

Best Practices- II

Title: Promoting Sustainability for a Greener Future

Objective:

- To promote energy-efficient appliances and sustainable power usage.
- To implement waste segregation, recycling and promote reusable alternatives.
- To raise awareness on responsible water usage among students and staff.
- To increase green cover
- To encourage sustainable transportation
- To reduce overall energy consumption
- To minimize paper usage
- To monitor and report environmental performance

Context:

B. K. Birla College, Kalyan integrates environmentally friendly practices into its infrastructure, policies, and daily operations. The context of having a green campus revolves around sustainability, resource efficiency, and environmental awareness.

Practice:

The initiatives undertaken in the year 2023-24 to promote a green campus include the following.

- **Green Awards:** The college has bagged the Envirocare Green Awards 2023 under Special Citation (Category: Academia), 'Envirocare Green Awards 2024: 1st Position' and 'Excellence in Green Campus and Sustainability Initiatives, 2024' by Economic Times.
- **MoU with International Center for Climate and Sustainability Action Foundation:** The college has signed MoU with International Centre for Climate and Sustainability Action Foundation (ICCSA) for research and development in environmental sustainability.
- **Library:** The area surrounding the library has been developed into a collaborative learning space which includes 02 gazebos and open reading room.
- **RFID-tagged books** reduce paper usage by minimizing the need for manual records, enhance resource efficiency by streamlining library operations, and lower energy consumption thus contributing to a more sustainable approach.

- **Energy Management:** The college has installed solar panels on rooftops for efficient electrical energy generation and storage. 100 % of lights in the college is LED lights. The college has even prepared to replace all conventional fans to BLDC fans. The college has installed energy efficient BEE star rating ACs. Few ACs (Air Conditioner) are with temperature control facility (automode) and have an automatic switch off. A total of 50,976 kWh of Clean Energy was produced leading to conservation of 41 Tons of CO₂.
- **Biodiversity Park:** A Biodiversity Park of 4254 sq. metres, etc. has been incorporated in the campus. The College campus is lush green with trees, herbs/shrubs, potted outdoor/indoor plants, vegetable garden, polyhouses, biodiversity park and vertical gardens to improve the campus aesthetics and help as a buffer in reducing noise level and in maintaining the temperature within the campus.
- **Seed Bank:** The Seed Bank facilitates seed distribution (collected by students) to promote sustainable gardening and biodiversity conservation.
- **Plastic Recycling:** As part of the Mumbai Plastic Recyclothon, 1250 kg of plastic waste was collected, leading to the acquisition of four recycled benches.
- **Biogas Plant:** A small 200-liter biogas plant, assembled by a support staff member, has been installed near the pantry of the conference room.
- **Working model of Windmill:** The students have developed a windmill model that generates energy ranging from approximately 100 mW to 300 mW.
- **Water/Wastewater Treatment:** The College has initiated various green practices for management of water and wastewater. Rainwater harvesting system [scientifically designed Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting System (04 Units) with borewells at a depth of 139 ft and 135 ft respectively], five dug pits, ETP and STP plant, Water Treatment Plants, low flow water saving devices, etc.). The Air Conditioner (AC)outlet water collection system is installed in 11 ACs and on an average one litre of water is collected per AC per hour. The collected water is used in gardening. The quality of Drinking water is periodically checked by Environmental Sciences Laboratory (NABL Accredited).
- **Air quality monitoring:** Indoor and Outdoor Air Quality monitoring by students enable real-time tracking of air pollutants.
- **National Symposium:** Conducted One Day National Symposium on ‘Development of resilient Technologies for Climate Change Mitigation’
- **Special lectures/ Workshops:** The college actively observed significant environmental days, including World Environment Day, Earth Day, Ozone Day, Mangrove Day, Bird Week,

Worlds Wetland Day, World Water Day through special guest lectures and interactive activities. Students participated in innovative workshops, competitions, and campaigns like 'Vriksha Dindi,' tree plantation drives, No Vehicle Day, water analysis, making of Eco Friendly Ganpati Idol', etc.

Thus, by prioritizing these goals for environmental sustainability, B. K. Birla College (Empowered Autonomous Status), Kalyan desires to demonstrate leadership in addressing environmental challenges, preparing students for a sustainable future to build climate resilient society.