

POLICY ON PREVENTING AND REDUCING MARINE POLLUTION

Preamble:

Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) recognizes the significance of preserving our marine environment and the urgent need to mitigate marine pollution. Aligned with global efforts to protect the world's oceans, this policy aims to prevent and reduce marine pollution, particularly from land-based activities, within our university's sphere of influence.

Vision:

CUSAT aspires to be a model for sustainable practices, minimizing its footprint on marine ecosystems through proactive measures, education, and community engagement.

Objectives:

1. **Reduce Land-Based Pollution:** Minimize the release of pollutants from university activities into water bodies.
2. **Promote Sustainable Practices:** Encourage environmentally friendly behaviors among students, staff, and the broader community.
3. **Educate and Raise Awareness:** Integrate marine pollution awareness into academic curricula and organize regular awareness programs.
4. **Collaborate for Impact:** Partner with local, national, and international bodies to advance marine conservation efforts.

Action Measures:

I. Reducing Land-Based Pollution

- **Waste Management:**
 - Implement a comprehensive recycling program for plastics, paper, and glass.
 - Ensure proper disposal of hazardous waste, including electronics and chemicals, through authorized facilities.
- **Sustainable Procurement:**
 - Adopt Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) guidelines for all procurements, emphasizing products with minimal environmental impact.
 - Prefer suppliers with sustainable practices, especially for landscaping and cleaning supplies.
- **Oil and Chemical Spills:**
 - Develop and regularly drill an emergency response plan for potential oil and chemical spills.
 - Invest in spill response technology and ensure all staff handling potentially polluting substances are adequately trained.

II. Promoting Sustainable Practices

- **Sustainable Landscaping:**
 - Employ integrated pest management, grass cycling, drip irrigation, and composting in all landscaping activities.
 - Prioritize native, drought-tolerant plants to minimize watering needs.
- **Community Engagement:**
 - Organize regular beach and river cleanups, inviting NSS units, students, staff, and the local community to participate.
 - Collaborate with environmental clubs and NGO's for joint initiatives.

III. Education and Awareness

- **Curriculum Integration:**
 - Incorporate modules on marine pollution, its impacts, and mitigation strategies into relevant academic programs.
- **Workshops and Seminars:**
 - Host regular workshops and seminars featuring experts in marine conservation and sustainability.

IV. Collaboration

- **Partnerships:**
 - Establish partnerships with local and national marine conservation bodies for knowledge sharing and joint projects.
 - Participate in international forums to contribute to and learn from global marine pollution reduction efforts.

Implementation and Monitoring:

- **Responsibility:** The Sustainability and Environment Committee of CUSAT will oversee the implementation of this policy.
- **Review and Update:** This policy will be reviewed annually and updated as necessary to reflect new research, technologies, and best practices.