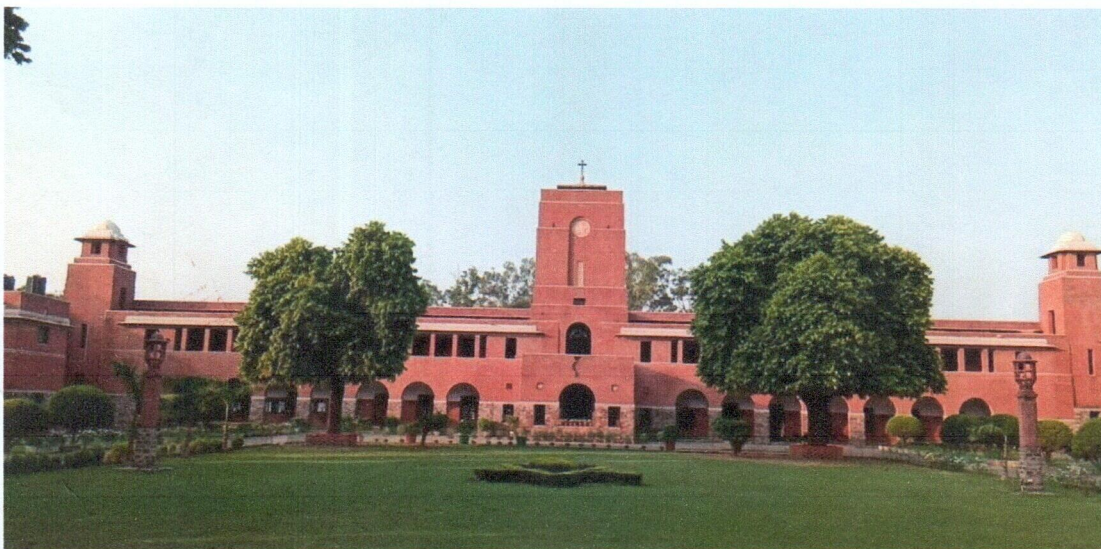


## St. Stephen's College

### The Green Campus and Environment Policy

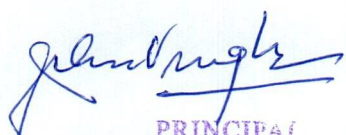
#### I. Vision, Mission and Scope



St. Stephen's College (hereafter referred to as the 'College') has always been committed to the cause of a sustainable future. The lush green College campus consisting of numerous trees and a vast grass cover provide the College community with clean air and a soothing environment. The various College buildings have been designed in a manner that ensures availability of natural light and ample cross-ventilation, thereby minimising to the extent possible the use of energy intensive electrical equipment. College is also home to a range of plant and animal species, ensuring a safe haven for them to thrive.

The Environmental Society of St. Stephen's College (formerly The Wildlife Society) was initiated in 1993 with a vision to further the shared goal of a better environment for all. It is an active student run society aimed at promoting environmentalism, creating awareness about various environmental issues and challenges, and inculcating a sense of responsibility in one and all to preserve and protect the natural environment. To this end, the Environmental Society has over the years, by itself and in collaboration with various other Societies and the College administration, organised various events and taken up initiatives like recycling, waste segregation, composting, among others. These steps towards sustainability have helped in escalating awareness and have provided platforms for discourse on vital environmental issues.

The Green Campus and Environment Policy of St. Stephen's College seeks to strengthen these efforts by creating an overarching framework for the entire College community to achieve environmental sustainability. The Policy ensures that efforts of the College towards protecting

  
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our natural environment are relevant and elective, that the College continues to make use of all available resources and technologies to reduce the adverse impact of its activities on the environment, and that it strives to do its best to preserve Mother Nature.

## II. Focus Areas of the Policy

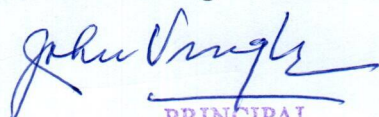
The following are the focus areas of the Policy.

### 1. Awareness Generation Initiatives

- The College promotes and encourages workshops, projects and research plans for preservation and protection of Nature.
- To educate students about environment and related issues, EVS paper is taught in College by EVS mentors as a part of the curriculum, wherein they demonstrate various case studies using projectors and multimedia. With such education, students get a holistic idea of their duties towards the environment so that future disasters can be avoided.
- Special awareness generation programs/seminars/webinars are conducted from time to time by the Environmental Society (in collaboration with various other Societies and NGOs) to create awareness among students, faculty and supportive staff. Some of the recent talks and seminars conducted by the Environmental Society in 2020-21 are as follows:
  - The Society organized an interactive session with Ed Winters, a vegan educator, public speaker and co-founder and co-director of Surge - Animal Rights Foundation on 'The Environmental Impacts of our Diets' over Google Meet during 2020-21.
  - A podcast series called 'To Tree or Not To Tree' has been initiated on the Society's Instagram page during 2020-21 to discuss various environmental challenges.
  - An Upcycling Tutorial series has been introduced on the Society's social media handles to encourage people to upcycle old products at home into useful ones.
- The Environmental Society conducts Nature Walks from time to time to educate one and all about the environment and ways of reciprocating the love and care.

### 2. Air Pollution Control Initiatives

- To neutralize the carbon footprint, the College maintains all lawns/gardens with oxygen enriching plants and trees.
- The Environmental Society has been active in organizing plantation drives in College and strives to continue these efforts in the future.
- The Environmental Society organizes a 'Cracker Free Diwali/Green Diwali Campaign' each year against the backdrop of the rising concerns regarding the dismal air quality in Delhi due to reckless burning of crackers around the time of Diwali. The campaign includes various competitions, tutorials and informative posts.
- *Suggestions:*
  - College may plan to develop a car-pooling portal for senior and junior members commuting to College *via* car. This will provide the opportunity for members to connect, while reducing their carbon footprint.

  
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- College may plan to set up a bicycle cluster for use by College students.

### 3. Initiatives Towards the 3Rs


- College is constantly working on the 3R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
- College uses Rowers and reusable paper decorations for eco-friendly decor during festivals.
- The Environmental Society has undertaken paper recycling campaigns in the past as a lot of paper is used in an institution of the scale of College, particularly in the publicity of various society events. In fact, in one particular year, the Society was able to successfully recycle nearly 371 kgs of paper to do this in collaboration with NGO Jaagruti. (Photograph needs to be attached)
- To reduce paper use, e-books and e-journals have been added in the College library.
- *Suggestions:*
  - College may adopt a (near) complete digitization policy, which would involve use of e-resources, e-notices, e-invoices, e-announcements, and complete digitalization of attendance and internal assessment records.
  - The College could regularly carry out paper recycling drives in collaboration with appropriate NGOs.
  - Reduction in paper use can also be done in the café by providing e-receipts rather than paper invoices. One way to do this can be to have a barcode system wherein each student's card can be scanned at the time of billing and the receipt can be sent to the email address/phone number linked to the same.
  - Guidelines for paper use and recycling should be initiated for the Campus community.

### 4. Initiatives For Campus Flora and Fauna

- To achieve the goal of a Green Campus and protect the College Flora and fauna, the Environmental Society conducted a tree mapping exercise which consisted of counting trees, and collecting information on their names and dimensions. The Society strives to make such an exercise an annual feature.
- The Society also conducts dog vaccination drives in collaboration with vet-NGOs. As part of the same, almost all the dogs on campus have been given anti-rabies shots and deworming medicines.

### 5. Initiatives To Reduce Plastic Use on Campus

- The College has adopted the "Swachhata Hi Sewa Campaign" as per the UGC guidelines for reduction of plastic use on campus.
- The College promotes and encourages eco-friendly practices in the Dabha and Cafeteria by reducing the use of plastics, especially single use plastic.
- In recent years, the Environmental Society has also taken active steps to reduce the amount of single-use plastic on campus with the aid of the café staff.
- In the 2019-20 session the Society organized the Young Leaders Plastic Challenge. This event was a collaboration with UN-India and WWF India to bring about awareness about

  
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the problems associated with single use plastic. As part of the event the participants had to undertake activities such as poster making, presentations and attend talk and discussions. The event was divided into various levels and e-certificates of participation were issued to the participants by WWF-India.

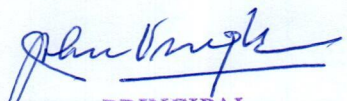
- In the 2019-20 session the Society also organized a workshop in collaboration with NGO Chintan on the harmful effects of single use plastic in the country.
- *Suggestions:*
  - Imposition of a ban on the use of single use plastic on Campus.
  - Plastic cups and plates should be altogether banned in the College café and dhaba, and be replaced by earthen or paper cups and steel/ceramic plates. Members can also be encouraged to bring their own mugs to the café.
  - The plastic sanitary pads in the pad banks installed in junior member washrooms can be replaced with eco-friendly pads or menstrual cups which are biodegradable and have a much lesser carbon footprint.

## 6. Initiatives For Laboratories

- Faculty members, students and support staff are advised to follow proper laboratory protocols. They are trained to use gloves and eyeglasses for safety management.
- Discarded laboratory waste is kept in designated containers. For emergency use, a 1st aid box is kept.
- In chemistry labs, greener methods are being adopted for various experiments.
- Better methods are being devised for the waste disposal of the chemicals according to the availability of funds.
- Students are advised to enter into the IRC after putting off shoes outside to maintain the cleanliness in the computer laboratory.

## 7. Waste Segregation and Waste Management Initiatives

- Waste Segregation and Management are the 1st and foremost steps towards a greener cause.
- The Environmental Society and the Social Service League of the College have hosted cleanliness drives around the College and even in the North Campus area.
- In 2018, the Environmental Society installed and labelled a pair of bins for degradable and non-degradable items near the Cafe with sponsorship from the Rotary Club for waste segregation.
- In 2019-20 separate bins were installed in each residence block for segregating the waste. Karamcharis were sensitised and educated with regard to the waste collection. 2-3 volunteers were selected from each block to monitor the functioning of the system and to report problems faced by karamcharis and students. The Society aims to continue this effort in the coming years.
- The Environmental Society also raises awareness about proper waste disposal using social media platforms and informal discussions.
- In the past, the Society has initiated digging up pits in campus for the purpose of composting. While this initiative has seen a rough patch in the recent years, particularly due

  
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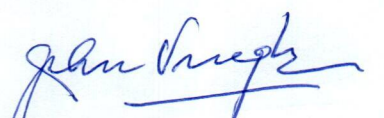


to the ongoing pandemic, but the Society aims to actively work towards this cause in the future by digging more pits (in accordance with the needs of the institution) and to 1nd recyclable waste from the College for the composting process so as to provide natural manure for healthy development of the campus greens.

● *Suggestions/Future Plans:*

- Segregating dry waste further into recyclable and non-recyclable , with separate containers for both.
- Ensuring that waste segregation takes place not only at the point of generation but until the point of 1nal collection by the relevant authorities.
- Organising appropriate training and knowledge transfer sessions for students and karamcharis for the above purpose in collaboration with NGOs.
- Carrying out mass sensitization drives in college about the segregation process.
- Establishing a monitoring and supervising mechanism for ensuring that proper waste segregation is taking place.
- Drafting a set of guidelines for the administration, departments and societies with regard to dumping of waste and its segregation and management.



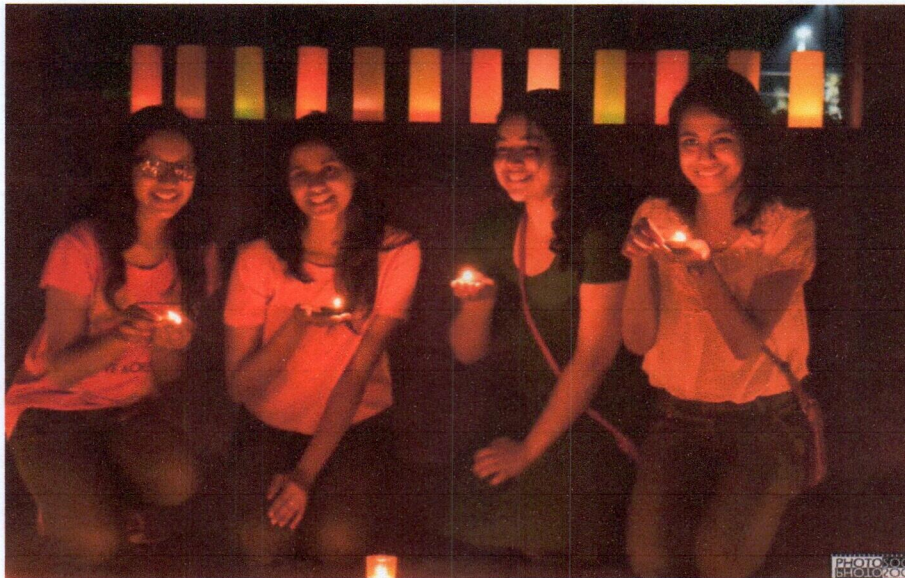
  
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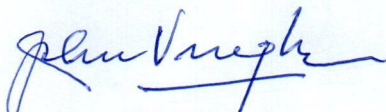
## 8. Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency Initiatives

- The College and the Environment Society have been active in encouraging the move towards energy efficiency by suggesting replacement of older equipment and light fittings with newer and energy efficient fittings and equipment as and when wear and tear of the former takes place.
- As an institution, College promotes the practice of switching of lights when not in use.
- Various College Societies organize Earth Hour. The universally observed hour is celebrated in College by switching of all the lights and organizing cultural activities in the Mess Lawns between 8:30pm and 9:30pm.
- *Suggestions:*
  - Phasing out of the traditional lights and CFLs in Campus buildings and replacing them with energy efficient LEDs.
  - Phasing out of the halogen street lights in Campus and replacing them with energy efficient LEDs.
  - Replacing the older air conditioning systems as and when they get worn out with energy efficient ACs.
  - Conducting an energy efficient audit of all equipment purchased by College.
  - Encouraging the entire Campus community to move towards energy efficient equipment in all domains of life.
  - Working towards adopting sensor based energy consumption equipment.



## 9. Initiatives for Achieving Carbon Neutrality

- The College is making various efforts towards neutralizing the carbon footprint which include reducing energy consumption, using alternative energy sources where possible and planting trees to absorb carbon dioxide.

  
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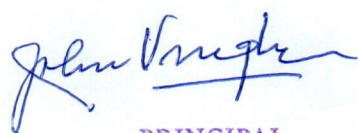


- College has around 220 trees of various heights and kinds located in Lawns/Blocks, which include Neem, Gulmohar, Ashoka, Palm, Eucalyptus etc. College Lawns/Gardens are well maintained throughout by the gardening staff.
- The Environmental Society has been active in organizing plantation drives in College and strives to continue these efforts in the future.
- *Suggestions:*
  - A Gardening Committee can be instituted for proper care of campus lawns/gardens.
  - A Nursery can also be set up in the College campus.



## 10. E-Waste Management Initiatives

- With the increasing use of tech and electronics, it becomes imperative to handle e-waste adequately. E- waste provides sound opportunities for recycling, but if not done so, can be very harmful to the environment. Thus, proper disposal and treatment of e-waste is vital.
- The Environmental Society has been active in promoting proper collection and disposal of e- waste. In one particular year, the Society collected around 116 kgs of e-waste from students in the college, which got recycled with the help of an NGO.
- *Suggestions:*
  - The College can collaborate with relevant organizations and NGOs for proper collection, disposal and recycling of e-waste generated in College.
  - Moreover, greater awareness can be generated regarding proper methods for e-waste disposal among students and the Campus community.
  - Drafting a set of guidelines for the science departments for proper disposal and segregation of various kinds of discarded equipment.
  - College can have a special store for neat and safe storage of written ol equipment and sundry items.

  
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## 11. Initiatives for Harnessing Solar Energy

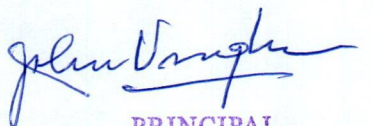
- College is working on installing proper solar panels in the campus as a long-term solution to its green and electricity problems. While the initial setup of the system can be costly, but the long-term benefits will be very high due to the reduction in the carbon footprint, cost saving on electricity bills, and the move to an independent and efficient energy source.

## 12. Water Harvesting and Waste Water Management Initiatives

- For the prevention and control of water pollution and to maintain and restore the wholesomeness of water, under The Water Act, 1974, the College has a water harvesting facility. (Photograph needs to be attached)
- *Suggestions:*
  - The greywater (water containing contaminants like soap, detergent, dead skin, hair, and oil) generated in College, particularly in the residences, mess and café, can be used for gardening and toilet-Rushing purposes by treating it in a natural greywater treatment system, which consists of inspection chamber/grease trap, base filter, planted gravel filter/reed bed and storage tank.
  - Water from reverse osmosis filters and air conditioners can be channelized into washrooms for Rushing purposes.
  - Regular maintenance of various water sources, especially in college and residence washrooms, can ensure that water is not wasted due to leakages.

## 13. Initiatives for Green Audit/Environment Sustainability Audit

- *Suggestions:*
  - A green audit of the campus can be conducted to ascertain the current impact of various college activities and operations on the environment so that appropriate action can be taken for a more sustainable future. This will include a baseline assessment of energy consumption, water usage, waste management, vehicle usage, among other things. An evaluation of various existing initiatives taken up by College towards environmental sustainability can also be undertaken.
  - This can be supplemented with an exercise to take stock of the Flora and fauna in the College campus. A record of the same can be maintained and updated at regular intervals. In the case of the campus Flora, indicators of tree health such as leaf colour, height etc., should also be continuously tracked so that one can get useful insights about their condition and can accordingly implement plans to improve upon it, if required.

  
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