Title of the practice

Sustainable Green campus

Objectives of the practice

- To maintain clean, pollution free and eco-friendly campus atmosphere that supports students' well-being and biodiversity
- To maintain efficient water management practices through rain water harvesting, reusing and minimizing wastage.
- To increase greenery through plantation, gardening and to encourage students in afforestation drives.
- To promote responsible behaviour towards electricity, use by installing solar panel.
- To minimise environmental effect by segregation, safe disposal, composting and recycling through awareness campaign.

Context

Bijni College is surrounded by lush greenery. It is rich with biodiversity. Adopting Eco-friendly and nature inclined approach in college is essential as it helps in conservation and protection of its biodiversity while maintaining a balanced eco-system. Beyond maintaining a balanced eco-system, it instills environmentally conscious behavior among the students fostering a lifelong eco-conscious mindset for sustainability. Moreover, a green campus acts as a support system for mental health well-being of the students, teachers and the entire working community of the college. Furthermore, education within such green environment helps students to get real life experience which helps in development of critical thinking abilities. It enables them to observe and understand the practical way of solution of environmental issues.

The practices

Bijni College has been implementing green policy for many years, maintaining a campus rich in natural biodiversity and environmental sustainability. The campus is surrounded by natural ecosystems including a large pond about 1,00,800 square feet, marshland, natural playgrounds, a botanical garden, a flower garden, a herbal garden and a woodland about 2,16,000 square feet. In the open area, the college has one pond is which are serving as natural water reservoirs. These habitats pattern of the college, fruit bearing trees, pond, gardens naturally provide avenues to varieties of fauna such as birds, butterfly, fishes, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, insects,

arthropods etc. Biodiversity is properly protected and conserved by taking care while construction and developmental activities are done.

The college authority adopted rain water harvesting process. The collected water is being using in different purposes. To promote ground water research, the college maintains about 8 bighas (1,15,200 sq.feet) of water-logged area along with a large pond, both functioning as fresh water reservoirs that benefit the campus and local community in groundwater level and soil moisture. Open spaces are properly utilised through plantation as well as natural playground. The college maintains botanical garden, herbal garden and floral garden using vermicompost produced through its vermicomposting units. Chemical pesticides are strictly banned to use in the garden.
The collage has an active "Swachh Campus Initiative Cell" to look after the cleanliness and waste management practices. It also implements the Swachhta Action Plan through best practices in sanitation, hygiene, waste management and greenery management.

For solid waste management, the college authority has partnership with a recycle company that collects the recyclable solid waste, *i.e.* paper, metal etc. in every fortnight and through this the college earn good revenue. Bijni College also extends the solid waste management services to nearby 4 colleges in the similar way. The collage has its own incinerator, sanitary vending machine, separate tank storage for toxic and laboratory waste to ensure safe disposal.

For renewable energy, the authority has installed 6 KW solar panels in 26th April 2022.
The college has entrusted to the College Environment & Climate Cell (CE&CC) and Swachh Campus Initiative Cell (SCIC) of Bijni College the responsibility of formulating action plan and its execution for the sustainable development and environmental conservation. In every Academic session the CE &CC and SCIC adopted Green Campus Initiatives Action Plan and work together to execute and achieve the plan. Major initiatives include banning polythene bags, fruit bearing tree plantation program, energy efficiency measures, waste reduction strategies, renewable energy promotion and sustainable transportation practices.
Celebration of International Day for Biological Diversity, World Environment Day has been Organised regularly by Eco Club, College Environment and Climate Cell, Swachha Campus Initiative Cell, Bijni College in collaboration with Department of Zoology, Bijni College, Bijni to make students aware and develop responsible environment friendly behaviour. Under Environment Education Programme a nature camp was also organised on 12th & 13th March at Kakoijana Reserve Forest by Eco Club, Bijni College. Annual Green Audit is done by Internal

Green Audit Committee to monitor and assess the green policy practices and overall environment of the college.

Evidence of Success

- Green and environment audit is conducted yearly by Internal Green Audit Committee.
- The college has been awarded as District Green Champion Award, 2020-21 for Swachh Action Plan by MGNCRE, Ministry of Environment, Govt. of India.
- Bijni College Eco Club was awarded as one of the best college Eco Club of the state for appreciable achievement in the field of environmental education and awareness for the year 2022 by the Assam Science, Technology & Environment Council under Science Technology and Climate Change Department, Govt. of Assam.
- Bijni College has been honoured Platinum Sustainable Campus Award by achieving 46th rank out of 321 participating educational institutions across India. The recognition was achieved under the ‘‘Bharat Environment Programme: A Bharat Sustainable Campus Mission 2026’’, an initiative organised by Research Height Foundation in association with Environment Protection Training & Research Institute.
- Seminar, workshop and plantation programme are organised regularly to maintain sustainable green campus.

Problems encountered and Resource Required

- Need for resource mobilisation for concrete boundary wall and earth filling in the campus for better protection and conservation of environment.
- There is need of more commitment from greater students’ community in respect to environmentally friendly behaviour.

“Best Practice Report Compiled by Dr. Kusum Brahma, Convenor, Institutional Values & Best Practices Monitoring Committee, IQAC, Bijni College”

BIJNI COLLEGE, BIJNI
P.O. BIJNI
DIST. CHIRANG (BTR) ASSAM