Water Consumption, Conservation, & Recycling Policy

Purpose

Building on the IU Environment Strategy Goal 2: Resource Efficiency and Conservation (established in 2019), the dedicated Water Consumption & Conservation Policy is formulated to develop guidelines and procedures for the proper management of water utilization within Iqra University premises to further enhance the measures already in place for sustainable consumption and conservation.

Scope

This policy applies to all of Iqra University's campuses, departments, units, individuals, and associated people, including senior administration, students, faculty, staff, third-party contractors, and suppliers. It encompasses all aspects of water consumption within the university premises, including but not limited to academics, administrative, and personal use.

Introduction

Access to clean water is a fundamental human right. However, with the increasing impact of climate change and growing pollution, water scarcity has emerged as a critical global challenge, demanding urgent and effective water conservation measures to be implemented worldwide. In alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure access to water and sanitation for all, universities play an important role in providing access to clean drinking water to students and staff, as well as developing and implementing strategies and initiatives for safeguarding this natural resource.

Iqra University's commitment to protecting the environment and implementing sustainable measures in our everyday processes to achieve Net Zero Target by 2030 sets our strategic direction and guides future initiatives. As an educational institution, the responsible use of water is imperative for the overall functioning and well-being of the IU Community. The University provides free access to clean, filtered water for drinking at all campuses, water supply for sanitation, ablution areas, and laboratory-based courses, research experiments, and administrative tasks such as maintaining the campus greenery and cleaning. We recognize our responsibility to manage all areas of water consumption on our campuses and are committed to formulating a framework for environmentally responsible utilization and conservation of water resources. This policy reflects the university's

dedication to addressing local water needs while strengthening existing practices through a focused action plan for sustainable water management.

Water Recycling and Greywater Utilization

As part of our commitment to sustainability, Iqra University has implemented water recycling initiatives to reduce freshwater consumption and minimize waste. Greywater systems are installed in various areas of the campus to recycle non-sewage wastewater, which is used for toilet flushing and irrigation. Additionally, rainwater harvesting systems have been expanded to capture and store rainwater for similar purposes, further contributing to water conservation efforts.

By recycling water through these systems, Iqra University significantly reduces its reliance on freshwater resources and promotes eco-friendly water management practices. These recycling initiatives form a key part of the university's broader strategy to enhance water efficiency and ensure the long-term sustainability of its operations.

Pertaining to this, dedicated targets has been set forth in continuity to the IU Environment Strategy Goal 2: Resource Efficiency and Conservation (updated July 2023), the major targets for the year FY 2024 - 2025 is as follows:

1. Develop a dedicated framework for monitoring water consumption and conservation across campuses.
2. Reduce water consumption by 5% to 15% at all Iqra University campuses (target value determined after thorough analysis).
3. Increase the capacity of the Rainwater Catchment System by 5% to 10% for water conservation and introduce similar projects across different campuses.
4. Introduce Reverse Osmosis (RO) Filtration Plants at various campuses.
5. Collaborate with academic institutions and industries to develop projects for water recycling and greywater utilization.

Definitions

Greywater Use: This refers to the recycling of non-sewage wastewater, which is typically used for flushing toilets, thereby avoiding the use of freshwater.

Rainwater Harvesting: The process of collecting and storing rainwater from roofs and other surfaces in a tank system, later can be used for toilet flushing or irrigation.

Policy Statement

- Monitor and measure water consumption, identifying significant and abnormal uses, including leaks.
- Comply with, and exceed where possible, all relevant legal requirements.
- Improve water efficiency in existing facilities through targeted capital projects.

- Investigate and implement opportunities for greywater recycling and rainwater harvesting using a whole-life costing approach.
- Maintain best practices in maintenance and cleaning to minimize water use.
- Ensure new buildings meet high water efficiency standards, aiming for a minimum standard.
- Introduce standards for low water consumption equipment in procurement processes.
- Engage and inspire the university community to adopt water-saving behaviors.
- Collaborate with academic researchers on water efficiency projects.
- Regularly communicate water-saving initiatives and results to staff and students.
- Establish clear water efficiency practices and performance protocols at the departmental level to reduce water consumption.
- Conduct regular water consumption audits by the Administration Department to ensure compliance.
- Collaborate with departments hosting public events to ensure efficient water use and prevent unnecessary water wastage.
- Raise awareness about water management among faculty, staff, students, and associated parties. Regular awareness campaigns, workshops, and seminars will be organized to educate the university community on water conservation practices.

Reporting

In accordance with milestones and key targets developed by the Administration Department, the concerned department will report their quarterly performance to the Office of Sustainability.

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Associated Policies	Environment Policy, Environment Strategy