



Jayprakash Education Society's  
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## Best Practice No. II

### Towards a Sustainable Future: Environmental Initiatives and Awareness at Our College

#### Context:

As the world becomes more aware of the impact of human activities on the environment, there is an urgent need to take action towards sustainability. Educational institutions have an important role to play in this effort, as they can promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainable practices among their students, staff, and the wider community.

At our college, we have taken various initiatives towards creating a sustainable future. From tree plantation drives to waste management practices, from energy-efficient lighting to water conservation methods, we have implemented a range of measures to reduce our ecological footprint. These efforts have not only helped us to minimize our impact on the environment but also created awareness among our students and staff about the importance of environmental sustainability.

Through this best practice, we aim to highlight the environmental initiatives and awareness programs that we have undertaken at our college. We believe that by sharing our experience and learning with others, we can inspire more educational institutions and

communities to take action towards sustainability. To create environmental awareness and promote sustainable development among students, staff, stakeholders of the college and the wider community through our institution's green policy document and by setting an example of responsible environmental stewardship.

Our institution aims to lead by example in promoting environmental awareness and sustainability in the community. By implementing our own Green Policy Document, we seek to create awareness among all stakeholders about the importance of conserving and preserving the environment. Our policy document outlines measures for conscious use of energy and water resources, litter-free campus, tree plantation drives, cleanliness drives, forest trails, heritage walks, trekking, waste management and the use of renewable energy.

Through various initiatives such as guest lectures, conferences, workshops, poster presentations, rallies, tree plantation, and irrigation system, we aim to spread awareness about environmental sustainability. By involving the students, staff, and stakeholders in these initiatives, we hope to create a shared sense of responsibility towards environmental conservation and sustainable development.

We believe that sustainable development is closely linked to environmental awareness, and proper utilization and preservation of environmental resources can lead to enhanced sustainable development. Therefore, we aim to develop environmental sustainability values among our students and stakeholders. We want to equip them with the knowledge and skills necessary to protect the world environment and its resources, which will ultimately lead to sustainable development.

Our goal is to create a community of environmentally conscious individuals who are committed to preserving and protecting the

environment. By setting an example of responsible environmental stewardship, we hope to inspire others to follow in our footsteps and contribute to a more sustainable future for all.

**Objective:**

1. To create and maintain a green and sustainable campus by implementing various eco-friendly measures and practices.
2. To raise awareness and consciousness among students, staff, stakeholders, and the community about the importance of environmental conservation and sustainability.
3. To promote the efficient use of energy and natural resources through energy and environmental audits and the use of renewable energy sources.
4. To minimize waste generation and promote waste management through the 4R policy (Reduce, Recover, Recycle, and Reuse).
5. To encourage citizen participation in environmental activities and initiatives through various awareness drives, campaigns, and events.
6. To promote eco-friendly practices and behaviors among students and staff by setting an example and incorporating sustainable practices in daily activities.
7. To reduce the carbon footprint of the institution by implementing eco-friendly transportation and commuting practices.
8. To collaborate with other institutions, organizations, and agencies to promote environmental sustainability and conservation at the local, national, and global levels.

## **The Practice:**

The practice at our college involves a range of initiatives and activities aimed at promoting environmental awareness and sustainability. These initiatives include regular tree plantation drives, water conservation measures, waste management, energy audit, and digitalization of administrative processes. The college also has a Green Policy Document that outlines specific goals and guidelines for promoting environmental sustainability.

Various awareness drives, brainstorming sessions, eco-trails, heritage walks, plastic collection and cleanliness drives, poster competitions, environment awareness rallies, photo exhibitions, conferences, seminars, workshops, plantation drives, and trekking are organized regularly for students, staff, and community members. The college also conducts an annual energy and environmental audit and has optimized the use of energy-efficient LED fittings.

In addition to these initiatives, the college also focuses on social responsibility and encourages students to participate in activities like collecting 'Nirmalya' during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival and converting it into organic manure. The college also collaborates with an agency for proper disposal of e-waste and plastic waste.

Environmental Sustainability Initiatives and Practices at Our College:

### **1. Environmental Awareness Initiatives:**

- Organizing awareness drives, brainstorming sessions, eco-trails, heritage walks, plastic collection and cleanliness drives, poster competitions, environment awareness rallies, photo exhibitions, tree plantations, conferences, seminars, workshops, plantation drives, and trekking expeditions.
- Making the campus litter-free, promoting conscious use of energy and water resources, and encouraging the use of renewable energy.

- Creating awareness about the importance of conservation and preservation of the environment.

## **2. Tree Plantation:**

- Conducting an annual tree plantation drive both within the campus and its surrounding areas.
- Planting and maintaining around 150 saplings each year.
- Increasing the green cover in the locality and contributing to the conservation of the environment.
- Instilling a sense of responsibility towards the environment and promoting a sustainable way of life.

## **3. Rainwater Harvesting and Waste Management:**

- Implementing measures to conserve water and manage waste effectively.
- Utilizing rainwater optimally through rainwater harvesting.
- Using drip irrigation and leakage-free pipelines and faucets.
- Adopting the 4R policy of Reduce, Recover, Recycle, and Reuse for waste management.
- Following a strict "No Plastic" policy for all stakeholders and promoting the use of eco-friendly alternatives.
- Providing separate color-coded bins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste, which are then collected and managed appropriately.

## **4. Energy Audit and Sustainable Transportation:**

- Using energy-saving devices such as timers, motion sensors, and programmable thermostats to reduce energy consumption.
- Promoting sustainable transportation by encouraging carpooling, cycling, and the use of public transportation.
- Installing charging stations for electric vehicles to promote the use of eco-friendly vehicles.

## **5. Waste Water Management:**

- Installing an effluent water treatment plant to treat and reuse

- waste water for watering plants on campus, thereby conserving water resources.
- Recovering organic solvents through the use of rotary evaporators and reusing them, reducing the amount of waste generated and promoting a circular economy.

#### **6. Cleanliness Drives:**

- Regularly participating in campus cleaning drives.
- Collecting 'Nirmalya' from Peth-Vadgaon near the college and processing it into organic manure during the auspicious occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi festival, as part of their ongoing efforts to promote sustainable waste management.

#### **7. E-waste Management:**

- Digitizing measures to reduce paper usage and promote a paperless work environment.
- Collecting e-waste and plastic waste and handing it over to a specialized agency for proper disposal.
- Minimizing electricity usage and maintaining a green campus, fulfilling the institution's social commitment and creating environmental awareness among all stakeholders.

#### **Evidence of Success:**

The activities conducted under this best practice have helped to foster a culture of environmental awareness and sustainability among the college community and beyond. The various initiatives such as tree plantation drives, energy and environmental audits, waste management policies, water conservation efforts, and digitization of administrative processes have all played a significant role in creating a green campus and promoting sustainability practices.

Through these initiatives, the college has been able to reduce its carbon footprint and minimize the negative impact on the environment. The

college has also set an example for the wider community on how to incorporate sustainable practices in daily life.

Moreover, the activities have not only helped in promoting environmental awareness, but have also contributed towards social responsibility. For example, the collection of 'Nirmalya' during the Ganesh Chaturthi festival and converting it into organic manure by the NSS volunteers is a socially responsible act that helps to reduce pollution and promote sustainable agriculture.

The awareness drives, conferences, workshops, seminars, and rallies organized by the college have also played a vital role in raising awareness about environmental issues and promoting sustainable practices among students, faculty, stakeholders, and the wider community. The photo exhibitions, poster competitions, and heritage walks have provided a platform for the college community to showcase their knowledge and creativity in promoting environmental awareness.

Overall, these activities have not only helped in promoting a green and sustainable campus, but have also contributed towards creating a sense of social responsibility and environmental consciousness among all stakeholders.

## Photographs:

### 1. Tree Plantation (2017-22)



(i)



(ii)

## 2. Cleanliness Drive (2017-22)



(i)



(ii)

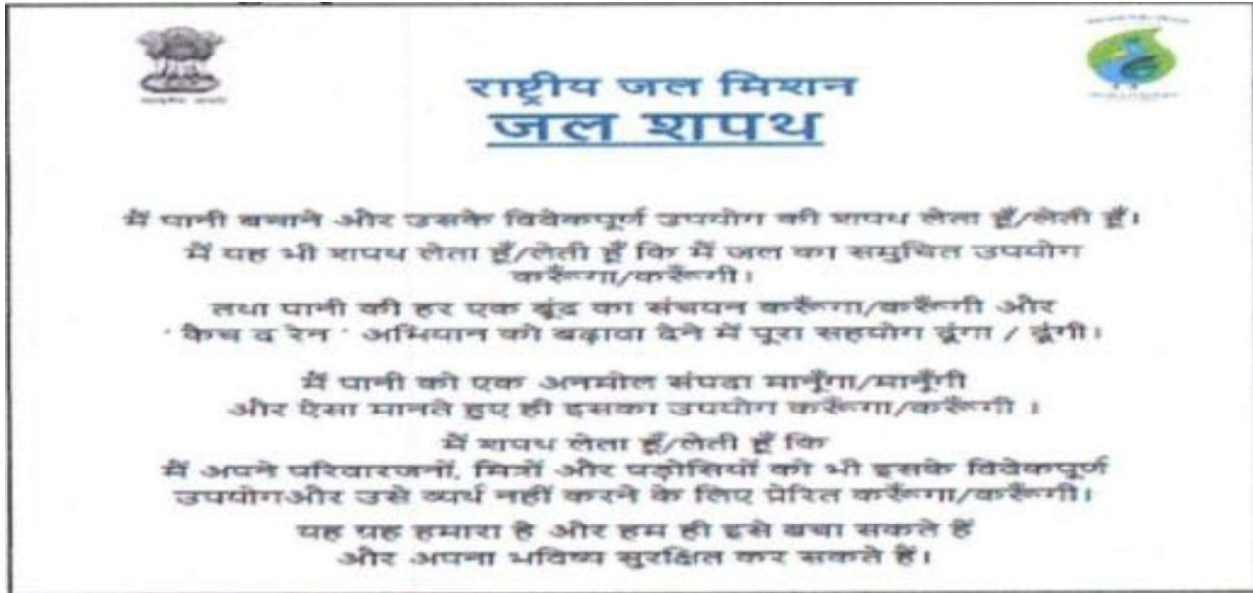
### 3. Poster Presentation (2019-20)



### 4. Bio- Diversity Awareness Campaign (2019-20)



## 5. Water Conservation Oath (2020-21)



(i)



*Bale*

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