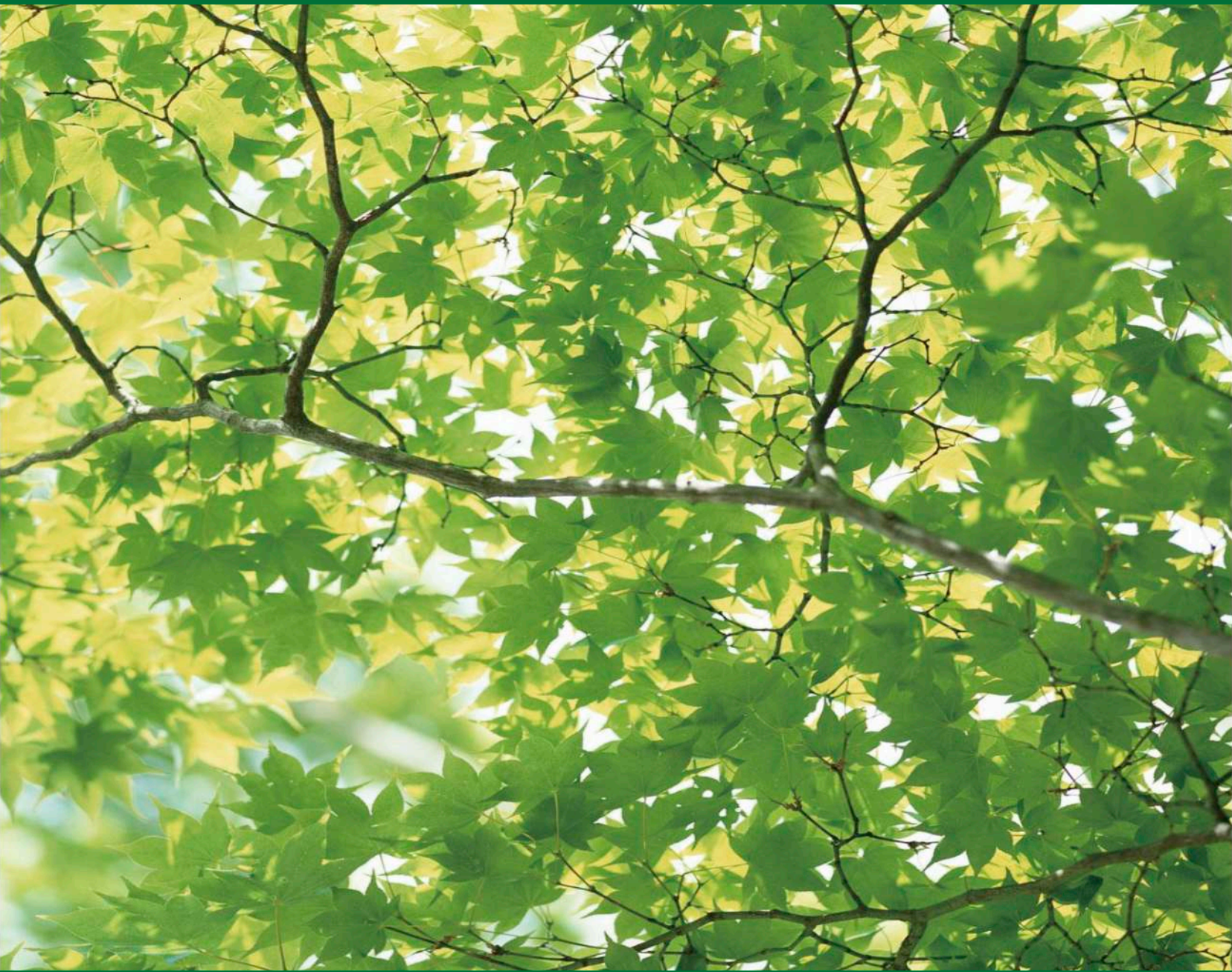


# POLICY ON ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY**



हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय की यह फैली हुई भूमि, हरे मखमली दूब से भरे सुहावने बड़े-बड़े खेल के मैदान, स्वच्छन्द उन्मुक्त वायु, माँ पतितपावनी गंगा का पुनीत पावन तट, संसार में कहीं भी ऐसा दूसरा स्थान तुम्हारे लिये नहीं। प्रकृति के साथ जीवन को मेल में लानेवाला, इतना विशाल क्षेत्र संसार में अन्यत्र है तो मुझे मालूम नहीं। यहाँ के पवित्र वातावरण से हृदय को पवित्र बना लो, आत्मा को शुद्ध कर लो, संसार में जहाँ जाओगे वहाँ मान के अधिकारी हो जाओगे।

**-महामना पं. मदन मोहन मालवीय**

# Policy on Environment and Sustainable Development



## Preamble

India's National Environment Policy (NEP) reflects commitment to a clean environment as mandated in Articles 48A and 51A (g) of the Indian Constitution. While recognising the conservation of environmental resources as necessary to secure the livelihood and well-being of one and all, the NEP strives to ensure that people dependent on particular resources obtain better livelihood from their conservation, rather than degradation. The NEP reiterates that only such development is sustainable, which respects ecological constraints, and the imperatives of social justice.

The NEP takes a comprehensive view of our environmental concerns and also outlines a few guidelines which deserve mention as a preface to the Banaras Hindu University's Policy on Environment and Sustainable Development (BHU-PESD). The key objectives of NEP are: conservation of critical environmental resources, intra-generational and inter-generational equity, and integration of environmental concerns in economic and social development, efficiency in environmental resource use, environmental governance, and enhancement of resources for environmental conservation. The policy highlights the normative principles underlying policy action, strategic themes for intervention, broad indications of the legislative and institutional development needed to accomplish the strategic themes, and mechanisms for implementation and review. It also intends to guide actions in such areas as regulatory reform, programmes and projects for environmental conservation; and review and enactment of legislation, by agencies of the Central, State, and Local Governments. The NEP recognizes that maintaining a healthy environment is not the state's responsibility alone, but also that of every citizen and thus encourages individual as well as institutional participation for maintaining and enhancing the quality of the environment.

In accordance with the India's National Environment Policy, the Banaras Hindu University expresses its commitment to be a positive and creative catalyst in the protection and enhancement of the local and global environment and sustainable development through teaching, research, public service, administrative and support operations. The university is committed to foster a culture of environmental responsibility, both within and outside the university. Thus BHU-PESD is hereby crafted to ensure that the protection and improvement of the environment remains the guiding principle for all our activities within and across the university.





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"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need,  
but not every man's greed".

**-Mahatma Gandhi**





## Purpose

The policy statement outlines how the university shall pursue best practices in the realm of environment and encourage the sustainable use of community resources. It sets out the principles, priority areas and procedures for implementation, management and evaluation of the environment plan for the university. The enactment and implementation of this visionary BHU-PESD will serve an exemplary model of how universities could assume the stewardship in the advancement of environment and sustainable development within the campus and in larger community.

## Context

The university remains committed to high standards of environmental protection and leadership as reflected in a range of its activities including teaching, research and community service. The university has in fact developed a strong environmental research focus and a reputation for being an environmentally responsible institution. The green campus of the university encompassing extensive nature areas and farm land has added to its credentials in this area. The university believes it has a special responsibility to exercise environmental leadership.

Being a reflection of the larger community in which they exist, the universities too have to deal with the dilemma posed by the struggle between a fast paced development to meet the rapid growth in population and the imperative of sustainable development. The university can help by generating useful resources and repositories of knowledge in the field of sustainable development and also by being the purveyors of technical and societal solutions to a vast array of issues relating to sustainable development.

It is our earnest hope that the Banaras Hindu University may lead from the front to create new frameworks of understanding on the paradigm of sustainable development especially around the multifaceted links between the quest for growth and its ramifications of nature's resources. We also look forward to unravel innovative practices which could usher the impulse of sustainability into practice. In a nutshell, the BHU-PESD aims to operationalize the concept of sustainability within its physical infrastructure and working practice and also to project the university as a model of sustainable development before the local and global communities.





“The Earth is one but the world is NOT. We all depend on one biosphere for sustaining our lives. Yet each community, each country, strives for survival and prosperity with little regard for its impact on others. Some consumes the earth’s resources at a rate that would leave little for future generations. Others, many more in number, consume far too little and live with the prospect of hunger, squalor, disease and early death. It is difficult, if not impossible, for most of us to see how, as individuals, we can even begin to respond to these global issues...(unless we) Think globally, Act locally.”

**- Brundtland Commission on Environment and Development**





## Principles

In pursuing its environment policy, Banaras Hindu University shall:

- ensure that the environment will not suffer as a result of various activities undertaken by the university. This entails minimization of negative impacts on the environment, conservation and judicious use of natural resources, respect for biodiversity and rehabilitation of degraded environmental components.
- provide safe and healthy environment for staff and students.
- promote environmental awareness and sensitivity among the university community by sensitizing how their actions can affect the environment, and how even small changes in their attitudes and actions can collectively contribute to a more sustainable future and improved quality of environment.
- ensure compliance with all applicable environmental regulations.
- develop environmental auditing and monitoring procedures effective for a university setting.
- ensure and encourage greater commitment to multidisciplinary researches in environmental issues at local, national and global levels.
- participate and contribute to the environmental decision-making processes at the community level and launching initiatives to promote networks cutting across universities and civil society thus assuming the stewardship of the regional environment.



# Priority areas



## Energy

The university shall conserve energy by minimizing its usage to significantly reduce the university's CO<sub>2</sub> footprint by pursuing a low carbon regime pathway. The university shall strive to maximize energy efficiency in existing buildings, renovations, and new construction. It will periodically review its energy sources, energy forms, and energy efficiency with a view to cause least environmental impact. It will carry out a continuous programme of energy conservation by monitoring the consumption and eliminating redundant or avoidable energy loss.



## Water

The university shall conserve water and minimize its use through efficient management practices. It shall endeavour to use the minimum quantities of water possible in accordance with its activities and shall ensure that the water it uses is both supplied and disposed of, in the purest condition possible, meeting the statutory requirements. An on-going programme of water conservation would be instituted to monitor the consumption, reduce the leakage and eliminate the excessive or unnecessary use. The university shall promote efficient water use techniques, such as sprinkler or drip irrigation, in its agricultural farm and gardening practices. It shall support practices of rain water harvesting and artificial recharge and revival of traditional methods for enhancing groundwater recharge. Mandatory water harvesting and artificial recharge in all new constructions shall be complied with. The university shall ensure that such design techniques for road surfaces and infrastructure be applied which enhance groundwater recharge.



## Waste Management

The waste management policy of the university shall aim to reduce the generation of wastes in all ways possible. This will be done by reducing the acquisition of new materials, and by re-using and recycling the existing materials and, if this is impractical, by disposal in such a way that will have least impact on the environment and which conforms to the statutory requirements. It shall attempt to minimise the quantities of polluting effluent and emissions to air, land and water, and noise, odour and electromagnetic radiation. The university shall also minimise the use of hazardous chemicals and toxic sanitary substances. The university commits to keep the presence of radioactive materials used on campus at reasonable levels restricting it only to the essential requirements for research and treatment. It will also support the environmentally responsible disposal of radioactive waste from within the university community. The university commits to a comprehensive recycling programme as the final step in solid waste reduction and as a means to transform waste into a resource. It shall segregate, recycle, and reuse its solid wastes and shall develop a waste-food composting and bio-mass resource recovery programme.







## Buildings and Estate

The university recognizes the importance of environmentally responsible practices in developing the physical characteristics of the University. The university shall consider environmental implications in the development, construction, and operation of campus infrastructure, grounds, and buildings. The university shall develop and so maintain its buildings and estate to conserve resources and minimise its negative impact on the environment. It shall ensure that the potential environmental impacts of all its building and/or estate projects will be assessed and minimised. This will include, where possible, the use of building materials from sustainable sources, methods of construction which make best use of resources and designs which result in low maintenance and high energy efficiency. The university shall also follow the “*green building*” concept for any new construction, and promote vertical instead of horizontal expansion. The university shall work toward the goals of providing landscaping and ground maintenance practices that use vegetation compatible with the local environment and that use integrated pest management techniques. The university shall endeavour to have 33% of its land under tree cover for an effective refuge to flora and fauna endangered due to rampant urbanization.



## Transport

The university shall mitigate the harmful effects of its traffic on the environment. When travelling to and from the university and between its campuses and outside on university business, all staff and students will be encouraged to walk, use bicycles, public transport and will be discouraged from the single occupancy use of private vehicles. University controlled vehicles will be operated in such a way as to minimise their impact on the environment. Above all, the university shall encourage the use of bicycles for movements within the campus for students and staff members.



## Sustainable Resource Acquisition

The university recognizes that one of the primary methods of exercising its commitment to environmental responsibility is through its resource acquisition choices. The university shall strive to obtain maximum value for its expenditures and shall work towards obtaining the "best value" by balancing short and long-term costs, maintenance, life cycle, and environmental costs in purchasing goods and services. Sustainable purchasing is all about taking environmental and social factors into account in making purchasing decisions. It would also emphasise a careful exploration of the ingredients and components of the products, where they come from and who has made them. Therefore, through its purchasing policies, the university shall seek goods and services, which do least harm to the environment in their production, delivery, packaging, use, re-use, recycling and disposal. It shall seek to purchase from local or regional suppliers which will maximise the university's input to the local community and minimise transport. Purchasing



policies will encourage obtaining products that minimize waste production, have high recycled content, use green production methods, demonstrate maximum durability or biodegradability, reparability, energy-efficiency, non-toxicity, and recyclability. The university shall assess as far as possible the environmental impact of all purchases, in terms of raw materials, manufacture, distribution, use and disposal.



## University Environment Management System

The university has a vision to setup an Environmental Management System (EMS), such as ISO 14000, and to adopt standardized environmental management practices, document their actual use, and to have a credible third party verification of the fact. The university shall encourage adoption of EMS through purchase preference for ISO 14000 goods and services for procurement, except for items reserved for the small-scale sector at any given time.



## Environmental Audit and Natural Resource Accounting

The University is committed to the environmental audit needs and will try to impart training which will be beneficial to staff and students. For this, University will look forward for opportunity in tying up with Audit Organizations and would also be aware of the future developments taking place in the global scenario. Natural Resource Accounting is an entirely new area in which University shall embark upon and explore different horizons. Carbon credit earning can be a new avenue for revenue generation.



## Environmental Education, Training and Awareness

The UN General Assembly in its 57th Session in December 2002, proclaimed the period 2005 - 2014 as the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). The goal of the DESD is to integrate the principles, values, and practices of sustainable development into all aspects of education and learning to encourage changes in behaviour that allow for a more sustainable and just society for all. In order to achieve this goal, BHU shall promote the awareness of environment and sustainable development issues amongst its staff and students. For this, the university shall provide staff with training in environment and sustainable development matters, encourage the inclusion of environment and sustainable development content within academic curricula, and sponsor campaigns to raise the awareness of environmental issues among staff and students. The University shall also promote environment sensitization in the communities at local and regional levels and assist, network and jointly sponsor environment initiatives.



## Publication and Dissemination

The university shall build partnerships with the local community and national organisations to promote its environmental objectives and communicate and disseminate its environmental performance and activities with the outside community through publications and media. The university shall publish and review the BHU Policy on Environment and Sustainable Development periodically and the university's environmental management procedures continuously.



## Implementation of the Policy


To implement this Policy on Environment and Sustainable Development:

- the university shall establish an Environment Affairs Committee consisting of the academic and administrative staff, and students.
- budgetary provisions will be made by the university to facilitate smooth implementation of the BHU-PESD.
- The role of the Environment Affairs Committee shall be to:
  - (i) develop and recommend programmes to meet the objectives set for each of the priority areas listed above. Community participation shall be encouraged in this process.
  - (ii) establish action groups to develop and recommend programmes and performance indicators to monitor progress in each of the priority areas. Experts in each of the areas from both within and outside the university shall be consulted wherever desired.
  - (iii) oversee implementation of the BHU-PESD in the University;
  - (iv) periodical review of university policies and procedures to ensure consistency with the BHU-PESD;
  - (v) carry out appropriate environmental audits and pilot projects;
  - (vi) undertake education and training programmes to inform the university community about this policy and how its members can meet the objectives set forth in it;
  - (vii) seek funding for environmental initiatives;
  - (viii) monitor best practices and formulate and publicise environmental 'Do's and Don't's' for the residents from time to time;
  - (ix) annually issue a report that includes sections on each of the priority areas, presenting a summary of monitoring information, summarising initiatives undertaken and identifying matters that require particular attention;
  - (x) develop a website for the open access of information related to programmes and their progress to public;
  - (xi) be responsible for administering and monitoring and implementation of the UPESD.
- the university shall designate an Environment Affairs Officer who shall act as Secretary of the Environment Affairs Committee.
- the Environment Affairs Officer shall receive complaints and suggestions from campus residents regarding environmental violations and shall take necessary follow up action in the matter.
- appropriate Units, as determined by the university administration, shall be required to prepare their action plans based on the framework established in this BHU-PESD.

**“We have not inherited the world from our forefathers,  
we have borrowed it from our children.”**

**- Native American proverb**





अपने चारों ओर निगाह फेरो, और सुन्दर पशु-पक्षियों को, मनोहर, वृक्षों को, कमनीय पुष्पों तथा स्वादिष्ट फलों को देखो। इस बात को स्मरण रखो कि वह परमात्मा, जिसे हम ब्रह्म अथवा ईश्वर कहते हैं, इस सम्पूर्ण जीवधारी सृष्टि में उसी प्रकार विद्यमान है, जैसे मुझमें या आपमें।

**-महामना पं. मदन मोहन मालवीय**



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