

Green Campus Project, IUB performance report for the period 2021-2022.

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The large public sector universities are like small cities with a vast population, area, and complex operational activities. These activities have severe environmental implications; therefore, campus sustainability has become a severe issue of global concern for university administration and policymakers. An environmentally sustainable campus generates minimum environmental degradation while offering sustainable education and research services for the community.

At the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, we aim to become a sustainable and green higher educational institution that addresses, involves, and promotes minimizing the negative environmental impact on a regional, national, and global level of teaching research outreach partnership. The environment is a mutual responsibility and fostering civic exchange to promote sustainable growth and development of communities is the only way forward—our commitment to stewardship to help society make the transition to sustainable lifestyles. The campus sustainability agenda of Green Camps Project (GCP), IUB, ranges from energy and water conservation to green infrastructure, paper, and waste management, and curriculum revamp. GCP is a recurring project that was approved by the Syndicate of The Islamia University of Bahawalpur in January 2020.

The long-run objectives of achieving a green and sustainable university are

- IUB will have a complete green infrastructure
- It will be a paper and plastic-free university
- It will achieve maximum efficiency in energy, water, and fuel use.
- It will use a maximum portion of renewable energy in total energy usage.
- It will use a maximum portion of recycled water in total water usage.
- It will have a green health care system and minimum food wastage.
- It will have maximum teaching and research on the environment and sustainability.
- It will demonstrate environmental values in all dimensions of its day-to-day activities on a local, national and global scale.

These targets are further categorized into hard and soft targets. **The hard targets** include installing water and energy meters for the audit of environmental resources, water recycles plants, green renovation of old buildings, and up-gradation of energy compliances, transforming all food points into green food points, and establishing the dashboards to maintain the record of the use of the environmental resources. **The soft and short-run targets** include establishing environmental management units (EMU) at the faculty level, establishing GYM and green volunteers, the publication of sustainability reports, and environmental policy and awareness campaigns. The GCP successfully carried out orientation sessions, awareness campaigns, rallies, walks, plantation drives, and many other activities in 2021-2022. Here a brief overview of these activities is shared.

- The Green Campus lead team developed the 1st Sustainability report of the Islamia University of Bahawalpur, which showed the baseline situation of various facets of campus sustainability and the future outlook.
- The Green Campus lead team prepared the first environmental policy for 2021-2022 that guided the use of ecological resources on the principle of sustainability in all dimensions of the University's day-to-day activities. After the approval of the WVC, this policy was sent to all heads of academic and non-academic departments.
- The Green Campus Project lead team has been conducting workshops and awareness seminars on the concept of Campus Sustainability and Environmental Concerns throughout the year within the University and with outside stakeholders.
- The GCP also introduced a new segment on Campus Sustainability as part of the student orientation program for the Spring and Fall semesters.
- GCP aims to increase pollution-free vehicles in the total number of cars in IUB. Cycling is an effective measure to tackle ongoing air pollution in major cities of Pakistan. The transportation and fuel management section of the Green Campus Project successfully organized two cycling events on 25/09/2021 and 11/12/2021 at the old Campus and Main Campus IUB. The event aimed to propagate immense environmental and health benefits of cycling and persuade students and employees of the IUB to maximize the use of the bicycle. Moreover, a mobile app is under construction to facilitate students and employees for bike and car pooling.
- Green Campus Project IUB also organized many Eco -Food Parties on the Campus as a part of the activities to create awareness about environment-friendly activities on Campus.
- GCP introduced the concept of one student, one plant activity, and plantation drive to teach the eco-social values to students. The syndicate approved the care after plantation (CAP) criterion to allow students to supervise the plants planted in the “one student, one plant initiative”.

- To increase the green cover on university campuses, GCP, in collaboration with the state Care Department, IUB conducted two plantation drives of "One Student - One Tree" on 27/10/2021 and the other on 21/03/2022 the IUB. These plantation drives were unique initiatives designed on the Miyawaki method to boost afforestation. In these programs, 2200 and 5000 plants were planted with the help of Faizan Urban Forest (FGRE): A project of Dawat-e-Islami and PHA, Bahawalpur. Students will be rewarded for participation and taking care of their plants.
- To implement the Integrated Environmental Management (IEM) approach at the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), GCP has collaborated with IUB hostel authorities and the Directorate of Sustainability and Tourism (DoST). Given that hostels are among the most significant sources of waste generation in a university community. This initiative was launched in April 2022 for implementation in the IUB hostels. As student hostels not only can promote sustainability by adopting IEM practices but also develop a culture of sustainability in society. Suggestions from the stakeholders were taken to finalize and implement the plan to create sustainable strategies to curtail environmental damage by restricting plastic usage and limiting waste production and electricity usage at the university hostels.
- Plants comprise most of the food we consume and 98 per cent of the oxygen we breathe. Therefore, in line with the objectives of GCP, IUB jointly organized "International Day of Plant Health 2022" on May 13 at IUB was celebrated in collaboration with GYM IUB and the Faculty of Social Science. Faculty members, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, members of the syndicate, and students participated in the rally with great interest.
- For the effective monitoring of environmental resources by every department of the University's Environment Management Units (EMU) at the faculty, a level was established for coordination with the Environment Management Committee.
- Green Campus Project collaborated with the Department of Pharmacy Practice IUB and 'IUB Healthcare Society' to "Health Status Screening" sessions for students and employees at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Law, and Education.
- GCP lead team also presented green and sustainable campus/city ideas in the Seminar held in Cantt at Pelican auditorium with the Armed Forces of Pakistan. Moreover, a meeting on Campus Sustainability and SDG was held with the

Resident Representatives of the United Nations Development Program in Pakistan and matters of mutual concern were discussed.

- GCP also propagates every Friday as a less carbon day by appealing to employees and students to commute by bicycle, pool motorcycle, or car to mitigate their carbon footprint.
- A student volunteer force of 100 students was developed as Green Youth Movement (GYM) to assist and coordinate various activities of the Green Campus Project.
- As per the Paper Management Division's initiative, the size of University Answer sheets for the Midterm was reduced to half to save paper. Moreover, University also introduced paperless mid-term examinations twice in the Institute of Business, Management and Administrative Sciences and Department of Economics. Paper used was reduced by a continuous emphasis on paperless departmental and interdepartmental communication. The dissertation format and guidelines of the MS/MPhil/Ph.D programs were also revised to void redundancy and ensure the conservation of paper use. Departments were also advised to maintain dissertations and course files online to save paper.
- The 100 volunteers joined join "Plastic Free July Eco challenge" <https://plasticfree.ecochallenge.org/>. "Plastic Free July" is an Australian-founded 31-day global challenge that aims to reduce and refuse single-use plastics. By joining this program, students of IUB have learned how to create plastic-free habits while prioritizing public health and safety as much as possible. Throughout this program, the students shared their progress, success, and reflections with fellow global Eco challengers. The combination of collective inspiration, camaraderie, and friendly competition makes the change a little easier and more fun.
- The volunteers of GCP regularly identify the leakages and wastes of water and electricity and inform the engineering department to fix them. Moreover, with the collaboration of the security division IUB, electricity wastages are watched, and sometimes heads of the department are informed in the evening if air conditioners or lights are found running aimlessly.