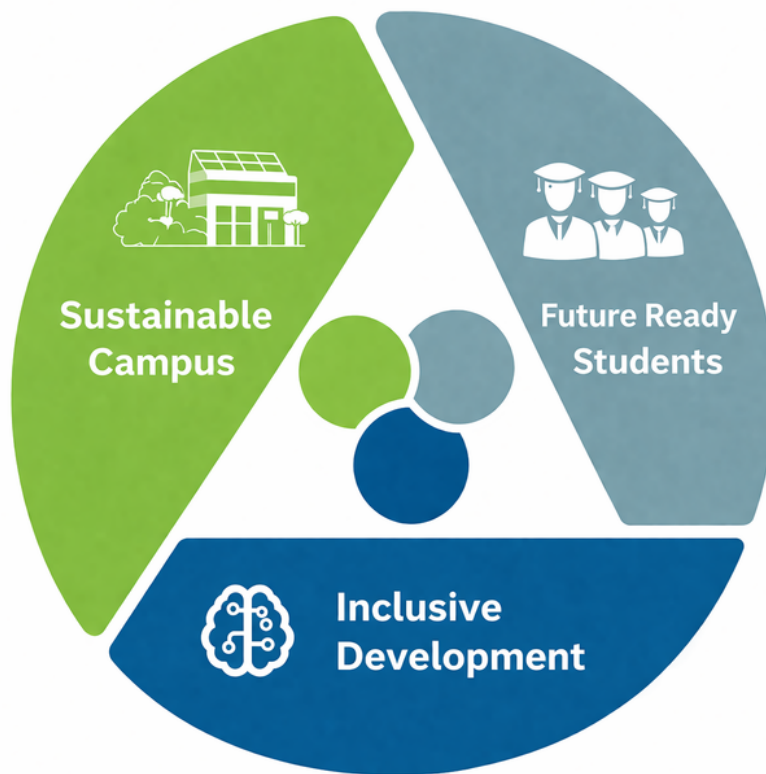




UNIVERSITY OF KERALA
കേരളസർവകലാശാല

Institution's Sustainability/ Climate action policy



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DISCLAIMER

This document has been prepared as a guideline to support the smooth functioning of the University of Kerala in relation to the proposed policy theme. It has been developed in alignment with the general requirements and expectations of various accreditation and ranking agencies. While effort has been taken to provide accurate and authentic information, it may be noted that this is not a document which should be relied on as legally undertaken by the University of Kerala. The University's stances on all matters are as duly debated and adopted by the University authorities (the Senate, the Academic Council and the Syndicate). For any final confirmation, a formal communication from the University of Kerala may only be relied on.



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INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

2026

Sustainability and Climate Action Policy

Policy Statement

The University of Kerala is committed to achieving the whole-institution to become carbon neutral, climate resilient and a sustainable campus.

This commitment is operationalized through a systematic and time-bound Climate Action Plan, focusing on measurable targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Key to this effort is a decisive transition to renewable energy, primarily through widespread solar PV installations, and a relentless drive for resource efficiency. We pledge to minimize our environmental footprint by promoting sustainable water management, rigorous waste reduction towards a zero-waste goal, and the phased elimination of single-use plastics. Concurrently, we will future-proof our campus by developing climate-resilient infrastructure in adherence to green building standards, protecting and enhancing biodiversity, and promoting sustainable transportation. This integrated approach ensures that our operations and physical campus actively contribute to mitigating and adapting to climate change.

The University is committed to embedding the principles of sustainability and climate action into the very fabric of our academic life by integrating environmental education across all curricula and fostering interdisciplinary research. Through the active collaboration of our designated Sustainability Council, Steering Committee, and Departmental Green Champions, we will foster a pervasive culture of ecological responsibility. We commit to transparent monitoring, benchmarking, and reporting, holding ourselves accountable to our community and the nation. By leading through example in our operations, innovating through our research, and inspiring through our education, the University of Kerala affirms its ethical and societal obligation to combat climate change and protect our planet for generations to come.

1. Preamble

The University of Kerala acknowledges the profound and urgent challenge posed by climate change and environmental degradation. As a premier higher education institution, it recognizes its pivotal role as a change agent in the realization of the United Nation's SDGs. Universities have a duty to educate students and society to actively participate in both mitigating and adapting to climate change. This policy formalizes the University's commitment to embed sustainability and climate action into its core functions of teaching, learning, research, operations, and community engagement. It emphasizes the adoption of carbon-neutral practices, low-carbon operations, and the enhancement of climate resilience. This policy applies to all faculties, scientists, research experts, administrative personnel, students, and stakeholders of the University of Kerala.

2. Vision

To be a leading university in India, recognized for its commitment to sustainability, environmental stewardship, and climate leadership, fostering a carbon-neutral, resilient, and ecologically conscious campus that serves as a living laboratory for a sustainable future.

3. Mission

To integrate the principles of sustainability and climate action into all aspects of university life by:

- **Mitigating our impact** through reducing greenhouse gas emissions, transitioning to renewable energy, and promoting resource efficiency.
- **Adapting our campus and community** by building climate-resilient infrastructure and enhancing preparedness for climate risks.
- **Educating and empowering** our students and staff to become informed sustainability leaders and responsible global citizens.
- **Fostering innovation** through interdisciplinary research and curricula that address local and global environmental challenges.

4. Objectives

This policy establishes the following objectives:

- To achieve **carbon neutrality** by systematically reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions from university operations.
- To transition towards **renewable energy sources** for electricity, promoting solar and other clean energy alternatives.
- Promoting **responsible consumption** of water and other natural resources through conservation, recycling, and sustainable procurement.
- To enhance the **climate resilience** of university infrastructure and community against the impacts of climate change, such as extreme weather events, floods, droughts etc.
- To encourage **sustainable transportation** options for students and staff, thereby reducing transport-related emissions.
- To work towards **waste reduction, recycling, and a zero-waste campus** by minimizing generation and maximizing resource recovery.
- To raise **awareness and education** on sustainability and climate change across the university community and the wider public.
- To **integrate environmental education and sustainable practices** across all curricula and promote interdisciplinary research in climate science and sustainability.

5. Policy Guidelines

- **Climate Action Plan:** Develop a comprehensive, time-bound Climate Action Plan with specific targets for emission reduction, energy conservation, and climate resilience to be reviewed periodically.
- **Renewable Energy Adoption:** Prioritize the installation of rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) systems across campus buildings. Explore the feasibility of other renewable sources like solar thermal and biomass, and promote energy-efficient appliances and LED lighting.
- **Water Conservation Plan:** Implement water auditing, rainwater harvesting structures, groundwater recharge pits, and wastewater treatment and reuse for

gardening and flushing. Promote water-efficient fixtures and awareness campaigns.

- **Climate Resilient Infrastructure:** All new construction and major retrofits shall adhere to green building standards (e.g., GRIHA/IGBC). Incorporate climate-resilient features such as passive cooling, heat-reflective surfaces, rooftop gardening, flood-resistant design, etc.
- **Waste Management:** Enforce a strict segregation-at-source policy (biodegradable, non-biodegradable, and hazardous waste). Establish a decentralized composting system for organic waste and collaborate with authorized agencies for recycling and scientific disposal of other waste streams. Phase out single-use plastics on campus.
- **Biodiversity and Green Spaces:** Protect and enhance the campus biodiversity by maintaining and expanding green cover, creating native species gardens, and establishing designated conservation zones. Integrate green spaces into the campus landscape for ecological and recreational benefits. Go for biodiversity parks, butterfly gardens, vertical gardens etc.
- **Integration into Academics:** Encourage and support the development of new courses, modules, and degree programs focused on sustainability, climate change, and environmental science. Foster interdisciplinary research projects and secure funding for climate-related studies.
- **Implementation and Reporting:** Designate a high-level Sustainability Council (as outlined in Section 7) to oversee implementation. Prepare and publish an annual Sustainability Report detailing progress, challenges, and future plans.
- **Collaboration and Engagement:** Actively collaborate with government bodies, industry partners, NGOs, and other academic institutions to share knowledge, leverage resources, and amplify impact. Engage students through clubs, 'green' committees, and sustainability-focused events.

6. Benchmarking and External Valuation

The University shall benchmark its sustainability performance against national and international frameworks such as the AISHE (All India Survey on Higher Education)

Green Rating, UI Green Metric World University Rankings, and the SDG Impact Assessment. It shall seek external audits and certifications to validate its progress and ensure credibility.

7. Organizational Structure for Implementation

A three-tiered structure shall be established for effective implementation:

1. **Sustainability Council (SC):** Chaired by the Vice-Chancellor, with members including Deans, Heads of Departments, student representatives, and external experts. The SC will provide strategic direction, approve plans, and allocate resources.
2. **Sustainability Steering Committee:** Comprising faculty members and administrative heads, this committee will be responsible for executing the Climate Action Plan, coordinating between departments, and preparing monitoring reports.
3. **Departmental Green Champions:** Each department will nominate a faculty and a student representative to act as 'Green Champions' to implement policy actions at the grassroots level and promote awareness.

8. Mechanism of Monitoring

- **Internal:** The IQAC shall prepare a Quality Manual specifying benchmarks, key performance indicators (KPIs), and codes of good practice for sustainability. The Sustainability Steering Committee will submit biannual progress reports to the IQAC and the Sustainability Council.
- **External:** The University will invite periodic external reviews by sustainability experts and regulatory bodies. The annual Sustainability Report will be made publicly available to ensure transparency.

9. Use of Evaluation Results

The results from internal and external monitoring will be used to:

- Inform strategic decision-making and annual budgeting.
- Identify areas for improvement and reorient action plans.

- Recognize and reward exemplary performance by departments or individuals.
- Communicate progress and achievements to all stakeholders to maintain momentum and engagement.

10. Review and Amendments

This policy shall be reviewed every three years, or as deemed necessary, by the Sustainability Council to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness in light of emerging scientific evidence, technological advancements, and changing regulatory landscapes. Amendments can be proposed by any member of the University community and shall be approved by the University Syndicate on the recommendation of the Sustainability Council.

INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE CELL

UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

IQAC Constitution

01. The Vice-Chancellor (Chairman)
 02. The Pro Vice-Chancellor (Vice-Chairman)
 03. Dr. S. Nazeeb, Member, Syndicate
 04. Prof. (Dr.) K.G. Gopchandran, Member, Syndicate
 05. The Registrar
 06. The Finance Officer
 07. The Vice-Chairman, Credit & Semester System
 08. The Director, Computer Centre
 09. The Chairman, Kerala University Departments Union
 10. The Chairman, Kerala University Research Students Union
 11. Dr. Unnikrishnan S. M., Vice-President,
International Business & Strategic Planning, HLL Lifecare Ltd.
 12. Mr. Jagan Sebastian George, State Nodal Officer and Research Officer, RUSA
 13. Dr. R. Vasanthagopal, Senior Professor & Head, Institute of Management in Kerala
 14. Dr. Meena T. Pillai, Senior Professor & Head, Institute of English
 15. Dr. Jayachandran R., Senior Professor, Department of Hindi
 16. Dr. Bijukumar A., Senior Professor & Head, Department of Aquatic Biology & Fisheries
 17. Dr. Shaji A., Professor & Head, Department of History
 18. Dr. C. N. Vijayakumari, Professor & Head, Department of Sanskrit
 19. Dr. R.B. Binoj Kumar, Professor, Department of Geology
 20. Dr. Sheeja S.R., Professor & Head, Department of Economics
 21. Dr. Swapna T.S., Professor & Head (i/c), Department of Biotechnology
 22. Dr. Noushad V., Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Arabic
 23. Dr. Rajesh S.V., Assistant Professor, Department of Archaeology
 24. Dr. Ani Deepthi, Assistant Professor & Head, Department of Chemistry
 25. Dr. Manju S. Nair, Professor, Department of Economics (Joint Director, IQAC)
 26. Dr. Shaji E., Professor, Department of Geology (Director, IQAC)
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