



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

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सचिव

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Secretary



सत्यमेव जयते



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विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

D.O.No. F. 01-04/2023(QIP) Sustainable Development Goals

9th May, 2023/19 वैशाख, 1945

Respected Madam/Sir,

Government of India is taking many initiatives to make India Net Zero (Carbon Neutral). National Education Policy-2020 also reaffirms that Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the pillars on which the concept of integrated education and skill development should be realized.

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) can play a major role in making India Net Zero, by making their campuses carbon neutral. Some simple steps for making the campus carbon neutral are attached. You are requested to participate in this initiative and motivate youths for making campus carbon neutral.

Students participation in this national cause also make them aware of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate change.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Manish Joshi)

To

The Vice Chancellors of all Universities
The Principals of all Colleges

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE



EMISSIONS

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REDUCTION

-



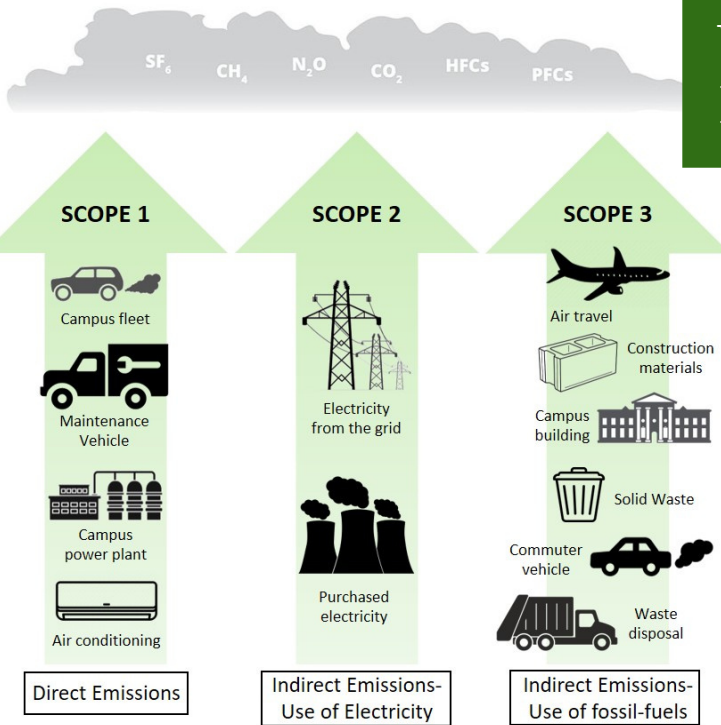
OFFSETS

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NEUTRALITY

COMMON SOURCES OF UNIVERSITY GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



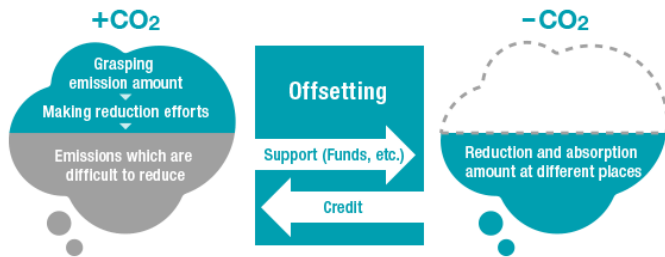
WHAT IS CARBON NEUTRALITY?

INTRODUCTION

Climate change is a planetary crisis, caused primarily by the emission of human-induced greenhouse gases, mainly carbon dioxide released from burning fossil fuels like oil, coal, and gas. It results in global warming.

CO₂ emissions need to fall to zero or net-zero by around mid-century to limit global warming to 2 deg C by end of this century. The longer it takes to do so, the more will be global warming.

Carbon neutrality refers to achieving net-zero carbon dioxide emissions by balancing human-induced carbon dioxide emissions with removal (often through carbon offsetting or carbon sink) and/or simply eliminating anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions over a specified period.



WHY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES ?

The campuses of educational institutes are the spaces where students' minds get moulded, and their ambitions are shaped. Emission reductions and offsetting the residual emissions if practised in the campus would serve as Campus Determined Contributions for reducing global warming. This would trigger actionable awareness. More than that, it would be the skill-development for students towards a carbon-neutral future.

TERRE Policy Centre, in collaboration with **UNESCO, AICTE and EESL**, on **12 December 2021** the carbon-neutral-pledge by the educational institutes was launched. From 12 pledges on opening day, the number of institutes has grown to nearly 250+. It has become a mass movement on carbon neutrality.

A **carbon offset** or **Carbon Sink** is a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases made to compensate for ("offset") an emission made elsewhere or by creating a sink e.g. Tree Plantation.



ROAD MAP FOR CARBON NEUTRALITY

ESTABLISH

The first step is to establish a core group or a carbon team to undertake proactive actions in the university campus

IDENTIFY

The next step is to identify all the direct & indirect sources of CO₂ emissions of the Educational campus.

CALCULATE

Measure the CO₂ emissions based on accurate and complete raw data. It will give the carbon footprint of the campus.

PRIORITIZE

After understanding the carbon footprint, start implementing a Carbon Reduction Plan through prioritization. (Easy First)

REDUCE

Identify opportunities and implement CO₂ emission reduction activities in the campus. (Energy Efficiency)

OFFSET

Any remaining CO₂ emissions should be offset by purchasing certified carbon credits or creating a sink (Tree Plantation)

DOCUMENT

Document and Validate all Carbon Neutral standards require a standard-compliant declaration of achievement of neutrality.

SUSTAIN

Device monitoring structure to sustain Carbon Neutrality on the university campus.



STEPS TO REDUCE CAMPUS CO2 EMISSIONS



1

Educate, Engage, and Encourage:

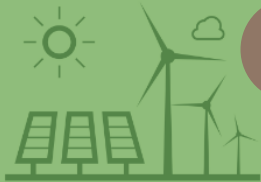
- Form a group of students to map out the Carbon Neutral Campus.
- Conduct an Energy and Carbon Audit.
- Educate students and staff on the harmful effects of GHG emissions and approaches to reduce them.
- Engage students and staff in moving to a greener lifestyle.
- Encourage carbon footprint reduction with incentives such as a monthly contest.



2

Choose Energy-Efficient Appliances:

- Prepare instructions and advice for energy-saving behaviour.
- Aim to replace old appliances with energy-efficient alternatives.
- Purchase BEE - Energy Star label appliances.
- Take advantage of natural light as much as possible to save energy.



3

Switch to Low-Carbon Energy provider:

- Sign up to get electricity from clean energy through a local utility or a certified renewable energy provider.
- Invest in On-Site clean energy or Off-Site large scale renewable energy.
- Consider Waste-to-Energy Project. (Bio-gas)



4

Travel Less and Wisely:

- Choose for train travel over plane travel.
- Choose a holiday destination closer to home.
- Coordinate carpooling between employees.
- Replace unnecessary air travel with virtual meetings and online training sessions.



5

Consider Alternative Mode of Transport:

- Ride a bike to work (also helps to improve health).
- Choose public transport or switch to an electric or hybrid vehicle.
- Work from home if able to do so.



6

Use Less Water: (This will save energy needed for pumping)

- Use low-flow water fixtures.
- Turn off the taps to avoid water running.
- Adopt rainwater harvesting techniques.
- Monitor the water consumption and any leakages.



7

Eating more Plant-based Food:

- Giving up meat for one day of the week.
- Replacing one meal a day with a plant-based option.
- Aim to eat things that are as low as possible on the food chain.
- Grow vegetables and fruits in the garden.



8

Rethink Consumption Patterns:

- Buy clothing from companies that are eco-friendly and/or organically certified.
- Consider buying second-hand clothes or joining a clothing swap group.
- Practise consumption patterns that emit minimal CO2.