

GEU/R-636-b/23

April 18, 2023

Sustainability and Climate Change Strategic Plan (2022-25)

To develop and implement an action plan for climate resilience and sustainability is a core responsibility of educational institutions. Graphic Era Deemed to be University is committed to implement an action plan, which extends from applying sustainability principles in our curriculum, infrastructure, organisational management to social responsibility initiatives of balancing environment protection and social development in Uttarakhand, a State of unique topography and culture. The University is committed to:

- 1. Reducing GHG emission:** University will ensure to take measures to reduce carbon emission and keeping the campus pollution free include transportation of students through a fleet of university buses, restricted movement of vehicles within the campus through increased usage of bicycles, prohibition of open fire and burning of paper and garden waste, limiting the use of chemical fertilizers by enhanced usage of biofertilizers prepared through vermicomposting of waste generated within the campus, minimizing paper usage with gradual progression towards a paperless system, and plantation of trees and shrubs along with well-maintained lawns and gardens to contribute towards carbon neutrality. Twenty Five different species of trees have been planted in the campus for enhancing greenery while also contributing as carbon sink to reduce GHGs.
- 2. Managing and Reducing Waste:** The University has implemented effective waste management strategies within the campus by making it ‘polythene-free” and “smoke-free”, collecting horticultural and kitchen waste and utilising it for the production of functional vermicompost as biofertilizers, promoting biopesticide formulations from animal urine, onion, garlic leaves, etc., and implementing strategies for dairy wastewater purification and reuse. The University is promoting E-waste management through E-contractors and donation of used computers to needy schools and NGOs.
- 3. Conserving Energy:** The University is committed to energy conservation by using energy-efficient lighting for demand site management and to generating renewable energy from rooftop installed solar panels and solar water heaters to meet the energy demand of the campus. To reduce the use of electricity, the lecture theatres have been designed with adequate natural light and cross ventilation.
- 4. Water Conservation and Management:** The University has adopted water conservation and management on the campus through rain-water harvesting, check dam construction and other measures.
- 5. Monitoring, Verification and Reporting:** The University is maintaining an efficient system for “Green Audit” by continuous monitoring of key indicators like GHG emissions, energy usage, water conservation, waste management, and verifying and reporting of pitfalls and their remediation.

6. **Awareness and Sensitization on sustainable development and climate change:** Fostering an ecosystem that promotes awareness of sustainable development, energy conservation, environment protection, climate change and mitigation strategies among students, faculty members, staff and stakeholders through multifaceted co-curricular activities, guest lectures, seminars, conferences, poster presentations, tree plantation drives, Greenathons and Cycle marathons, and by celebrating Environment Day and Biodiversity Day.
7. **Public-private partnerships towards sustainable utilization of resources:** The University has implemented community activities focused on educating farmers of the Himalayan region on the significance of biodiversity conservation, access and benefit sharing, utilization of climate resilient crops, usage of renewable energy, etc. Numerous research projects are also focused on building climate resilience for rural community benefits.
8. **Integration of sustainable practices in academics and curriculum:** The University has established a separate Department of Environment Science, which is engaged in teaching Environmental Science courses to all undergraduate students and in conducting research in the areas of eco-friendly environmental technologies. The incorporation of compulsory courses addressing sustainable development, climate change, energy, water and waste management in all programs of the University ensure environmental awareness and promote environmental research among students. In addition, participation of students in “Eco Clubs”, various international youth conferences and festivals related to eco-friendly projects is encouraged and promoted throughout their academic program.
9. **Promotion of research on biodiversity conservation, adaptation, resilience and sustainable development:** The University is encouraging research and consultancy in areas pertaining to biodiversity conservation, sustainable utilization of bioresources, climate change mitigation, renewable energy, clean energy, etc. Collaboration with national and international bodies through events that culminate in exchange on ideas on sustainable development is an integral part of this effort. The University has established a **Centre for Himalayan Studies** to promote sustainability of the Himalayan region and reduce the impact of climate change, and is committed to providing financial and technical support to students carrying out research on developing eco-friendly approaches for sustainable development. As a consequence Ecoclubs and IYSERT have been formed by the student community.
10. University plans to have NET ZERO emission by year 2030.

By developing and implementing the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategic Plan, the University is playing a critical role in raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and in promoting innovation in research and technical capacity for social well-being and environmental sustainability.



Registrar

Copy to:

PRO: For kind Information of the Hon'ble President

1. The Chancellor
2. Vice Chancellor
3. Finance Officer
4. Controller of Examinations
5. All Directors, Deans & HODs
6. Deputy Registrar Examinations
7. All Administrative Departments
8. Web Administrator for updating on the University website