



# St. Thomas College, Kozhencherry

Established in 1953 | Reaccredited by NAAC with Grade A

Affiliated to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

[www.stthomascollege.info](http://www.stthomascollege.info)

Kozhencherry P.O., Pathanamthitta Dist., Kerala State, Pincode: 689 641

Describe two best practices successfully implemented by the Institution as per NAAC format in the manual.

## Best Practice: II

### **Title: Environmental Sustainability Programme (ESP)**

**Objectives:** An Environmental Sustainability Programme (ESP) has been launched by the institution to uphold its vision of a “sustainable campus” focused on integrating sustainability into its environment, economy and society. The programme aims at achieving a number of objectives which include, contributing meaningfully to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals proposed by UNDP, creating awareness on the challenges of ecology, understanding measures to prevent ecological degradation, building an ecologically sensitive generation, conscious of eco-ethics and eco-justice, transforming the institution into a “negative carbon emission campus” and converting organic waste into manure for a healthy, hygienic and hazard-free environment.

**Context:** St. Thomas College is situated in Kozhencherry, on the banks of the river Pamba. The growing pollution rate of the Pamba river is a great threat to a healthy ecological system. As per the reports, the average daily amount of untreated sewage generated in Pamba town and Sabarimal is 7 MLD and 10 MLD respectively, all of which is dumped into the river. The inflow of fertilizers and pesticides from agricultural lands and plantations situated on the banks of the river is also a source of pollution. Our college, surrounded by the green hills of the Western Ghats is a prime site of numerous quarries. The visionary founder, Dr. Juhanon Mar Thoma Metropolitan along with Rev. K.T. Thomas Kurumthottickal in 1953, dedicated the college as a centre of learning for the inhabitants of the locality and also envisaged the conversion of the area into a serene, green zone.

### **Practice: 1 Water Harvesting**

A rainwater-harvesting system has been installed to solve water scarcity, particularly during the summer season. The main building of the campus has one in-built water harvesting tank with a capacity of 20000 litres and the Chemistry block has two in-built rain-water harvesting tanks. Another water tank with a capacity of 2 lakh litres, recently renovated, is used to collect rainwater for use on the campus and at the Women’s Hostel. Two adjacent underground tanks have a storage capacity of 100,000 Litres of water.

### **Practice: 2 Solar Energy**

The goal of the institution is to run the college with 100% solar energy. With this focus, the institution maintains an environmental policy. The practice of solar energy utilization started in 2013. The capacity of the solar photovoltaic systems has been enhanced from 10 kW to 23 kW to mitigate the consumption of conventional energy. LED bulb usage has attained expected levels.

### **Practice 3 Green Campus initiatives**

Institutional initiatives for greening the campus are as follows: Plastic free campus, Paper less communication, Landscaping of the campus, Launch of Go Green Santhome club, Courses on environment and sustainability, Restricted entry of vehicles, Restricted Parking

### **Practice: 4 Awareness Programmes**

With the support of several clubs, association and other forums in our campus, significant days like World Environment Day, Ozone Day, International Forest Day, World Wetland Day, and Wildlife Day are observed to promote environmental awareness.

### **Practice: 5 Sustainable Waste Management strategies**

Our college has a consistent waste management system and invests in wide clean-up/reducing/recycling schemes to maintain a clean and sustainable campus.

### **Practice: 6 Environment Audit**

An environment audit is used to conduct an official assessment of our college's environmental impact. The audit is performed by a certified organisation.

### **Practice: 7 Extension Activities**

An Agri-organic fest called 'Vegetos' is held every year to raise awareness of sustainable and organic farming among students and the general public. The campus and the surrounding area have been made greener by planting and distributing saplings. The clubs in the college manage the outreach initiatives between the institution and the community to foster a sense of responsibility for sustainable development.

### **Evidence of Success:**

1. The campus has a green cover of about 70% and is a sanctuary to a variety of flora and fauna.
2. Planting and distribution of saplings on and outside the campus increased green coverage
3. Rain water harvesting made a significant contribution to addressing water scarcity.
4. The energy requirement has been met to an extent through solar energy.

5. A series of programmes were organized under the aegis of clubs/forums to enhance environment consciousness.
6. 'Vegetos' – Agri organic fest is organised every year
7. An MoU has been signed with Auto tractions and Tropical Institute of Environment Studies for training and to map green audit.
8. Department of Physics distributed LED bulbs.
9. The students and the college have become a part of the green campus campaign. This paved a way in decreasing environmental issues in the campus to an extent.
10. Waste management initiatives such as collection and segregation of waste and installation of infrastructure such as biogas plant, incinerator, vermi-compost pits have furthered environmental sustainability

### Problems Encountered

- The initial cost of purchasing a solar power system is high
- Proper maintenance of equipment to generate solar energy is not cost-effective.
- Lack of technical experts and financial support
- Uneven change in climatic conditions
- Busy academic schedules inhibit upkeep of sustainable practices
- Certain initiatives require significant expenditure.


### Resources Required

- Governmental support is needed to install solar panels and ensure the easy availability of on-grid possibilities.
- Funds must be raised from a variety of stakeholders, such as alumni and CSR funds, etc.
- Finding cost effective equipment.

### Notes:

The College has been able to successfully document data regarding the plant and insect life found in the natural environment around the college, which serves as proof of the ecological diversity of the area. The documentation method is an exemplary model for other institutions.



  
Principal in Charge  
St. Thomas College  
Kozhencherry