

# **East West University**

## **Sustainability and Climate Action Policy**

### **Introduction**

In 1996, East West University was founded by a group of distinguished academics, business leaders, professionals, and education enthusiasts, under the visionary leadership of Dr. Mohammed Farashuddin. This institution marked the inaugural and significant undertaking of the Progoti Foundation for Education and Development (PFED), initiated by the same group. The university's establishment was driven by interconnected goals: to enhance the nation's capacity for tertiary education, making it accessible to a broader student population, and to play a pivotal role in fostering the country's human capital development process. Through its commitment to education and development, East West University continues to make a substantial impact on shaping the future of students and contributing to the overall progress of the nation.

East West University is well aware of environmental pollution and its impact on the environment. Therefore, the university places a strong emphasis on tackling environmental degradation and climate change challenges. As a leading academic institution in Bangladesh, East West University is dedicated to promoting responsible environmental stewardship. The university pledges to incorporate sustainability principles into all facets of its administration, education, research, and community engagement.

### **Sustainability Vision**

To be a leader in sustainable practices and climate action, empowering future generations to create a greener and more resilient world.

## **SUSTAINABILITY POLICY AND ACTION**

### **3R principle**

To promote sustainable waste management in all its activities, East West University will incorporate the 3R's principle (reduce, reuse, and recycle) on its campus. This entails the following steps:

### **Energy Use**

Being located in the tropical zone, the daily temperature in Dhaka varies between 30-40 degrees Celsius in Summer and between 10-24 degrees Celsius in Winter. As such, the campus, which services 15000+ students and staff, has huge demand for energy. To reduce energy demand the campus has the following features

- Monitor energy use in empty classrooms and establish the policy of “last person leaving the room shall switch off all lights, fans and air-condition equipment”. The policy is applied to all other rooms and facilities of the university.

- Temperature control meters – to reduce waste in energy use, the campus is divided into clusters of office rooms and is equipped with temperature control meters in each cluster.
- LED lights – all CFL and fluorescent bulbs in the campus will be gradually replaced with LED bulbs to save energy in the campus.
- The University plans to utilize natural lights in its facilities and hence the design of all new facilities will conform to this.

## **Water Use**

In order to conserve water and minimize its consumption on the campus, selected locations are equipped with drinking water dispensers, thereby reducing the reliance on bottled water. Moreover, the campus takes measures to monitor all washrooms daily to prevent water pilferage through taps and other utilities. These efforts are aimed at promoting water conservation and responsible water usage within the campus premises.

## **Waste Management**

### **Paper Waste**

As an academic institution, universities are significant consumers of paper worldwide, exerting pressure on paper production and impacting forests. To address this concern, our campus is dedicated to reducing paper usage in all activities.

Solid waste within the campus are responsibly disposed of by the cleaning and servicing unit in designated locations, ensuring a clean and tidy environment. To further minimize paper usage, East West University has implemented an ERP system to streamline office activities and reduce reliance on paper-based workflows. Additionally, faculty members and students are encouraged to utilize the Learning Management System for classes and lectures, effectively reducing paper consumption. The university also employs an integrated Student Advising Software, contributing to paper waste reduction.

To promote a paperless approach, faculty members and students are encouraged to submit all assignments and documents electronically. Furthermore, all paper waste is sent to a committed recycling vendor for proper disposal, reinforcing our commitment to sustainable waste management practices. These collective efforts align with our policy of reducing paper usage and promoting environmentally responsible practices within the university community.

### **Hazardous Waste**

As a matter of policy, all hazardous wastes like, electronic equipment, photocopy materials, light bulbs, and chemical wastes are sorted for proper disposal.

## **Carbon Neutrality**

The university is committed to attaining carbon neutrality and lowering greenhouse gas emissions on our campus. To achieve this goal, we have scheduled regular assessments to monitor our carbon footprints.

One of our primary focuses is incorporating energy-efficient technologies and renewable energy sources throughout all campus buildings. For instance, the Aftabnagar campus in Dhaka, constructed in 2012, features solar panels on a section of its rooftop, generating approximately 42 KWH of clean energy. Moreover, we are in the process of expanding the solar panel system's capacity with guidance from a consultant. This initiative aims to increase our reliance on clean energy and further contribute to our sustainability objectives.

## **Sustainable Transportation**

The university actively promotes the use of public transportation among its staff and students. To minimize carbon emissions, all pick-up and drop-off services provided by the university operate on a group basis. This approach helps in reducing our environmental impact.

In addition to encouraging public transportation, the university hosts cycling campaigns through its environment and social club for students. These initiatives aim to promote cycling as an eco-friendly mode of transportation and foster a culture of sustainability on campus. By advocating for greener commuting options, the university strives to contribute positively to the environment and create a more eco-conscious community.

## **Green and Open Spaces**

The University utilizes its undeveloped areas to foster biodiversity and create open spaces. Along the outer boundaries of the campus, trees have been planted, serving the dual purpose of enhancing the campus's appeal and providing a sanctuary for birds and butterflies.

Within the campus, the open space has been thoughtfully designed and serves as an attractive amphitheater for various student social activities. This approach reduces the need for constructing and reconstructing stages and other facilities, thereby minimizing waste generation.

The students' environment and social club plays an active role in engaging with both students and street vendors to promote an eco-friendly campus. Their endeavors include raising environmental awareness in the neighborhood and working towards making the surrounding area more environmentally conscious. Through these initiatives, the university endeavors to create a greener and more sustainable campus environment.

## **Sustainable Procurement**

The university recognizes that conservation starts right from the procurement stage. Therefore, it places great emphasis on promoting a sustainable and eco-friendly procurement policy. This approach ensures that the campus operates efficiently while also avoiding unnecessary waste of energy, water, and other resources. By being mindful of its procurement practices, the university actively contributes to its commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility.

## **Climate Education and Research**

East West University is dedicated to fostering a sustainable future for our nation, and as such, it actively promotes research and academic endeavors in this direction. The university encourages academic departments to involve their students in environmental research, and many faculty members are actively engaged in research related to the environment and climate change.

Furthermore, the university is working on establishing an academic program focused on climate action policies. This program aims to train policy makers to address critical issues pertaining to climate change. By taking these initiatives, East West University plays a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future for the country and making a positive impact on environmental challenges.

## **Public Disclosure**

To maintain transparency and public accountability, the university consistently reports its activities through various channels, including the media, web portal, and annual reports. All environmental policies of the university are made publicly available for viewing to ensure openness and accessibility to the broader community.

## **Conclusion**

As a prominent academic institution in Bangladesh, East West University is firmly committed to spearheading positive change in the battle against climate change and championing sustainability. This policy serves as the foundation for our endeavors in constructing a greener, healthier, and more resilient future, ensuring its benefits endure for generations to follow.