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EAST WEST UNIVERSITY

**Sustainability /Climate Action Policy / Campus Greening
Policy of East West University**

2024

Sustainability / Climate Action Policy / Campus Greening Policy East West University

1. Introduction

East West University recognizes the importance of addressing environmental pollution and its detrimental effects. As a result, the university is committed to tackling environmental degradation and the challenges posed by climate change. As a prominent academic institution in Bangladesh, East West University is dedicated to fostering responsible environmental stewardship. The university pledges to integrate sustainability principles across its administration, education, research, and community engagement efforts.

2. Scope of Policy

This policy applies to all university community members, including students, faculty, staff, and contractors. It encompasses all aspects of university operations, including teaching, research, infrastructure, waste management, and energy usage.

3. Policy Statement

Foster and maintain a sustainable, environmentally conscious, and climate-resilient campus.

Action Statement

All policies will be implemented in two areas:

- a. Retrofit existing buildings to minimize waste and enhance energy efficiency and
- b. Prioritize sustainability in all future development/construction, investment and procurement activities.

4. Areas to Address

The following are the key areas where the university should focus its efforts to internalize sustainability into its core actions.

4.1 Energy Use

Situated in the tropical zone, Dhaka experiences daily temperatures ranging from 30-40 degrees

Celsius in the summer and 10-24 degrees Celsius in the winter. Consequently, the campus, which

serves over 15,000 students and staff, has a high energy demand. Energy efficiency may be achieved through both mitigating waste as well as switching to alternative technology.

Key strategies that may be adopted to mitigate waste include, but are not limited to:

- a. convert all sources of lighting to energy-saving devices including sensory panels to all classrooms, faculty rooms, and laboratories to automatically shut down all electrical devices when not in use
- b. Install solar panels where possible – the university has begun the process of installing solar panels. This process will continue.
- c. In all construction of future buildings there must be provision of:
 - Energy-saving devices
 - Auto censoring devices
 - Solar panels
 - Design and ventilation to maximize the use of natural lighting

4.2 Water Use

Water efficiency is a crucial aspect of sustainability that is often neglected in daily life. The university should focus on minimizing water consumption and recycling/reuse water resources

whenever possible. Strategies to enhance water use efficiency include:

- a. Install automated sensory water dispensers wherever possible
- b. Regularly monitor all water dispensing points to ensure zero leakage/waste
- c. Recycle all wastewater for gardening, car wash, etc.
- d. In all construction of future buildings there must be provision of rainwater harvesting

4.3 Paper Use

As a major consumer of paper, universities contribute significantly to paper production pressures

and deforestation. To address this, our campus is committed to minimizing paper usage across all

activities.

University should strive to reduce reliance on printed material. This may include

- a. Adopting a Learning Management System for classes and lectures to reduce reliance on
- b. papers.
- c. Discourage the use of unnecessary printing wherever possible
- d. Adopt ERP operating systems to streamline office operations
- e. Create archives for submitting and storing thesis work

4.4 Waste Management

All university waste must be managed and processed as per the rules of health and environmental practices. Wherever possible, waste must be sorted for recycling and/or re-

using. The following strategies must be implemented to reduce pressure on the environment through waste generated by the university.

- a. Install color-coded garbage collection bins in key areas such as canteens, laboratories, etc.
- b. Collect and process all recyclable waste. By its very nature, a lot of paper waste is generated by the university. All paper waste must be disposed of through designated vendors committed to proper disposal.
- c. Install Sewage Treatment Plant before dispensing to the wastewater drain of Dhaka North Corporation
- d. All hazardous waste such as electronic equipment, photocopy material, light bulbs and chemical waste must be sorted for proper disposal.
- e. Posters/ information pamphlets must be shared with all students and staff to educate all about sorting of waste properly

4.5 Cafeteria

The university cafeteria should also be committed to implementing sustainable practices in line with the institution's climate action goals. To reduce its environmental impact the cafeteria should focus on the following areas of intervention:

- a. The cafeteria should prioritize sourcing locally grown, seasonal, and organic food to minimize the carbon footprint associated with food transportation.
- b. Efforts should be made to reduce food waste through careful portioning and donation of surplus food to local charities.
- c. The use of single-used plastics should be minimized by offering reusable or biodegradable alternatives
- d. Proper recycling stations should be provided for waste separation.
- e. The cafeteria should utilize energy-efficient appliances and ensure the proper management of water resources.

5. New Construction and Development

All new construction and developments by the university must be designed with sustainability at

the heart of the concept. This would include:

- a. All new designs must be under the umbrella of green- architecture
- b. Rainwater harvesting
- c. Provision of solar panels
- d. Sewerage treatment plant

6. Green Space

Promoting green spaces on the university campus is a key aspect of our sustainable action policy. The university is committed to increasing the number of green areas, such as gardens and green roofs, to enhance biodiversity, improve air quality, and provide students and staff with tranquil environments for relaxation and recreation. Key strategies for green space must include:

- a. Strategically choosing species of flora and fauna that are more conducive to the tropical climate
- b. Use recycled water from bathrooms and cafeteria in gardening practices to reduce pressure on water resources

7. Procurement

- a. The university's procurement policy should be designed to align with its climate action goals by prioritizing environmentally sustainable and ethically sourced products and services.
- b. The university should favor suppliers and vendors that demonstrate a commitment to sustainability, such as those offering energy-efficient equipment, renewable materials, and products with minimal environmental impact.
- c. The policy should encourage the purchase of locally sourced goods to reduce transportation emissions and support regional economies.
- d. Emphasis should be placed on reducing waste by selecting products with minimal packaging and promoting the use of reusable or recyclable materials.

8. Governance

A governance board comprises of the following should be in place ensuring proper implementation of the policy.

8.1 Advisory Board

- a. Composed of senior university leadership, external/internal experts, and key stakeholders.
- b. Provides strategic direction and ensures alignment with the university's mission, vision and goals.

8.2 Implementation Committee

- a. Includes faculty and administrative staff from relevant departments such as engineering, human resources, finance, etc.
- b. Responsible for planning, executing, and evaluating implementation initiatives

9. Monitoring and Compliance

- a. The Advisory Board mentioned will set clear goals with priorities for the implementation committee over a specified timeline.

b. The implementation committee will take action as per the goals set by the Advisory Board and will be responsible for:

- Take necessary actions for implementing goals within the assigned time frame.
- Submit regular reports on the work-in-progress to the Advisory Board.
- Conduct regular monitoring and maintenance reports ensuring upkeep and continuance of the implemented actions.
- Set relevant performance indicators for measuring the progress of implemented actions.
- In case of non-compliance in any area, the committee will report to the Advisory Board for immediate action.

10. Review and Updates

This policy will be reviewed at a regular interval to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in achieving East West University's Climate Action Goals.

Committee for the Sustainability / Climate Action Policy / Campus

Greening Policy

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