Thunchath Ezhuthachan

Malayalam University

Policy on Green Protocol

Introduction

Thunchath Ezhuthachan Malayalam University is steadfast in its commitment to environmental sustainability, recognizing the critical role that educational institutions play in shaping a sustainable future. This Green Protocol Policy is a testament to the university's dedication to integrating eco-friendly practices into every facet of campus life. It outlines comprehensive guidelines and procedures designed to foster a culture of environmental responsibility among students, researchers, faculty, staff, and visitors. The policy emphasizes the importance of resource conservation, waste segregation, and the adoption of sustainable alternatives. By instilling these values in the university community, we aim to develop environmentally conscious individuals who are equipped to contribute positively to society. The university's initiatives extend beyond mere compliance, aspiring to set a benchmark for sustainability in higher education.

Through the rigorous implementation of this policy, the university seeks not only to minimize its environmental impact but also to create a living laboratory for sustainability practices. The university will focus on reducing resource consumption, promoting recycling, and encouraging the use of renewable materials. By doing so, we aim to cultivate a campus that is not only clean and green but also resilient and sustainable, serving as a model for other institutions to follow. This policy serves as a blueprint for action, guiding the university community toward a collective goal of environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Green Protocol Activities on Campus:

Ban on Single-Use Plastics: The University strictly prohibits single-use plastics, including plastic bags, straws, bottles, and utensils, in alignment with its dedication to environmental conservation. "Plastic Free Campus" signs are prominently displayed throughout the campus.

Promotion of Eco-Friendly Materials: The University prioritizes the use of sustainable alternatives such as cloth banners, bamboo baskets, and natural materials like leaves and flowers for decoration and other activities.

1. **Waste Segregation:** Separate bins for food waste, paper waste, and plastic waste are strategically placed across campus to facilitate proper waste segregation at the source.
2. **Reusable Food Containers:** Students and staff are encouraged to bring food in reusable containers to reduce reliance on disposable packaging.
3. **Steel Plates and Cups:** The University will procure and provide steel plates and cups for use during events, significantly reducing the need for disposable paper and plastic items.
4. **Minimization of Disposables:** The University community is encouraged to avoid using disposable items in daily activities, including plastic and paper products.

Waste Management and Disposal:

1. **Waste Segregation and Composting:** Waste is segregated into biodegradable and non-biodegradable categories, with daily removal and composting of biodegradable waste within the university premises using biogas plants or composting units.
2. **Biogas Plants and Compost Units:** Installation of biogas plants and compost units will be implemented to enhance organic waste management and promote resource recovery. The slurry and compost generated through these facilities will be utilised as fertilizer in the gardens.
3. **Mini Material Collection Facility:** A designated facility will be established for the storage of non-biodegradable waste, ensuring responsible disposal practices.
4. **Waste Disposal Agreements:** The University will collaborate with Haritha Karma Sena of Vettom Grama Panchayath and similar organizations for the regular collection and disposal of plastic waste. Electronic waste and other materials will be disposed of in coordination with local authorities, scrap dealers, and the Clean Kerala Company to ensure proper recycling and disposal.

Implementation of the Green Protocol:

1. **Appointment of Green Protocol Officer:** A Green Protocol Officer will be appointed for a three-year tenure to oversee the effective implementation of the policy.
2. **Responsibilities of the Green Protocol Officer:** The Officer will monitor policy implementation and lead initiatives to enhance the environmental sustainability of the campus.
3. **Formation of Green Protocol Committee:** A multidisciplinary Green Protocol Committee will be established, including directors of all schools, hostel wardens, NSS Program Coordinator and Officers, student representatives, the Estate Officer, and representatives from the registrar's office, finance office, and security department.
4. **Awareness Programs:** The Green Protocol Officer will organize educational sessions, particularly during student induction programs, to raise awareness about the university's green initiatives and the importance of contributing to a sustainable campus.