



## ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

### 1 Purpose

PRIST University will actively apply the concepts of sustainability and environmental awareness of the local and global environment.

This policy defines the environmental obligations of the Institutions and considers how implementation of the policy should occur. The environmental policy is consistent with the Institution's Strategic Plan and will enhance PRIST's place as a leading Indian research and teaching institution.

Commitment to this environmental policy will be met by demonstrating leadership in applying environmentally responsible practices for the purposes of sustainability.

### 2 Organizational Scope

This is a Institution -wide policy, applying to all administrators, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders of the institution

### 3 Definitions

For purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following definitions shall apply:

Environment: Ecosystems and their constituent parts, including;

- (a) People and communities; and
- (b) All natural and physical resources; and
- (c) Amenity values; and
- (d) The social, economic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions (including Institution policy) which affect or are affected by the matters stated in paragraphs (a) to (c) of this definition

Sustainability: Sustainability integrates the concern for social, economic and environmental issues, and involves thinking broadly about objectives, considering long-term as well as short-term effects, assessing indirect as well as direct effects, and taking extra care when changes brought about by development might be irreversible.

Environmental Footprint: The impact of an organization in environmental terms such as resource use, waste generation and physical environmental changes

### 4 Policy Content and Guidelines

The environmental policy has been produced as part of the growing awareness of human effects on the biosphere.

#### **4.1. Overarching Principles/Values**

PRIST University recognizes its responsibilities to manage the nature and scale of environmental impacts of its activities, products or services. These responsibilities are recognized in the following principles:

- (a) A commitment to the principles and implementation of sustainability, including environmental protection.
- (b) A commitment to implementing sustainable and environmentally sound business practices to manage and reduce the Institution's environmental footprint.
- (c) A commitment to take account of intergenerational impacts as part of the Institution's decision-making processes.
- (d) A commitment to organizational and personal ownership of this environmental policy.
- (e) A commitment to raising environmental awareness and engagement and providing community leadership
- (f) A commitment to support the research and teaching of environmental sustainability.

#### **4.2. Objectives**

##### **4.2.1. Environmental Management**

This environmental policy promotes a clean, safe and healthy environment for members of the Institution and wider community. The Institution is committed to exceeding minimum environmental standards where practicable and within the organization's financial constraints.

The commitment to environmental responsibility involves concerns for both natural and developed environments, and for the effective and economically and environmentally efficient use of resources.

Environmental management includes consideration of amenity values and the enhancement of natural areas.

##### **4.2.2 The Natural Environment**

The Institution will:

- (a) Aim to exceed environmental standards set by local, regional and central government; including any relevant legislation or regulation and any other requirements to which the Institution subscribes.
- (b) Actively seek to enhance the biodiversity of natural areas and investigate opportunities to introduce more natural areas into the built environment.
- (c) Manage the Institution's natural and physical resources in an environmentally responsible and sustainable manner.

##### **4.2.3 The Developed Environment**

The Institution will:

- (a) Promote and support the use of environmentally responsible transportation modes such as public transport, fuel efficient vehicles, cycling, or walking.
- (b) Commit to reducing the fossil fuel use of its vehicle fleet where cost effective.

#### **4.2.4 Use and Re-use of Natural Resources**

The Institution will:

- (a) Actively manage the use of energy and utilities (e.g. gas, electricity, water) in order to achieve a reduced level of user demand and more efficient usage of available resources.
- (b) Reduce waste by avoidance, recycling, reduction and re-use or efficiently using finite resources where alternatives are not available.
- (c) Commit to the procurement and use of sustainable and environmentally friendly resources within Institution financial constraints and where opportunities are available.
- (d) Commit to applying ecologically sustainable design principles and requirements to all new construction and refurbishment projects, within Institution financial constraints and where opportunities are available.
- (e) Manage the disposal of consumable resources with environmental sensitivity.

#### **4.2.5 Researching and Teaching Environmental Sustainability**

The Institution recognizes that sustainability and environmental protection are themes that arise in many areas of Institution teaching and are increasingly important to the future of our community. The intent is that all graduates will leave the Institution having had the opportunity to develop an understanding of sustainability and environmental protection issues. Accordingly, the Institution will:

- (a) Promote and encourage quality research which recognizes the importance of sustainability and environmental protection.
- (b) Promote and encourage the teaching of sustainability and environmental protection themes within Institution programs.
- (c) Promote and support interdisciplinary academic collaboration within sustainability and environmental protection themes

#### **4.2.6 Environmental Emergency Response**

- (a) The Institution's emergency response planning will address pollution response.
- (b) The emergency response shall consider the environmental effects of proposed responses and minimize those effects, provided that such minimization does not compromise the effectiveness of the response.

#### **4.2.7 Community Leadership**

The Institution will demonstrate and encourage leadership in the promotion of environmental awareness and best practice in the wider community by:

- (a) Developing partnerships for environmental sustainability within the wider community, including partnerships to raise awareness of climate change issues.
- (b) Promoting the Institution as an environmentally responsible organization.
- (c) Communicating and consulting as appropriate with the wider community on environmental issues.

#### **4.2.8 Social and Cultural**

The Institution will recognize that social and cultural values and rights are essential to achieving a sustainable future by:

- (a) Considering the different social and ethnic perspectives on environment and sustainability.
- (b) Acknowledging the interdependence of the Institution's physical and cultural environment.

#### **4.3. Implementation and Review**

The Institution has set up an Environmental Committee, with membership drawn from representatives of each Faculty, Campus Services, Communications and Marketing, Finance and the student body. The Committee shall be supported by Campus Services and chaired by a member of the Senior Leadership Team, with the Chair appointed by the Vice-Chancellor.

The Committee shall make reports and recommendations through the Committee Chair and liaise with other Institution units as appropriate.

The Committee will act as the champions of this policy and review the Institution's actions against the policy objectives by:

- (a) Monitoring consistency between this environmental policy and existing policies and frameworks, reporting to the Vice-Chancellor.
- (b) Conducting annual reporting to measure the Institution's environmental footprint and performance.
- (c) Developing and submitting annual environmental action plans to the Vice-Chancellor; including defined goals, action points and timelines to facilitate the effective application of this policy and improvement of the Institution's environmental footprint and performance over time.
- (d) Reviewing and recommending priorities for the implementation of environmental initiatives within an annual budget allocation.
- (e) Facilitating the collaboration of lecturers and researchers to share information and promote initiatives to integrate sustainability into academic work where appropriate.
- (f) Reporting to the Vice-Chancellor regarding environmental achievements and issues affecting this policy