

IIT Kharagpur Sustainability Policy

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy shall be to sustainably conduct the academic, research, outreach and other activities of IIT Kharagpur in sync with the internationally accepted standards especially the sustainable development goals (SDG) adopted by the United Nations. Though the goal of sustainability is a holistic macro-level endeavor, it can be achieved if all stakeholders act in unison.

PREAMBLE

IIT Kharagpur Sustainability Policy (herein after referred to as Policy) represents its enduring commitment to addressing global challenges and paving a sustainable, responsible path for the future of the IIT community in particular and the future of the humanity in general. IIT Kharagpur acknowledges the importance of adopting a sustainable framework of operation, teaching and research to contribute to achieving environmental, social, cultural and economic sustainability. Since its inception, the Institute has been working in the direction of the goal of reducing socio-economic inequality, preventing environmental degradation and mitigating the effects of climate change.

SCOPE OF THE POLICY

- a. The policy shall be known as the Sustainability Policy of IIT Kharagpur, 2024.
- b. This Policy outlines the directions in which IIT Kharagpur pledges to concentrate its efforts in terms of teaching, research and innovation, outreach and engagement, and Institute operations to aid in achieving SDG targets.
- c. This Policy calls for streamlining administrative and Institutional processes to reduce life cycle costs, resource consumption and increase sustainability awareness.
- d. This Policy shall apply to the IIT community including but not limited to all students, researchers, post-doctoral fellows, project staff, interns, faculty, non-teaching employees, contractual and temporary teaching, non-teaching staff, visitors, shop owners and their staff, commercial establishments and campus residents.
- e. The Policy statement outlines the strategies and initiatives that IIT Kharagpur shall undertake by 2047, in alignment with the 17 SDGs defined by the United Nations.
- f. Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, as a part of its outreach activity IIT Kharagpur, shall make endeavors to spread the benefits of this Policy to the inhabitants residing outside the campus to the extent permissible under law.

POLICY STATEMENT

- IIT Kharagpur shall put in its best endeavour in uplifting the quality of life in its surroundings by creating and disseminating affordable technologies, knowledge, literacy and education to the deprived.
- To impart skill development and vocational training that are affordable for the economically weaker sections of the society.
- To create and disseminate technology, knowledge and education and extend aid to local communities directed towards development efforts for the deprived.



- To develop sustainable technologies and innovations for increased food production, improved food packaging and transportation to increase shelf life.
- To continue to implement directives to reduce food wastage in campus, halls of residence and other establishments while ensuring access to nutritious food.
- IIT Kharagpur shall endeavour to channelize its research in developing better and affordable food preservation technology, create mobile apps for creating awareness of balanced diet, optimal use of available food and recycling of food waste.



- To develop a healthy, productive environment for all campus stakeholders by improving access to medical facilities on campus and encourage healthier lifestyle and practices.
- To improve infrastructure and recreational facilities for enhanced quality of life and well-being within campus shall be a priority.
- IIT Kharagpur shall aim to disseminate technology, knowledge and awareness directed at health and well-being of local communities through Institute Social Responsibility efforts.



- To integrate sustainability as a core value in all disciplines and in the teaching-learning processes.
- Institute shall strive to improve access to affordable education, and skill development programs for capacity building of stakeholders from all age groups and sections of society.
- IIT Kharagpur aims to conduct research on development of innovative learning tools for all.



- To promote women’s empowerment, skill development, gender equality and pay parity, and encouraging women participation in all academic, administrative, and Institute roles.
- To undertake awareness campaigns in local communities to boost female education.
- Institute shall foster research on gender studies and make the Institute sensitive to all gender classifications through Policy interventions and training programs.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



- To ensure complete purification of water supply and wastewater treatment within campus.
- To implement directives and install water conservation technologies, rainwater harvesting mechanisms in all halls of residence, staff and faculty residences and academic buildings to reduce water wastage.
- IIT Kharagpur shall encourage grey water reutilization for landscaping and irrigation.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



- To promote usage of renewables, clean energy sources and increase the current solar power generation capacity to achieve Net-Zero Carbon emissions target by 2040 within campus residential and academic areas.
- Target is to achieve 50% solar power generation capacity by 2030.
- Energy retrofitting of existing residential and academic building shall be promoted to reduce energy consumption.
- The policy advocates making Annual Energy Audits and periodic Energy Accounting mandatory for all departments.
- Energy research shall be prioritized as well.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



- To promote productive employment opportunities for residents of local communities.
- To provide a safe working environment for all and protect labor rights as per law.
- To contribute to regional economic development through capacity building and sustainable technological assistance.
- The Institute shall encourage entrepreneurial education and endeavor of students and other stakeholders, while protecting intellectual property rights.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



- To encourage the pursuit of innovation amongst students and promote research, technology development and publications in the field of sustainability.
- To inspire entrepreneurship and start-ups as well as development of an innovative ecosystem for effective utilization of resources.
- IIT Kharagpur shall promote the development of resilient, sustainable technologies for the advancement of industrial production and infrastructure development.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



- To ensure access to education for all irrespective of gender, race, caste and creed, income groups and abilities.
- To provide scholarships and endowment funds for students from economically weaker sections of society.
- IIT Kharagpur shall strive to promote innovations, programs and Institute Social Responsibility towards reduction of rural-urban inequality.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



- To achieve Zero waste-to-landfill status and ensure complete source segregation of solid waste within campus.
- To encourage research and technology development in affordable, sustainable and smart infrastructure and renewable energy-based transportation.
- To reduce dependency on motor vehicles in line with the Net Zero emissions target of the Institute.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



- To promote urban farming and green roofs within Institute buildings and premises.
- To improve the implementation of the ban on single-use plastics.
- Institute shall encourage sustainable procurement, resource recovery and circular economy through Policy changes, especially in regards to construction, electronic, and other institute scrap materials.
- IIT Kharagpur shall bring procedural changes to reduce usage of paper in examinations, academic exercises and Institute administrative activities.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



- Monitoring of climate data, emissions and air quality throughout the campus to be made mandatory.
- Institute shall take proactive measures to curb urban heat island effect within campus by developing a campus-level building regulation to reduce concrete/brick paving, and improve campus landscaping, tree cover and preservation and creation of water bodies.
- To encourage use of e-vehicles or bicycles inside the campus as well as promote plantation drives.
- IIT Kharagpur shall prioritize creation and dissemination of technology, knowledge and awareness pertaining to climate change and responsiveness.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



- The Institute shall spread awareness in campus and nearby local and coastal communities about misusing below-the-water resources, including food, materials, substances and energy for sustainable development.
- Institute shall strive to promote research and policy developments for conservation of freshwater, marine, seas and ocean ecosystems.
- IIT Kharagpur shall promote research on sustainability for tourism and economic activities in aquatic ecosystems.

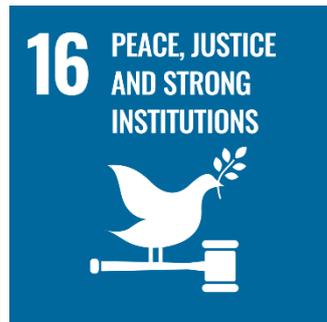
14 LIFE BELOW WATER



- Institute shall actively protect and preserve local ecosystems and biodiversity within the campus, including forest areas.
- Monitoring and reporting mechanism for maintaining green cover will be setup.
- Depletion of tree cover for institutional building construction shall be curbed.



- Institute shall ensure equal access to justice for all and promote effective accountability at all levels.
- The Institute curriculum shall endorse code of good practices at campus, local and regional level.
- IIT Kharagpur shall promote responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making structure for all its activities. Discriminatory and non-sustainable behavior shall be actively discouraged by the Institute.



- Institute shall mobilize technical expertise for knowledge sharing and shall promote collaborations with industry and other Institutions for development of innovative products and processes to achieve SDGs.
- The policy advocates accelerating joint learning initiatives with Institutions from other nations to overcome hurdles in knowledge sharing that impede integrated and holistic technological advancement across the globe following S & T policy of the country.



COMPLIANCE AND REDRESSAL

1. a. There shall be a Committee called Sustainable Policy Implementation Committee (SPIC) to oversee, implement and manage the instant Policy.

b. The Committee shall consist of the following ---

- Dean (R&D)
- Representative from Departments including Agricultural and Food Engineering (AgFE), Architecture and Regional Planning (ARC), Civil Engineering (CE), School of Environmental Science and Engineering (SESE), School of Energy Science and Engineering (ESE), Centre for Ocean, River, Atmosphere and Land Sciences (CORAL), and Rajiv Gandhi School of Intellectual Property Law (RGSO IPL)
- Professor In Charge, Ranking (PIC, Ranking)

2. Power of the Committee

- The Committee shall have the power to recommend specific measures to be implemented by IIT Kharagpur.

- b. The recommendations made by the committee shall have high persuasive value and the Institute shall endeavour to implement such recommendations.
- c. The Committee shall have the power to reframe internal rules and procedures for better functioning of the systems in the Institute ecosystem.