



MAR ATHANASIUS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS)
KOTHAMANGALAM, KERALA, INDIA
87th Position in NIRF College Ranking 2023



WATER CONSERVATION POLICY

MAR ATHANASIUS COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS) KOTHAMANGALAM

Water conservation and management policy

Water conservation and management policy of Mar Athanasius College consists of policies, strategies and activities designed to manage water sustainably to meet current and future demands in the campus. Efficient water storage can be a viable solution to water conservation. The College has taken serious effort to protect the surrounding environment and available water resources. Over the past few years, the College has undertaken a number of initiatives to utilize water more efficiently and effectively within the campus. The policy includes awareness campaign for the protection of streams, rivers, ponds and land, study on climatic change, reaching out to the public through water-testing, and water literacy programmes, soil testing etc. Understanding relationships between environmental and societal factors and academia's support towards water conservation measures can help planners and policy makers to identify obstacles and opportunities to highlight the role of conservation and efficiency in making water supply systems sustainable. Student and staff play a major role in our water sustainability strategy. Reducing water consumption and protecting water quality shall be the key objectives of sustainable policy of MAC. The College views water from the three inter-related dimensions of Efficient Conservation, Responsible Consumption and Restoring and Retaining surface and recharging groundwater. College encourages all its stakeholders to support policies and programmes for water conservation that would achieve:

- A sustainable balance between demand, management and reduce waste through accurate accounting of water volume.
- Water conservation education to all the stakeholders.
- Research and implementation of practices that promote efficient use of water.
- Coordination between water planning and other aspects of facility planning and management in association with local government body.

Initiatives of MAC

MAC is working towards making the facilities more and more water sustainable. This has been achieved with the use of water efficient fixtures, waste water treatment technologies and rain water harvesting.

- College is implementing new water efficient fixtures in its new constructions, ensuring 100% treatment and recycling of sewage, and rainwater harvesting.
- Drinking water for campus and hostels are distributed from the water collected in the pond after filtration and UV treatment. Water for other uses are also filtered before distribution from the ponds.
- Upon realizing that rainwater harvesting is imperative for the future water requirement of the campus, college has set up a rainwater harvesting unit near the M P Varghese Library Complex.

- College has a Sewage treatment plant (STP) in the Girl's hostel premises which recycles the sewage to gardening-suitable water. This processed water is used for watering gardens and grounds.
- Ensuring improvement of the water and water dependent natural resources at surrounding areas in the campus.
- Cleaning initiative taken up for the 'Kurur thodu', a river flowing nearby.
- Cleaning of local ponds in connection with 'Ente Kulam' cleaning drive initiated by district collector.
- M A College Association involved in 'Kurur Thodu Protection Action Plan' to safeguard the 'Kurur thodu' (a river) flowing on the rear side of the college campus. Students volunteers of NSS clean the river banks of every year in association with more than 40 educational institutions including schools, Dental colleges etc. in and around Kothamangalam.
- MAC Nature Club and NSS unit engaged in organic farming activities in the campus. Variety of vegetables and fruits are farmed in 2 Acres of land. The name of this initiative is "Vilavu 2022. The college has received a grant of 1.5 lacs for three years from the Agriculture Department, Govt of Kerala. Drip irrigation is practiced in the farmland.

Goals and Plans

- To Maximize water usage efficiency and minimize wastage of water.
- To ensure that all existing buildings are used for water conservation and rain water harvesting.
- To Promote investment in and maintenance of efficient water infrastructure and green infrastructure in all future development plans.
- To Promote appropriate innovative water and wastewater management technologies and services.
- To Provide training on the water conservation measures adopted by the college to all the students, staff and other stakeholders of the college and nearby community.
- To Ensure awareness about the water conservation policy of the college among all the stakeholders.
- To Establish waste water treatment and recycling centres.
- To Create awareness about the cost-effectiveness of water conservation projects among students and local community.
- To Improve water quality. For example, create awareness about garbage disposals among public and take the leadership to make Kothamangalm municipality neat and clean.
- To Recycle non-sewage and greywater for on-site use (such as toilet flushing, landscape irrigation, and more generally, considering the water quality requirements).
- To Build relationship between environmental, societal leaders and policy makers to identify obstacles and opportunities to increase the role of conservation and efficiency in making the water supply systems sustainable.
- To organize community programmes under the leadership of NSS, Nature Club and other student bodies.
- To inform, educate and increase awareness regarding the importance of water to life, and the need for conservation and efficient use of water.

- To protect streams, ponds and rivers and the public area surrounding the college.