



# Auxilium College (AUTONOMOUS)

(Accredited by NAAC with A<sup>+</sup> Grade with a CGPA of 3.55 out of 4 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle)

Gandhi Nagar, Vellore - 632 006,  
Tamil Nadu, South India.

Phone :  
Off : 91 416 22 41 774  
: 91 416 22 49 670  
Fax : 91 416 22 47 281  
E-mail :  
admin@auxiliumcollege.edu.in  
Web Site :  
www.auxiliumcollege.edu.in

## ENVIRONMENT POLICY

### Preamble

#### Auxilium and Nature

Auxilium College is situated in a marshy and dry area in Vellore District of Tamil Nadu. As the College is committed to making a difference, there is a clear vision about the protection, preservation and sustainability of the environment. The College has its policy for the environment. The motto of the policy is, "Enrich Nature, Enhance Environment".

Every activity affects the local, regional and global environment. There is the belief in the peaceful coexistence of human beings and nature. Auxilium is committed to being a positive and creative force in the protection and enhancement of the local, regional and global environment through its teaching, administrative and support operations.

Creating a healthy and environmentally, sustainable campus requires a systematic approach that integrates sustainability into every aspect of campus life, including addressing 'How, What, When, Where and Why of campus growth', identifying compliance requirements, implementing sustainable practices, and realizing fiscal benefits. Using an Environmental Management System (EMS) will allow all to take a more holistic view of the campus and work together to grow in a more sustainable and improve the overall environmental performance.

As an Institution of higher learning, Auxilium College has a special obligation to ensure that the ways the students are educated, internal affairs are managed, and interaction with the broader community serve as examples that others might follow. Consistent with the history of courageous and morally sensitive leadership, Auxilium embraces an ethic of environmental stewardship. It is recognized that it is not enough to decrease the rate at which local and global resources are depleted and degraded. Therefore, it is needed to strive to be proactive and comprehensive and play a leading role in developing a community that uses renewable resources to operate and work to restore and enhance the ecological functions on which future generations will depend. Environmental stewardship is both a goal that guides daily life and a core priority that informs all aspects of decision-making in Auxilium College and enable the Educating Community members to become "Eco Friendly" people.

#### Objectives and Purposes of the Policy

This Policy is intended to provide guidelines for an eco-friendly living of all the stakeholders of Auxilium College both within and outside the campus. It should also serve as a guideline to decide the stance on environmental issues of the region and the State.

*Ss. Juge Sudhakar*  
PRINCIPAL  
AUXILIUM COLLEGE (Autonomous)  
Gandhi Nagar, Vellore - 632 006,  
Vellore District, Tamil Nadu.

*L. Alvi K.T.*  
SECRETARY  
AUXILIUM COLLEGE (Autonomous)  
Gandhi Nagar, Vellore - 632 006,  
Vellore District, Tamil Nadu.





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- To uphold the intrinsic value of Mother Nature.
- To orient the stakeholders of Auxilium College on the importance of Nature.
- To undertake eco-friendly initiatives and develop proactive steps towards the environment.
- To motivate the youth for action to conserve, protect and restore the environment.
- To promote networking and collaboration among professionals, agencies and young people to have a sustainable consciousness in development projects.

### Fundamental Principles

- Care for Our Common Home Earth ("Laudato Si") to be nurtured
- Sustainable living and return to nature
- Minimize negative impacts on the environment
- Conserve and wisely use natural resources
- Respect biodiversity and natural systems

### Practical Principles

The practical principles of this Policy is based on the four core principles of environmental policy, i.e., Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Replace.

**Reduce:** Use or buy only what is needed.

**Reuse:** Do not throw away reusable items. Reduce waste by making full use of these items.

**Recycle:** Give items not needed to persons in need; recycle broken, recyclable items so that the resources can be recycled into usable items.

**Replace:** Adopt eco-friendly goods or lifestyles, such as using handkerchiefs instead of tissues, travel by public transport instead of private vehicles.

Under this Policy, it is essential to focus on the following components to ensure the sustainability and protection of Nature.

- 'Ethics of Enough' to be cultivated
- Minimize the use of energy
- Seek alternative sources of energy (Green Energy)
- Promote water harvesting and recycling
- Be environment conscientious
- Create awareness on environmental issues
- Minimize/Avoid the use of plastics
- Waste has to be handled at the place of origin

*Dr. Jyoti Sankar*  
PRINCIPAL  
AUXILIUM COLLEGE (Autonomous)  
Gandhi Nagar, Vellore - 632 006.  
Vellore District, Tamil Nadu.

*Dr. Abhi K.T.*  
SECRETARY  
AUXILIUM COLLEGE (Autonomous)  
Gandhi Nagar, Vellore - 632 006.  
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- E-waste has to be handled properly
- Promote eco-friendly alternatives
- Based on the environmental themes, organize programmes and festivals on the campus
- Keep the premises green and clean
- Abstain from inflicting any harm to Mother Nature.
- Promotion of environment-friendly best practices in adherence to the Environment Committee of the College.
- Establishing a purchasing policy that, by 2025, eliminates campus and campus food vendor procurement of all non-essential, non-compostable, single-use disposable plastics. This includes restrictions on:
  - Single-use plastic utensils/ articles/food service-ware/ containers
  - Single-use plastic-lined cups and bowls, plastic-wrapped condiments, sauces, and seasonings
  - Individually-packaged items with bulk alternatives
  - Single-use hot beverage packets unnecessarily packaged in plastics
  - Plastic shopping bags

Note: The following "solutions" are **not** acceptable under this pledge:

- Incineration ("waste-to-energy") as a "recycling" option
  - Food-contaminated, "recyclable" single-use plastics (Plastic that has come into contact with food is typically no longer recyclable, regardless of the original plastic material)
  - "Biodegradable" plastic options that are not certified compostable.
- Due to the present lack of viable alternatives, and other barriers to removal, the following single-use plastic items are presently excluded from the above restrictions. However, Auxilium College commits to keeping an eye on plastic-free alternatives in future procurement decisions and policies regarding these items:
    - Pre-packaged plastic-wrapped retail items
    - Plastic trash and recycling bags
    - Plastic wrap for use during food preparation
    - Plastic and polystyrene packaging from incoming orders
    - Single-use plastics used in academic settings (e.g. lab equipment)
    - Single-use plastics necessary for health or safety purposes (e.g. medical plastics)

*Dr. Juge Sankar*  
PRINCIPAL  
AUXILIUM COLLEGE (Autonomous)  
Gandhi Nagar, Vellore - 632 006.  
Vellore District, Tamil Nadu.

*Dr. Anil K. T.*  
SECRETARY  
AUXILIUM COLLEGE (Autonomous)  
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- Investment in education, resources, and infrastructure to assist in the Plastic-Free Campus transition. This includes:
  - Education on plastics and the College's commitment to plastic-free alternatives for all incoming and current students, staff, and if possible, on-campus contractors and community members.
  - Expanding resources and infrastructure for compost collection, institutional reuse, repair and sharing opportunities, and general waste reduction practices.
  - Adjusting procurement guidelines to encourage investment in durable and useful products across campus departments. This also applies to promotional and give away items.

## Implementation

The Secretary, Principal, Vice-Principals, Directors, Heads of the Department, Extension Services Director, Hostel Deans are expected to support the implementation of this policy and assure compliance within their areas of administrative responsibility. The Enviro clubs, NSS, NCC, have a major role to play. The whole Educative Community Members - all staff members, students and guests of the College are expected to carry out their duties and activities in a manner that supports the principles and purpose stated. A separate committee named Environment Committee will guide under the leadership of the College Secretary, College Principal and other selected representatives for the effective implementation of the policy.

As an institution of higher education, Auxilium has both an obligation and an opportunity to be a leader in environmental sustainability by providing both staff and students with a broader awareness, values clarification, technical and historical information, personal and professional skills, and an opportunity to share experiences. Auxilium must be rooted in reality, identify and understand the trade-offs that will be involved, and choose the options wisely.

Daily all must be strong stewards of the institution, striking a balance between many demands including:

- Compliance with State rules and regulations
- Efficient use of all resources including financial and human
- Protecting and enhancing the campus environment through sustainable practices
- Meeting the mission of the College to educate, perform research, and provide outreach services to the community.

*Sr. Juge Sankar*

PRINCIPAL  
AUXILIUM COLLEGE (Autonomous)  
Gandhi Nagar, Vellore - 632 006.  
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*Dr. Alvi R.T.*

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### Campus Environmental Initiatives

The Campus Environmental initiatives comprise of:

1. Committing to instituting environmentally and socially responsible purchasing policies.
2. Committing to reducing campus waste.
3. Committing to the maximization of energy efficiency and to using sustainable energy sources.
4. Committing to enhancing sustainability in land-use and building planning.
5. Committing to providing curricular opportunities for the study of campus and local environmental issues.
6. Committing to utilizing regional and organic food sources.
7. Committing to environmentally and socially responsible development and investment.
8. Committing to enabling access to tools for sustainability.
9. Committing to procure physical infrastructure, initiate institutional practices and personal behaviour that will foster public health.
10. Committing to inter-generational equity that presupposes the right of each generation of human beings to benefit from cultural and natural resources of the past generation as well as the 'obligation' to preserve such heritage for future generations.
11. Committing to the use and conservation of natural resources.
12. Committing to Environmental Protection.

The success of the initiative will be evaluated periodically through environmental audits that evaluate its progress in achieving the goals and commitments:

*Dr. Jeyaraj*

PRINCIPAL  
AUXILIUM COLLEGE (Autonomous)  
Gandhi Nagar, Vellore - 632 006.  
Vellore District, Tamil Nadu.

*Dr. Dhivya K.T.*

SECRETARY  
AUXILIUM COLLEGE (Autonomous)  
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