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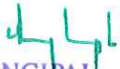
Ban on use of Plastic

The College has adopted the “Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign” under UGC Guidelines introduced in September 2019 for Ban of Plastic Use in Higher Education Institutions.

The institution’s efforts towards creating a plastic free campus began way back in 2011, when at the Staff Council Meeting (SCM) held on 23 June 2011, the Principal directed all departments to create awareness among their students on keeping the campus “clean and green”. It was at this meeting that the initiative on working for a “plastic free campus” received its first thrust.

This announcement was followed up at the SCM held on 22 August 2011 when the Principal announced that on Food and Nutrition Day, (26 August 2011), with the focus on the campus becoming a plastic-free zone, the chief guest would introduce the subject and create awareness “on the need reduce the use of plastics and dispose the non-biodegradable plastics symbolically” and that prizes would be awarded to those students who contributed to this cause.

The initiative was followed up with concerted action and campaigns to reduce the use of plastic. By 2012, plastic spoons, plates and cups were banned on campus. Plastic bottles were collected in a wire storage bin which would be cleared by a plastic recycling company periodically.


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UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

“Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign”

UGC Guidelines for Ban of Plastic Use in Higher Education Institutions

Whereas plastic waste has emerged as one of the biggest environmental concerns adversely impacting the soil, water, health and well-being of citizens at large;

Whereas excess-consumption of plastic combined with limited waste disposal systems has become a challenge to the urban waste disposal systems, and has choked the rivers and water systems in rural areas;

Whereas the time has come for a systematic campaign to reduce the usage of plastic, especially the single use plastic;

Whereas the Government has decided to take plastic ban as a national level campaign to address the environmental hazards being and bring attitudinal changes that shun use of plastics; and

Whereas the educational institutions have the unique spread and influence to educate the students and households on the need for avoiding usage of plastics,

University Grants Commission hereby issues the following guidelines for all the higher educational institutions in the Country:

Guidelines

1. Scope of guidelines:

- (a) These guidelines are applicable to all the higher educational institutions (HEIs) in the Country.
- (b) They encourage HEIs (universities and colleges) to adopt policies and practices towards cleaner and plastic free campuses.

2. All the HEIs in the Country shall strive to make their campuses 'plastic-free' by systematically banning use of plastics and replacing the same with suitable environmental friendly substitutes.

3. Every HEI shall:

- a. Ban use of single-use plastics in canteens, shopping complexes in the institution's premises and hostels, etc.
- b. Carry out awareness drives and sensitization workshops on the harmful impacts of single use plastics.
- c. Mandate all students to avoid bringing non-bio-degradable plastic items to the institution.
- d. Encourage their students to sensitize their respective households about harmful effects of plastics and make their households 'plastic free'
- e. Install necessary alternative facilities like water units to avoid the use of plastic water bottles, and encourage use of alternative solutions like cloth bags, paper bags etc., instead of plastic bottles, bags, covers and other goods on campuses.

4. All HEIs which have adopted villages under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan shall undertake a campaign in their adopted villages till they are converted into 'plastic-free villages' through promoting awareness and encouraging shift to alternative products.



Environment and Energy Usage Policy

Stella Maris College constantly seeks to promote the Care of Mother Earth in keeping with the spirit of St. Francis, the Patron Saint of Ecology. One of the primary objectives in realising the mission of the institution is to sensitise students to environmental issues, thus motivating them to promote ecological justice and sustainable development. The college, through its Environment policy, regularly conducts environmental assessment of the campus and implements healthy ecological practices in water and energy conservation and waste management.

The Environment Policy of the college shall focus on the following areas:

- **Awareness:** Shall create awareness on Environmental conservation among students, faculty, administrative and supportive staff and work towards sustainable development. The SMC community will work towards adopting the 5Rs of Green Living viz. Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refuse and Repurpose
- **Eco-education:** Environmental studies focusing on environmental concepts and issues will be integrated into the curriculum as academic initiative. Innovative Environment related courses specific to departments will be included in their programmes. The institution will encourage promotion of environment related projects and research activities to develop sustainable solutions for protection of natural environment
- **Eco- friendly Practices:** Encourage and implement eco - friendly practices/ green synthesis/ micro scale approach to lab courses /simulators as alternative for dissection of animals/safe disposal of laboratory wastes
- **Green Initiatives:** The college will work towards conserving and protecting natural resources for the future generation and will adopt green initiatives and sustainable measures for a clean and green campus. Activities to instil a sense of responsibility on environmental preservation will be promoted
- **Eco-System:** Maintenance of green cover through regular tree planting and enhancing landscaping for ecosystem restoration. Periodic Tree census/ naming the trees in both botanical and local language will be conducted to assess the green cover. Continuous maintenance of Herbal garden and green house as measures to encourage plant diversity will be undertaken
- **Pollution Control:** Towards reducing pollution, steps will be taken up for minimising CO₂ emission from automobiles
- **Outreach:** Reaching out to the society through campaigns, workshops and awareness drives on pertinent environmental issues. The college will take up initiatives through its extension activities to foster environment consciousness in the rural community and the neighbourhood
- **Recycling:** Sustained efforts to Ban plastic on campus and make the campus Plastic Free and recycle paper wastes and E wastes





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- Energy saving: Graded efforts will be taken to replace out dated and energy consuming equipment with Energy efficient equipment /LED bulbs. Sensor based energy conservation measures shall be adopted
- Renewable Energy: To ensure energy security and conserve Nation's natural resources, the use of renewable energy through installation of solar power panels to augment the energy needs of the college will be enhanced
- Solid Waste Management: Segregation of solid wastes in different colour coded bins will be ensured across the campus. Solid waste management of organic matter through Biogas generation and vermicomposting will be sustained
- Water Management: Water management through replenishing the ground water by rainwater harvesting systems, sinking wells, grey water recycling , judicious use of water resources and proper maintenance of water distribution system will be implemented
- Energy and Green Audit: Energy Audit, Green Audit to be conducted to assess and analyse the environmental impact. The analysis will be utilized to implement energy saving measures and upgrade the environmental condition in the campus.

These Green initiatives are a testimony to the commitment of the college to aid sustainable development and ecological conscience.

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