



तमिलनाडु केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय

(संसद द्वारा पारित अधिनियम 2009 के अंतर्गत स्थापित)
CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF TAMIL NADU

(Established by an Act of Parliament, 2009)
नीलक्कुडी परिसर /Neelakudi Campus, कंगलान्चेरी/Kangalancherry,
तिरुवारूर/Thiruvārūr- 610 005.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY

1. PREAMBLE

Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN) affirms its commitment to sustainability as a foundational principle guiding its academic, administrative, and societal responsibilities. In the context of evolving national priorities and global challenges, sustainability is recognized not merely as an environmental concern but as an integrated framework encompassing economic development, social equity, and ecological balance.

This policy is framed in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF), and NAAC accreditation standards, particularly Criterion VII on Institutional Values and Best Practices. It reflects the University's responsibility as a public institution to contribute meaningfully to sustainable development through education, research, governance, and community engagement.

Recognizing the institutional context, resource considerations, and regional relevance, CUTN adopts a measured, implementable, and context-sensitive approach to sustainability. The policy consolidates existing practices, provides strategic direction, and enables progressive enhancement of sustainability initiatives without imposing rigid or impractical commitments.

The University shall endeavour to position itself as a model sustainable campus, demonstrating responsible institutional practices and fostering a culture of sustainability among all stakeholders.

2. OBJECTIVES

Central University of Tamil Nadu shall:

- Integrate sustainability principles into academic, research, administrative, and operational domains.
- Promote responsible management of natural resources including energy, water, and biodiversity.
- Foster inclusive development, equity, and gender-sensitive institutional practices.

- Strengthen sustainability-oriented teaching, research, and innovation ecosystems.
- Encourage environmentally responsible campus operations and infrastructure practices.
- Enhance community engagement through outreach, knowledge dissemination, and capacity building.
- Align institutional practices with national and global sustainability frameworks while maintaining administrative and financial prudence.

3. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This policy shall be applicable to:

- All Schools, Departments, Centres, and administrative units of CUTN.
- Academic programmes, research activities, and governance processes.
- Campus infrastructure, resource management systems, and operational practices.
- Student engagement, extension activities, and community outreach initiatives.
- All stakeholders including faculty, staff, students, and institutional partners.

4. CORE POLICY FRAMEWORK

4.1 Teaching, Learning and Academic Integration

The University shall integrate sustainability principles into its academic framework in a manner appropriate to disciplinary contexts and institutional priorities.

- Curriculum design shall progressively incorporate environmental, social, and ethical dimensions of development.
- Interdisciplinary courses and electives addressing sustainability, climate change, governance, and social responsibility shall be encouraged.
- Experiential learning through field engagement, community interaction, and applied projects shall be promoted.
- Academic programmes shall contribute to developing socially responsible and environmentally conscious graduates.
- Departments shall retain academic flexibility while aligning, where feasible, with broader sustainability objectives.

4.2 Research, Innovation and Knowledge Systems

CUTN shall promote research and innovation that address sustainability challenges at regional, national, and global levels.

- Faculty and students shall be encouraged to undertake research related to environment, climate change, social equity, public health, and sustainable development.
- Interdisciplinary research collaboration shall be facilitated across departments and centres.
- Innovation, incubation, and applied research addressing sustainability challenges shall be supported.
- Indigenous knowledge systems and locally relevant practices shall be recognized and integrated where appropriate.
- Strategic partnerships with academic institutions, industries, and government agencies shall be strengthened.

4.3 Campus Operations and Resource Management

The University shall adopt responsible and efficient practices in managing campus resources.

- Energy conservation shall be promoted through efficient usage practices and gradual adoption of energy-efficient systems.
- Renewable energy initiatives, including solar energy, shall be explored and implemented based on feasibility.
- Water conservation measures including rainwater harvesting and reuse systems shall be strengthened.
- Waste management shall be improved through segregation, composting, recycling, and reduction initiatives.
- Green campus initiatives including tree plantation, biodiversity conservation, and ecological landscaping shall be supported.
- Campus infrastructure development shall consider environmental sustainability and resource efficiency.

4.4 Governance, Administration and Institutional Responsibility

Sustainability shall be embedded within institutional governance and administrative practices.

- Administrative processes shall uphold transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct.
- Gender equality, inclusivity, and equal opportunity shall be actively promoted.
- Institutional mechanisms and committees shall support implementation of sustainability initiatives.

- Capacity building and awareness programmes shall be conducted for faculty, staff, and students.
- Institutional practices shall align with NAAC, NIRF, and other regulatory expectations relating to sustainability.

4.5 Sustainable Procurement and Financial Responsibility

Recognizing procurement as a critical institutional function, the University shall adopt responsible procurement practices.

- Procurement processes shall incorporate environmental and social considerations, subject to financial prudence and applicable rules.
- Preference shall be given, wherever feasible, to energy-efficient, eco-friendly, and certified products and services.
- Life-cycle cost considerations shall guide procurement decisions.
- Vendor selection shall promote ethical practices, statutory compliance, and support for local enterprises, MSMEs, and socially responsible suppliers.
- Digital processes and resource-efficient practices shall be promoted to minimize waste and improve efficiency.
- Existing procurement frameworks shall be strengthened to integrate sustainability considerations progressively.

4.6 Community Engagement and Societal Impact

The University shall extend its sustainability initiatives beyond campus boundaries.

- Outreach programmes shall be conducted in nearby and adopted villages focusing on education, health, environment, and livelihood development.
- Awareness initiatives on sustainability, sanitation, climate change, and resource conservation shall be promoted.
- Student participation in NSS, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, and extension activities shall be encouraged.
- Collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and community organizations shall be strengthened.
- The University shall contribute to regional development through knowledge sharing and capacity building.

5. IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

- The policy shall be implemented through coordinated efforts of all academic and administrative units.
- Existing institutional structures shall be leveraged, with additional mechanisms introduced where necessary.
- A phased and practical approach shall be adopted, considering institutional priorities and resource availability.
- Departments and units shall align their activities with this policy to the extent feasible.

6. MONITORING AND REVIEW

- The University shall undertake periodic review of sustainability initiatives and practices.
- Designated committees or institutional bodies shall monitor implementation and progress.
- Sustainability-related information shall be documented to support institutional reporting requirements such as NIRF and NAAC.
- The policy shall be reviewed and updated periodically to reflect evolving institutional needs and external frameworks.

7. INDICATIVE ALIGNMENT WITH SDGs

Policy Area	SDGs
Teaching & Learning	4, 13
Research & Innovation	9, 13, 17
Campus Operations	6, 7, 12, 15
Governance	16
Procurement	8, 12
Community Engagement	1, 3, 10, 11, 17

Central University of Tamil Nadu shall adopt a balanced and responsible approach to sustainability by integrating environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and institutional governance into its core functioning. Through continuous improvement, stakeholder participation, and context-driven practices, the University shall evolve as a model sustainable campus, contributing meaningfully to national priorities and global sustainability goals.