it is our moral obligation to maintain it within the campus.
- ❖ **Energy Conservation and Efficiency:** The College shall promote energy conservation technologies, methods and practices. Installation and Purchase of Energy efficient equipments shall be its top priority.
- ❖ **Initiative towards Renewable Energy:** The Institute shall explore opportunities and initiate towards the use of renewable energy sources on the campus, such as installation for solar energy harvesting and other alternatives. The institute shall also strive towards reduction and minimal dependence and use of fossil fuels.
- ❖ **Waste Management:** The College shall take proper measure and initiative for the management of liquid waste, solid waste and e-waste. It shall regularly monitor and devise plans and enact for its safe responsible disposal. The institution shall take appropriate measures to make the campus Plastic free.
- ❖ **Water Conservation:** The College has been committed to conserve water through conservation practices and conservation installations. It shall regularly assess to improve the conservation practices, extend facilities and installations.
- ❖ **Environmental Education and Awareness Initiatives:** Darjeeling Government College shall stimulate environmental awareness through campaigns, talks, seminars, interactive sessions, etc,

  
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among staff and students. This shall not be confined within the campus but shall actively engage outside the college with other local stakeholders for promotion, conservation, and protection of the environment through outreach and extension programs whenever it is possible.

- ❖ **Internal and External Monitoring:** To fulfill the Green Policy, the college shall periodically assess through a group of internal team members and approved External Assessment Auditors and follow up their recommendations.

## Compliance

The college shall comply with all the relevant laws, regulations and environmental standards. The Institute shall strive towards environmental certification and follow up its recommendations. It shall zealously endeavor to actualize the aims and purpose of this policy.

## Responsibilities and Role of stakeholders within the campus

1. **College Administration:** The college administration shall provide requisite resources and logistics to realize the implementation and execution of this policy.
2. **Internal Green and Energy Audit Assessment Team:** In pursuance of this policy, Internal Green and Energy Assessment team is necessary to oversee and assess the college's initiative and recommend measures for improvement. The External Assessment Team shall provide suggestions and recommendations to fulfill the Green and energy efficient policy
3. **Faculty and Staffs:** Faculties and Staffs of the college are expected to conform and actively participate in the initiatives and measures outlined in this policy.
4. **Students:** Students are encouraged to actively participate in programs, campaigns, drives and measures for protection of environment within as well as outside the campus. They are also expected to inculcate environmental friendly habits and values; and disseminate these values in their respective family and locality.

## Reporting and Monitoring

Implementation and execution of the measures to achieve the purpose of this policy shall be monitored annually and a sustainable report or assessment shall be published with recommendations.

  
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## Review and Follow up

The report submitted by the assessment team (Green and Energy) shall be reviewed and appropriate measures shall be promptly taken as per the recommendations of the Internal Assessment team and External Audit Assessment Team. The reports will be made available to all stakeholders on the College website and shall serve as a basis for continuous improvement and further sustainability initiatives.

## Epilogue

Darjeeling Government College is committed to the environmental cause and sustainable practices. It acknowledges its crucial role of leadership and mentoring the young generation on environmental concerns. The initiative and awareness shall inculcate environmentally friendly habits and values to its stakeholders. Through the collective efforts of Darjeeling Government College family, the Green Campus Policy envisions a Clean and Green Campus where environmental friendly practices and education combine to promote sustainable and eco-friendly habits and values both within the campus and beyond. It also offers the institution an opportunity to take the lead in redefining its environmental culture through instilling environmental ethics among the students and staff.

  
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