

## **Best Practice 2: Environmental Awareness**

**Goal:** To take initiative in creating Environmental awareness about importance of conservation and preservation of environment among students, staff, all stake holders of the college and community by setting our own example.

The institution has its own Green Policy Document for inculcating environmental awareness among all the stakeholders, conscious use of energy and water resources and making the campus litter free. Use of renewable energy, tree plantation drives, cleanliness drives, forest trails, heritage walks, trekking, waste management help to contribute towards environment sustainability. Awareness is spread through guest lectures, conferences, workshops, poster presentations, rallies etc.

Sustainable development is closely related to environmental awareness. The way of proper utilization and preservation of environmental resources can lead to enhanced sustainable development. In this regard, the development of environmental sustainability values among the students and stake holders can play a vital role to protect the world environment and its resources which ultimately leads to sustainable development. Therefore, we should inculcate the various kinds of environmental values among students for protecting our environment and its valuable resources to enhance the sustainable development.

**The Practice:** Various awareness drives, brainstorming sessions, eco-trail, heritage walk, Plastic collection and cleanliness drive, Poster competition, environment awareness rally, photo exhibition, conferences, seminar and workshops, plantation drive, vruksh dindi, trekking were organized for citizen, stakeholders and students.

### **1. Solar – wind hybrid power generation plant**

The Institution has installed a solar-wind hybrid power generation plant which is upgraded to produce 28 KW energy. This energy is being utilized for tube lights and fans in classrooms, corridors, audio-visual hall, Principal's cabin and administrative office. The institution shares the unused electrical energy

to the MSDCL grid. Use of LED bulbs and tubes also reduces the usage of conventional energy. Solar street lights are installed in the parking space and walkways. Energy audit is done to keep a track on the consumption and improvise usage. No Vehicle Day is observed on the first day of every month. Students and staff members are encouraged to share/ pool motorcycles and cars or use the public transport for saving fuel. Bicycles and electric bikes are exempted from parking charges.

## **2. Tree plantation drive**

The college initiated a tree plantation drive at the Progressive Education Society's Modern College of Agriculture Biotechnology, Kule-Dakhane campus over fifty acres of land near Pune. Every year about 100 saplings are planted and maintained by our staff members and students. The GPS locations of planted trees are recorded.

Students have recorded the tree growth parameters of first three years for 334 native trees planted in collaboration with the NGO 'Sevapratishtan' in Panchavati, situated near the college campus. It is a unique urban forest project where the natural ecosystem is being established by rejuvenating biodiversity over the past four years. This model project is being adopted by the Pune Municipal Corporation to be introduced in other parts of the city.

## **3. Rainwater harvesting**

Rain water harvesting, watering the plants through drip irrigation, leakage free pipelines and faucets, e-toilets etc. ensure controlled usage of water.

The Institution strives to make the campus a zero waste zone. 'Reduce, Recover, Recycle and Reuse' is the policy for waste management. The institution observes NO PLASTIC policy for all stakeholders. The biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste is collected separately in colour code garbage bins.

## **4. Energy audit**

The college conducts energy and environmental audit every year. The college has optimized on the usage of Energy Efficient LED Fittings, Usage of Energy Efficient BEE STAR Rated equipment and Installation of **21 kW** Hybrid Roof Top Solar PV/Wind Power Plant. All this has led to minimization of the carbon footprint.

## **5. Waste water management**

Waste water from Chemistry, Zoology, and Microbiology and Biotechnology laboratories is treated in the effluent water treatment plant and is made safe to use for watering the plants on campus. Organic solvents are recovered by using rotary evaporators and reused.

## **6. Baction composting Unit**

A Baction Composting Unit is installed to create manure from kitchen waste of the canteen. Dry solid waste management is done in the proper way. Paper and glass waste is given for recycling. MoU with Common Biomedical Waste Treatment Facility Centre- POSCO Environmental Solutions Pvt. Ltd. is actively being utilized for hazardous bio-waste management and MoU with Kuldeep E Scraps (authorized by MPCB) is in function for disposal of e-waste.

## **7. Cleanliness drives**

The students and staff of NSS, Modern Trekking Club and Modern Bicycle Club, regularly work for cleanliness drives. NSS volunteers collect 'Nirmalya' in Navratri festival at Chaturshringi Temple near the college and convert it into organic manure. This activity is being conducted for the last ten years.

## **8. e-waste management**

The administrative office is digitized to reduce usage of paper. All these efforts have contributed towards minimizing the usage of electricity, focussing on paperless work, initiating and maintaining a green campus, fulfilling the social commitment and creating environmental awareness among all stakeholders.

E-waste is generated from worn out computers, other hardware, mobiles, electric appliances etc. It consists of hazardous materials such as lead, zinc, lithium batteries, tin etc. Improper disposal of these products is dangerous for living beings. Hence MOU is done with MPCB authorized e-scrap centre. The e-waste and plastic waste is collected and given to this agency for proper disposal.

**Evidence of Success:** These sincere efforts are acknowledged by various State and National apex bodies. The College has been conferred the state level first prize for conservation of energy by MEDA, Government of Maharashtra (2017) and received the “CHATRAPATI SHIVAJI MAHARAJ VANASHREE Puraskar (2017)” by Forest Department, Government of Maharashtra, “Green College, Clean College Trophy (2019)” by Kirloskar Vasundhara foundation.

College is also receiving a grant of Rs. 5000 since 2018, under NGC (National Green Corps) program initiated by MoEF, Govt. of India to sensitize students about the environment.