

Sustainability and Climate Action Policy

April 2026



VISVA-BHARATI
(A Central University)

Santiniketan, Birbhum
West Bengal, India

Sustainability and Climate Action Policy

Preamble

The Visva-Bharati, following Gurudev's Rabindranath Tagore's mission to respect nature and maintain its integrity, recognizes the need to address climate change and commits to continue and imbibe proactive measures to adhere to sustainability terms and mitigate carbon footprint of the institute. This Sustainability and Climate Action Policy enlisted the goals and guidelines for the Institute in its efforts to mitigate climate change, conserve resources, reduce carbon footprints, promote climate awareness and inculcate a culture of sustainability among its students, staff, and other stakeholders.

Objective

Carbon Neutrality: Visva-Bharati will follow the goals and targets to achieve carbon neutrality set by Government of India reducing GHGs from its operations and also supporting and creating initiatives that offset any remaining emissions

Renewable Energy: Visva-Bharati will act for transition towards the maximum use of renewable energy sources for electricity, heating, cooling and will promoting solar, wind, and other means of sustainable energy options available in the campus.

Conservation of Natural Resources: A vast areas of Visva-Bharati is filled with natural assets like water bodies, trees and grasslands. Visva-Bharati will promote and implement responsible strategies for utilization and management actions to conserve these water and other natural resources.

Climate Resilience: To promote climate-smart, resilient infrastructure and to aware the community about inclusive, climate-resilient, and technology-enabled sustainable practices.

Sustainable Transportation: To encourage the use of bicycles and public transport system by the community, particularly the student community.

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Waste Reduction and Recycling: To promote Waste to Wealth as part of Waste Management on a larger scale and developing a plastic free campus environment through encouraging recycling practices and reducing waste generation.

Sustainable Procurement: To favor eco-friendly products and services from ethical suppliers, thereby aligning the university's procurement policies with sustainability goals

Awareness and Education: To provide strategic direction for academic, research, innovation, infrastructure, and community engagement. To highlight the role of stakeholders and Visva-Bharati community in driving positive change policies with sustainability goals

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Policy Guidelines

1

Climate Action Plan

Visva-Bharati has constituted two committees for developing Decade Mission 2035 of Visva-Bharati: A roadmap for Academic, Research, Self-reliance and Rural Re-construction; Vision Policy @ 2047 to develop a comprehensive and strategic vision policy for Visva-Bharati in line with Viksit Bharat 2047

2

Renewable Energy Adoption

The Visva-Bharati has undertaken the initiative to install solar power systems considering their renewable, environment-friendly nature, low maintenance requirements, and long-term potential for reducing electricity costs.

3

Climate-Resilient Infrastructure

Visva-Bharati will develop climate-smart, resilient infrastructure and to aware the community about inclusive, climate-resilient, and technology-enabled sustainable practices.

4

Sustainable Transportation

Visva-Bharati will develop climate-smart, resilient infrastructure and to aware the community about inclusive, climate-resilient, and technology-enabled sustainable practices.

5

Waste Management

To minimize landfill waste, promote Waste segregation, Waste to Wealth as part of Waste Management on a larger scale, development of a plastic free campus environment through encouraging recycling practices and reducing waste generation.

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Policy Guidelines

6

Energy Efficiency

Visva-Bharati has vowed to enhance energy efficiency through increasing renewable energy adoption, promoting sustainable mobility, promoting the usage of LED Light within university buildings.

7

Water Management

Visva-Bharati encourages employing rainwater harvesting and water recycling systems to minimize water wastage. The ponds and other water resources in the University are being maintained. Visva-Bharati organizes awareness programmes on water conservation frequently to spread the message of significance of conserving water.

8

Biodiversity and Green Spaces

Imbibe the local practices and culture in preserving local biodiversity within the campus. Adopting methods to preserve local flora and fauna. Enhancing carbon sequestration within university campuses through tree cover, green spaces, and soil conservation helps offset a portion of institutional emissions and supports climate mitigation efforts

9

Engagement with Suppliers

Visva-Bharati will develop climate-smart, resilient infrastructure and to aware the community about inclusive, climate-resilient, and technology-enabled sustainable practices.

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Implementation and Reporting

1

Responsibility

Separate administrative committees are responsible for supervising the enactment of this policy and to harmonize sustainability initiatives

2

Monitoring and Reporting

Visva-Bharati prefers to proceed through monthly and on-need-based review meetings to assess the performance in achieving sustainability aims and inform collaborators, community members about the progress.

3

Integration into Academics: Sustainability

Visva-Bharati will develop climate-smart, resilient infrastructure and to aware the community about inclusive, climate-resilient, and technology-enabled sustainable practices.

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Collaboration and Engagement

Collaboration and Engagement

Visva-Bharati is actively collaborating with educational institutions government agencies, NGOs and industry partners to exchange knowledge, resources, and best practices related to sustainability and climate action aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Conclusion

Visva-Bharati University actively supports sustainability and climate action through a comprehensive Energy and Environment Policy. This policy, publicly available, outlines the university's commitment to sustainable practices, energy efficiency, and climate change mitigation across all its operations.

This policy is exclusively for the University and stakeholders associated with different exercises to achieve sustainability through. The implementation of the policy has nothing to do with activities outside the institute. Overall, the power of this policy is limited to the members of the University only. However, the impact of the policy would be beyond any geographical boundary.



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