



THE ASSAM
ROYAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY
— GUAHATI —

GREEN CAMPUS POLICY

VERSION 1.0

IQAC

Internal Quality Assurance Cell

The Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati

 www.rgu.ac

INTRODUCTION

The rising human footprint and carbon footprint poses increasing challenge to the earth's natural environment in the present times. To alleviate the impact of human activities on the ecosystem, there is much effort that needs to be undertaken to alter how humans interact with the earth and with one another. Inclusion of diverse and wide-ranging approaches to problem solving is necessary to usher meaningful change. In such a context, universities not simply as centres of learning but as agents of change and catalysts for social and political action, need to proactively engage with and respond to climate change, sustainable development issues and associated risks and opportunities.

The Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations include five goals that are concerned about preservation of the natural environment. The Assam Royal Global University, Guwahati in keeping with the SDGs of the United Nations envisages a clean and green campus where environment-friendly and sustainable practices go hand in hand with a teaching-learning pedagogy that emphasizes on awareness towards protection and preservation of the environment—both on the campus and outside. The University's Green Campus policy offers an opportunity to undertake endeavours and take the lead in redefining the University's obligations towards a sustainable ecosystem and environmental culture by instilling environmental ethics among students and staff members.

PREAMBLE

The term 'Green Campus' refers to a campus in which environment-friendly practices and teaching-learning pedagogy come together to promote sustainable and eco-friendly practices in the campus. The green campus concept offers a university the opportunity to take the lead in redefining its environmental culture and developing new paradigms by creating sustainable solutions to environmental, social, and economic needs of the mankind.

In a university, a green campus implies an HEI with optimum land use, environmental planning, improving energy efficiency, conserving resources, enhancing environmental quality including habitat preservation, healthy living environment, use of renewable energy and management of wastes, water recycling etc. The buildings within the campus should be based on green building concepts as much as possible.

A green campus also implies a campus with effective waste management and disposal measures and use of conventional sources of energies for its daily power needs, correct disposal handling, purchase of environment friendly supplies and effective recycling program. The University must work out strategies to implement green campus initiatives, incorporated into the institutional planning and budgeting processes with the aim of developing a clean and green campus.


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RGU Green Vision

The Assam Royal Global University's vision is to generate, among students in particular and the public in general, awareness about environment related problems and the importance of conservation of nature and natural resources. The University's vision includes imparting education on how to adopt sustainable measures.

RGU Green Mission

The Assam Royal Global University's mission towards a clean and green campus include the following objectives:

- To generate awareness among students about the adverse effects of destroying the environment.
- To instill in students the sense of responsibility towards saving the environment.
- To encourage sustainable practices on campus and beyond.
- To adopt effective waste management measures.

SCOPE OF THE POLICY

The Assam Royal Global University through its green campus initiatives maintains a pollution free green and clean campus. The educational policies of the University reflect this concern and is in tune with the Government of India's Swachh Bharat Mission. The Green Campus Policy enables new curricular and co-curricular practices to encourage students to take the lead in ushering in positive change. These initiatives entail a thorough review of all infrastructural, administrative functions from the point of view of energy efficiency, sustainability, and the environment.

GREEN CAMPUS POLICY

As a reflection of the University's commitment towards managing its campus in accordance with responsibilities towards promoting sustainable environment, RGU's Green Campus Policy initiatives are pivoted on the following thrust areas:

Clean Campus Initiatives

- RGU pledges to coordinate cleanliness activities within the campus and beyond in accordance with UN SDGs on environment and climate as well as the values and vision of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Initiatives in this regard include the following:
- Generate awareness on cleanliness and hygiene among members of the student and staff fraternity through regular cleanliness drives.
- Activities under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to be a key component of all the community work by NSS in the University.
- Events such as poster-making and essay writing competitions, debates and skits, lectures and workshops on the importance of clean and green campus to

- be organized regularly by departments, schools, or clubs.
- Rallies on themes connected with 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' in and around the campus will be conducted to create mass awareness.
 - Effective waste management to be a cornerstone of the University's obligation towards maintaining and protecting the natural environment.
 - Conduct workshops on the 3Rs, i.e. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle of waste.
 - Commit to manage waste and maintain cleanliness on the campus during intra- or inter-university events.

Landscaping

The landscape of the University, like its buildings, can be seen as the embodiment of the University's values. The landscape is a vital part of life on the campus, providing the physical space to students and staff members for study, play, indoor and outdoor events, relaxation, and aesthetic appreciation. Green campus landscaping initiatives include management of runoff water, groundwater recharge, and clean air on campus. Landscaping in RGU acts as a visual representation of the University's commitment towards sustainability and build awareness about the environment.

RGU's landscaping initiatives include:

- Tree plantation drives.
- Regular audit of the flora and fauna on the campus with adequate signages on trees.
- Pedestrian friendly pathways to be maintained.
- Maintain the green cover of the campus through adequate watering of trees.

Efficient Energy Conservation and Usage:

Efficient energy conservation and usage in a university is not only environmentally responsible but also financially beneficial. Universities are often large energy consumers, with multistoried buildings, laboratories, hostels, and other facilities. Implementing energy conservation measures can reduce carbon emissions and ensure cost-cutting as well. Initiatives for effective energy conservation and usage in The Assam Royal Global University include the following:

- Use of energy efficient lighting, including LED bulbs and occupancy sensors, power efficient equipment, with all electrical equipment being Energy Star certified.
- Install solar panels to generate clean energy and reduce dependence on non-renewable sources of energy.
- Conduct regular energy audits to identify areas of high energy consumption and prioritize improvements.
- Improve insulation and seal gaps in windows, doors, and walls to reduce heating and cooling energy losses.
- Initiate energy conservation awareness campaigns to educate students as well as members of faculty members and staff about the importance of energy efficiency.
- Encourage the University fraternity to turn off lights, computers, and equipment

- when not in use.
- Encourage the use of Electric Vehicles and Battery-operated vehicles on campus. Install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations on campus.
 - Encourage and incentivize innovation and research related to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Waste Management:

Waste management in a university is crucial for maintaining a clean and sustainable campus environment. Proper waste management not only helps reduce the environmental impact but also sets a positive example for students and the university community besides demonstrating an example for society as a whole. RGU strives to have a minimal impact on the environment and is dedicated to reducing and managing the waste generated on the campus. To ensure the University's commitment towards effective waste management, the following procedures will be undertaken:

Solid Waste Management:

- Solid waste to be segregated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable with colour coded bins placed in different parts of the campus.
- Regular solid waste disposal to be made effective through active MOU with Government agencies.
- Minimize the use of packaged food and single use plastic on campus.
- Encourage digital initiatives to reduce usage and waste of paper.

Liquid waste management:

- Liquid waste from laboratories, washrooms, kitchens and basins to be treated in order to ensure their reuse. While liquid waste from laboratories to be treated with Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP), wastewater from washrooms, kitchens and basins to be treated and recycled through Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and used for watering the green cover of the campus.
- Maintain leak proof water fixtures.
- Prevention of release and mixing of oil from the liquid waste from the eateries and kitchens on campus in the municipal drainage system by use of grease trap mechanism.

E-waste management:

- Collaboration with certified e-waste recycling companies for electronic waste disposal and management to prevent e-waste from entering landfills.
- Regular servicing and proper maintenance of electronic equipment to ensure more prolonged use of such goods and services.
- Awareness amongst students about reduction of e-waste and environment friendly disposal practices for e-waste.

Hazardous waste management:

- Handle and dispose of hazardous waste materials, such as chemicals and wastes from labs, in compliance with local regulations and safety guidelines.
- Radioactive waste disposal to be ensured in a way that the waste remains isolated from the environment as long as possible through near-surface disposal for low level radioactive waste (LLW) and intermediate-level radioactive waste (ILW), if generated.
- Regularly review and update waste management practices and policies to adapt to changing circumstances and technologies. Take feedback from different stakeholders of the University to identify challenges and opportunities for improvement.
- Ensure community engagement by involving students, faculty, and staff in waste reduction efforts through workshops, seminars, and volunteer opportunities.

Water Conservation measures:

- Regularly conduct water audits to identify wastage or misuse of water. This can include reviewing water bills, inspecting facilities, and assessing water usage patterns.
- Rainwater harvesting as an alternative source of water supply for specific uses on campus. This system is suitable, environment-friendly, and economically viable in the hydro-geological settings of the area where the campus is located.
- Reuse and recycle (non-hazardous) wastewater generated on the campus through Sewage Treatment Plant.
- Generate awareness about water conservation among students, faculty, and staff members through educational programmes, workshops, and campaigns. Engage the university community in water-saving practices.
- Collaborate with local water utilities, government agencies, and environmental organizations for access to resources, funding, and expertise in water conservation efforts.

Sustainable Ecosystem measures:

- Promoting energy efficiency through installation of smart lighting and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems on campus.
- To generate clean energy through solar panels, wind turbines, and biogas to name a few.
- Waste reduction through reducing/banning of single use plastic and promoting reusable alternatives on campus. Establish a “zero waste” or “low waste” goal for the University in the next five years.
- Water conservation through water-saving fixtures, promoting water conservation practices in landscaping and irrigation, rainwater harvesting and wastewater recycling through STP, ground water recharge through borewell recharge, etc.
- Restricted entry and use of automobiles (that use fossil fuels) on the campus and encouraging the use of bicycles, battery-operated and electric vehicles on campus to ensure a pollution-free clean air campus.

- Construction of new buildings through compliance with green building standards.
- Preserving natural areas and creating green spaces on the campus and encouraging planting native vegetation to support local ecosystems.
- Vermicomposting to convert organic waste into manure.

Digital Initiatives:

- Creating a green campus through digital initiatives in a university involves leveraging technology and data-driven approaches to reduce environmental impact and promote sustainability. RGU with its commitment towards digital initiatives in teaching, research and all other major aspects of the functioning of the University have the following digital initiatives towards a greener campus:
- Use of digital measures for admission, accounts, examination, result declaration, etc.
- Use Digital Notice Boards instead of traditional bulletin boards with digital screens to share eco-friendly messages, news, and updates.
- Promote virtual events, conferences, webinars, and meetings in addition to physical events on campus.
- Develop sustainability apps, i.e. mobile phone apps that provide information on sustainable practices, such as recycling guides, energy-saving tips, and sustainable transportation options.
- Reduce the usage of paper in all aspects of academics and administration as much as possible through digital initiatives.
- Implementation of these initiatives will help The Assam Royal Global University fulfill its pledge and commitment towards environment and sustainability at the same time as it reduces its carbon footprint, promotes sustainability, and engage the University fraternity in eco-friendly practices. Also, through implementation of these measures the University can serve as a model for sustainability in the regions, inspiring positive change beyond the University precincts.

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