

PARUL UNIVERSITY

R/Notification-CAP/01/2024-25

Office of the Registrar
June 22, 2024

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Climate Action Policy

Ref: (i) Orders of the President

1. Purpose

Parul University recognizes climate change as a material environmental, social, operational, and academic challenge. This Policy establishes the University's framework for decarbonization, climate resilience, renewable energy transition, resource efficiency, sustainability education, research, innovation, and transparent public reporting.

2. Scope

This Policy applies to the University's academic, administrative, residential, research, utility, mobility, and support operations across the institutional estate, including all relevant buildings, infrastructure, facilities, and operational activities under the University's control.

3. Definitions

Scope 1 Emissions: Direct greenhouse gas emissions from sources owned or controlled by the University.

Scope 2 Emissions: Indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with purchased electricity or other purchased energy.

Scope 3 Emissions: Other indirect greenhouse gas emissions arising across the University's value chain, including procurement, commuting, business travel, waste, water-related emissions, construction-related impacts, and other material categories.

Baseline Year: The approved reference year from which emissions reduction progress is measured.

Net Zero: Deep emissions reduction, with any residual emissions addressed only through credible, institutionally approved measures.

Gross Internal Area (GIA): The enclosed internal floor area of relevant institutional buildings, measured in square metres.

4. Baseline, Targets, and GHG Accounting

Parul University adopts FY 2024–25 as its institutional baseline year for greenhouse gas accounting, target tracking, and public disclosure, using the GHG Protocol Corporate Standard or another approved equivalent methodology.

The University shall maintain and periodically update an institutional greenhouse gas inventory covering Scope 1, Scope 2, and progressively measured material Scope 3 emissions, together with key assumptions, organizational boundaries, activity data, and emission factors.

The University aims to achieve net-zero Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions by 2030 and to progress toward net-zero across Scope 1, Scope 2, and material Scope 3 emissions by 2040, subject to

technological feasibility, financial approvals, regulatory developments, data maturity, and institutional implementation capacity.

Implementation targets are as follows:

Year / Period	Institutional Commitment
FY 2024–25	Approved institutional baseline year for greenhouse gas accounting and target tracking
By 2028	Achieve 50% renewable energy and interim Scope 1 and Scope 2 reduction milestone
By 2030	Aim to achieve net-zero Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions across the operational estate
By 2040	Progress toward net-zero across Scope 1, Scope 2, and material Scope 3 emissions

Detailed baseline values and annual performance shall be maintained in approved inventory records and sustainability disclosures. The University may restate emissions where improved data or methodology becomes available and shall avoid overstated, misleading, or unsubstantiated climate claims.

5. Strategic Commitments

5.1 Carbon Management and Energy Transition

- maintain annual greenhouse gas inventories and target-tracking systems
- improve the quality and category coverage of Scope 3 data over time
- increase the share of renewable energy in the University’s energy mix
- record and disclose annual renewable energy generation in kWh equivalent
- retain the institutional objective of achieving 50% renewable energy by 2028
- deploy renewable energy solutions across rooftops, parking areas, and other suitable campus locations
- assess off-site renewable power procurement arrangements, including power purchase agreements, where feasible
- prioritize energy transition measures that reduce dependence on carbon-intensive purchased electricity

5.2 Energy Efficiency, Buildings, and Infrastructure

- improve building performance through LED retrofits, smart metering, real-time monitoring, controls, and HVAC optimisation

- integrate sustainability considerations into new construction, major renovation, and infrastructure planning
- maintain accurate building-area records in square metres and verified GIA records for relevant buildings
- progressively integrate low-carbon design, material efficiency, and embodied-carbon considerations into new construction and major renovation projects
- For major new buildings and significant renovation projects, the University shall, where feasible and subject to approved designs, budgets, and statutory requirements, pursue alignment with IGBC / GRIHA principles or equivalent recognized green building standards

5.3 Sustainable Mobility

- reduce commuting- and transport-related emissions through shared transport, public transport, electric mobility, walking, and cycling measures where feasible
- strengthen data collection relating to commuting and travel-related emissions
- prioritize commuting-related interventions as part of the University's Scope 3 reduction strategy
- support EV charging infrastructure, carpooling, bicycle-sharing, and shuttle services where operationally feasible

5.4 Waste, Circularity, and Materials

- strengthen source segregation, recycling, reuse, composting, and responsible disposal systems
- reduce dependency on single-use plastics and other avoidable disposable materials where feasible
- maintain systems for safe collection and disposal of e-waste and other regulated waste streams
- maintain records of waste generation, recovery, treatment, and diversion for monitoring and continuous improvement

5.5 Water Stewardship

- strengthen water stewardship through metering, leak reduction, efficient fixtures, reuse, and rainwater harvesting
- support greywater recycling, smart irrigation, and low-flow fixtures where feasible
- improve monitoring of water consumption and water-saving interventions
- integrate water stewardship into campus operations, landscaping, and infrastructure planning

5.6 Climate Resilience, Biodiversity, and Green Spaces

- assess and strengthen resilience to climate-related risks including heat stress, water stress, extreme rainfall, infrastructure vulnerability, and campus landscape resilience
- protect, maintain, and enhance campus green spaces and ecological assets
- encourage native plantations, biodiversity enhancement, and restoration of suitable campus ecosystems
- support green landscaping measures, including urban forests, native plantations, and green roofs, where appropriate

5.7 Climate-Conscious Education, Research, and Innovation

- support climate-conscious education through credit-bearing sustainability learning opportunities
- promote sustainability modules and interdisciplinary learning opportunities across disciplines
- support climate-related research, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration
- support climate and sustainability innovation platforms, labs, projects, and partnerships relevant to clean energy, resilience, circularity, and environmental management
- strengthen academic and practical engagement in themes such as climate change, renewable energy, environmental policy, and responsible development

5.8 Stakeholder Engagement and Outreach

- engage students, staff, communities, industry, government, and civil society in climate and sustainability action
- support workshops, hackathons, sustainability challenges, public lectures, policy dialogues, and outreach partnerships relevant to climate resilience and sustainable development
- encourage shared institutional responsibility for environmental performance and climate-conscious behaviour
- promote collaboration with NGOs, government bodies, industry, and community partners to scale sustainability and climate solutions

Priority Scope 3 reduction measures shall include commuting, business travel, purchased goods and services, construction-related impacts, waste, and other material categories identified through annual review.

6. Governance and Accountability

Parul University shall maintain a dedicated Sustainability / ESG Office as the institutional unit with primary responsibility for implementation of this Policy, climate data governance, target tracking,

annual sustainability reporting, interdepartmental coordination, internal awareness, and capacity building.

The ESG Steering Committee shall review climate targets, implementation progress, major interventions, and institutional accountability.

The ESG Steering Committee may include representation from students, faculty, staff, and relevant administrative units, as approved by the competent authority.

Relevant departments shall provide timely, accurate, and auditable information relating to energy, utilities, estate, transport, procurement-related data where relevant, waste, water, and environmental performance.

Implementation of this Policy shall be supported by related institutional policies, including the Sustainable Procurement Policy, Sustainable Investment Policy, and other relevant environmental and governance frameworks.

Theme-wise responsibility for energy, estate, transport, procurement-related data, waste, water, and annual climate reporting shall be assigned through the University's implementation mechanism or approved annexure.

Implementation of this Policy shall be subject to applicable laws, regulations, statutory requirements, competent-authority approvals, and approved institutional budgets, as amended from time to time.

Scope 3 accounting, disclosure, and reduction planning shall be based on material categories, data availability, methodological appropriateness, and periodic institutional review.

7. Funding, Incentives, and Implementation Support

Parul University shall seek to allocate appropriate financial, technical, and institutional resources, subject to approved budgets and institutional priorities, to support renewable energy and energy-efficiency projects, infrastructure upgrades and sustainability retrofits, greenhouse gas accounting and reporting systems, awareness and capacity-building programmes, sustainability research and innovation, and climate-resilient campus planning and environmental improvement initiatives.

The University may establish a Green Fund or equivalent financing mechanism for approved sustainability initiatives and may introduce recognition or incentive mechanisms to encourage sustainability leadership and responsible practices across departments and stakeholder groups.

8. Monitoring, Reporting, and Assurance

Parul University shall publish an Annual Sustainability Report or equivalent public disclosure every year. Greenhouse gas inventories and annual disclosures shall be prepared using recognized methodology and may be subject to internal review and, where determined appropriate by the competent authority, independent third-party verification or assurance.

Parul University is committed to transparent and responsible climate-related disclosure and shall avoid greenwashing in all institutional communications, public statements, reports, rankings submissions, and promotional materials. Environmental claims shall be based on recognized methodology, reasonable assumptions, auditable records, and, where applicable, appropriate internal review or third-party verification.

Where data remains provisional, estimated, incomplete, restated, subject to boundary refinement, or dependent on methodological development, the same shall be clearly disclosed through appropriate explanatory notes, methodological statements, or category-wise clarifications.

The University shall not present carbon offsets, credits, renewable energy claims, avoided emissions, sequestration estimates, or other residual-balancing measures as substitutes for direct emissions reduction. Such measures, where used, shall be transparently disclosed, separately reported where appropriate, and applied only to hard-to-abate residual emissions after reasonable reduction measures have been pursued.

The University may, where appropriate, benchmark its climate-related disclosures, performance, and progress against relevant sustainability frameworks, Sustainable Development Goals, and recognized university rankings.

Where annual review indicates that the University is not on track to achieve approved targets, corrective actions, revised implementation priorities, or updated delivery pathways may be approved by the competent authority.

9. Approval, Publication, and Review

This Policy shall be formally approved by the competent authority of the University and made publicly accessible through the official University website or another approved public institutional platform.

Implementation of this Policy and associated institutional targets shall remain subject to applicable laws, regulations, statutory requirements, approved institutional budgets, technological feasibility, verified data availability, and competent-authority approvals, as amended or updated from time to time.

The University reserves the right to review, refine, sequence, restate, or update interim milestones, implementation pathways, methodologies, and supporting mechanisms based on improved data, technological progress, institutional priorities, regulatory developments, and approval by the competent authority, provided that the overall direction of climate action, transparency, and decarbonization is maintained.

All material climate-related claims made under this Policy shall remain subject to periodic review for accuracy, completeness, consistency, and alignment with approved institutional records.

By Order



Registrar

To,

- 1) Dean, Doctoral Studies and Research
- 2) Deans of Faculties
- 3) Principals/Directors of Colleges/ Institutes
- 4) Director (IQAC)
- 5) Managing Director (Global), Industrial Collaborations; Academic Strategies
- 6) Academic Directors
- 7) Dean, Students' Welfare

- 8) Controller of Examinations
- 9) Chief Librarian
- 10) Director, CDC / PIERC / CIRR / OIA/ AFMC / RDC/ Marketing / CDOE/ EDP / CEC / Alumni Association / Events Cell / Centre for Human Resources Development/ Security/ Physical Education and Sports/ Internship Cell/ Staff and Students Welfare Cell/ ICT Cell/ Learning and Academic Enrichment/ Faculty Updation (CSE/IT/CA)/ CMIE/ Partnerships (Institutes of National Importance)/ SCOPE
- 11) Chief Finance and Accounts Officer
- 12) Central Administration
- 13) Accounts Section
- 14) Students' Section
- 15) Head, Central Administration / Accounts / Purchase/ Transport/ MIS / Students' Section

Submitted to,

1. The President
2. Dr.Parul Patel, Vice President (Student Affairs and General Administration) and Chairperson, Admissions Committee, Parul University
3. Dr. Geetika Madan Patel, Vice President (Quality, Research and Health Sciences), Parul University
4. Dr. Komal Patel, Vice President (Medical and Paramedical Sciences), Parul University
5. The Provost