

# AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

## STUDENT-LED SUSTAINABILITY SOCIETY

*Establishment Report & Operational Framework*

April 2026 | Version 1.0

Prepared by the Office of Student Affairs  
In Collaboration with the Department of Environmental Sciences  
*Guided by the Vision of Mata Amritanandamayi Devi*

## Executive Summary

This report presents the establishment framework, operational structure, and strategic roadmap for the Amrita Green Society — the official student-led sustainability society of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham. The Society is designed to serve as the primary platform through which students across all six Amrita campuses engage with sustainability challenges, contribute to the University's environmental commitments, and connect Amma's teachings of compassionate service with urgent global climate action.

The Society will operate across four core pillars: Environmental Education, Applied Research, Community Outreach, and Policy Advocacy. It will align its activities with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 7 (Clean Energy), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 17 (Partnerships).

This report covers the Society's vision and mission, governance structure, flagship initiatives, resource requirements, performance metrics, and its formal linkage to Amrita's Sustainable Investment Policy adopted in April 2026.

## 1. Background and Rationale

### 1.1 Institutional Context

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, ranked among India's top universities by NIRF and recognised globally for its emphasis on values-based education, has long embedded sustainability into its academic and community programmes. Initiatives such as the Live-in-Labs programme, AMMACHI Labs, and the Centre for Wireless Networks and Applications (WNA) reflect the University's commitment to technology-for-good and rural sustainability.

However, there has been a recognised gap in structured, student-owned sustainability engagement that operates across campuses, bridges academic learning with practical action, and amplifies student voices in institutional decision-making. The Amrita Green Society addresses this gap directly.

### 1.2 The Sustainability Imperative

India is among the world's most climate-vulnerable nations. The Western Ghats — surrounding Amrita's Coimbatore and Amritapuri campuses — are a UNESCO-recognised biodiversity hotspot facing acute pressures from deforestation, water scarcity, and climate disruption. Amrita students are uniquely positioned to contribute to solutions in this region and beyond.

Globally, universities are increasingly expected to model sustainable behaviour, not only in operations but in culture. Students who graduate with practical sustainability competencies are better equipped for the green economy that is rapidly reshaping industry and government.

## 2. Vision, Mission, and Values

<b>Vision</b>	<i>To cultivate a generation of sustainability leaders who embody Amma's spirit of selfless service, applying knowledge and compassion to heal the planet and uplift communities.</i>
<b>Mission</b>	To engage Amrita students in education, research, advocacy, and community action that advances environmental sustainability — on campus, in local communities, and in public policy.

<b>Values</b>	Seva (Selfless Service)   Ahimsa (Non-violence towards nature)   Satya (Truth in science)   Inclusivity   Innovation
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### 3. Governance Structure

#### 3.1 Organisational Hierarchy

The Society shall operate under a clearly defined governance structure that ensures accountability, democratic representation, and alignment with University policies.

Position	Responsibilities	Eligibility
Faculty Advisor	Strategic guidance, University liaison, policy oversight	Senior faculty, Dept. of Environmental Sciences or equivalent
President	Overall leadership, external representation, annual planning	Final year UG/PG student, min. 2 years membership
Vice President	Deputise President, coordinate cross-campus chapters	Third year UG or PG student
Head of Research	Lead research projects, liaise with faculty, publish reports	PG student or UG with research background
Head of Outreach	Community programmes, village engagement, events	Any year student
Campus Coordinators (x6)	Manage campus-level activities and membership	One per campus, elected locally

#### 3.2 Decision-Making

All major decisions — including annual plans, budget allocation, and external partnerships — shall require approval by a simple majority of the Core Council. Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds supermajority. The Faculty Advisor holds veto power on matters of academic integrity or compliance.

### 4. Flagship Initiatives

#### 4.1 Green Campus Drive

An annual tree-planting campaign conducted across all six campuses in coordination with the Forest Department of Tamil Nadu and Kerala. Target: 2,000 saplings per campus per year, prioritising native Western Ghats species. Community volunteers from adjacent villages are invited to participate, reinforcing Amrita's seva tradition.

#### 4.2 Solar Literacy Programme

A student-designed curriculum delivered in rural communities near Amrita campuses to educate households on solar photovoltaic technology, clean cooking alternatives, and energy efficiency. Curriculum materials are developed in Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada to ensure accessibility.

### 4.3 Zero Waste Hostel Project

A multi-phase initiative to eliminate landfill waste from student hostels through source segregation, on-campus composting, and collaboration with upcycling social enterprises. The project aims to achieve zero-to-landfill certification for at least two hostels by academic year 2026-27.

### 4.4 Water Conservation Cell

A research and action group focused on campus water audits, rainwater harvesting assessments, and greywater recycling pilot projects. The Cell will publish an annual Water Stewardship Report for institutional use.

### 4.5 Sustainability Speaker Series

A monthly lecture series featuring climate scientists, environmental entrepreneurs, policy makers, and Amrita faculty. Sessions are live-streamed across campuses and archived for student access. Special sessions will feature speakers from Amma's global humanitarian network (Embracing the World).

### 4.6 Green Research Grant

An annual competitive grant of Rs. 50,000 awarded to the best student-led sustainability research proposal. Funded through the Society's budget and external sponsors. Winning projects will be presented at Amrita's annual research symposium.

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## 5. Linkage to Amrita's Sustainable Investment Policy

The Amrita Green Society serves as the student-facing implementation arm of the University's Sustainable Investment Policy (SIP), adopted April 2026. This relationship is formalised through the following mechanisms:

- The Society President holds an advisory seat on the University's Investment Committee ESG Review Subcommittee
- The Society shall prepare an annual Student Sustainability Perspective Report, informing the University's ESG engagement with investee companies
- The Society will co-host an annual Responsible Finance Forum with the Finance Division, raising student awareness of ESG investing principles
- Society research outputs on campus environmental performance will be incorporated into the University's Annual Sustainable Investment Report
- The Society will monitor and report on progress against the University's carbon reduction and green campus commitments

This linkage ensures that student sustainability action is directly connected to institutional financial decision-making — a model of genuine ESG integration at the student level.

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## 6. Resource Requirements

### 6.1 Annual Budget Estimate

Budget Head	Amount (INR)	Source
Green Campus Drive (6 campuses)	1,20,000	University + CSR
Solar Literacy Programme	80,000	University Grant
Zero Waste Hostel Project	60,000	University + Sponsors
Water Conservation Cell	40,000	Research Budget
Speaker Series & Events	50,000	University + Registrations
Green Research Grant	50,000	External Sponsors
Administration & Communications	30,000	University
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,30,000</b>	<b>Mixed</b>

## 6.2 Infrastructure Needs

- Dedicated office space (shared) at main Coimbatore campus
- Access to one meeting room per week per campus
- University email domain and website subdomain (greensociety.amrita.edu)
- Storage space for materials (composting bins, saplings, lab equipment)

## 7. Key Performance Indicators

KPI	Year 1 Target	Year 3 Target
Active members (all campuses)	300	750
Trees planted	5,000	20,000
Solar literacy households reached	500	2,000
Hostel waste diverted from landfill (%)	40%	85%
Research papers/reports published	2	8
Speaker series attendees (total)	500	2,500
Campus events organised	20	60
External partnerships formed	3	12

## 8. Implementation Timeline

Phase	Activities
Phase 1 Apr – Jun 2026	Formal registration; faculty advisor appointment; core council elections; website launch; inaugural event

Phase 2 Jul – Sep 2026	Green Campus Drive (Monsoon planting); launch of Solar Literacy pilot in 2 villages; first Speaker Series session
Phase 3 Oct – Dec 2026	Zero Waste Hostel pilot launch; Water Conservation Cell first audit; Green Research Grant call for proposals
Phase 4 Jan – Mar 2027	Mid-year review; research grant award; Responsible Finance Forum; Year 1 Annual Report publication

## 9. Conclusion and Recommendation

The Amrita Green Society represents a meaningful evolution in the University's student engagement with sustainability. By providing a structured, resourced, and institutionally connected platform, Amrita can harness the passion and creativity of its students in service of its environmental commitments and Amma's broader vision for a compassionate, sustainable world.

The Office of Student Affairs recommends the formal establishment of the Amrita Green Society with immediate effect, with the first Council elections to be conducted by May 2026. The Society should be formally recognised in the University's organisational charter and linked to the Investment Committee's ESG Review Subcommittee as outlined in this report.

*"The earth does not belong to us — we belong to the earth. Let us honour this sacred trust."*

— Mata Amritanandamayi Devi

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 Dean, Student Affairs  
 Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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