

AMRITA VISHWA VIDYAPEETHAM

Coimbatore, India | NAAC A++ Accredited | Est. 1994

SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT POLICY

Institutional Disclosure Report — Finance & Endowment Management

Report Reference: AVV/SUSTAIN/SIP/2025 | Reporting Period: Academic Year 2025–2026

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Institution	Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
Reporting Period	Academic Year 2025–2026
Report Type	Sustainable & Responsible Investment Policy — Institutional Disclosure
Policy Scope	Consolidated Endowment Fund, General Investment Fund & Operating Reserves
Aligned With	QS Sustainability Rankings UN PRI UN SDGs Paris Agreement
Assessment Tool	SULITEST (TASK™) Amrita Internal Sustainability Knowledge Assessment (AISKA)
Campuses Covered	All 10 campuses: Coimbatore, Amritapuri, Bengaluru, Kochi, Chennai, Mysuru, Faridabad, Haridwar, Amaravati, Nagercoil
Prepared by	Office of the Chief Sustainability Officer, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

1. Executive Summary

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham confirms that it has a formally adopted Sustainable Investment Policy governing the responsible management of all its financial assets — including its consolidated endowment, general investment fund, and operating reserves — across all ten campuses.

In direct response to the QS Sustainability Rankings indicator on Governance — specifically the sub-indicator on institutional investment policy and ESG integration — the university’s answer is:

YES

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham has a formal, publicly disclosed Sustainable Investment Policy aligned with UN PRI, the Paris Agreement, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Amrita’s investment framework is anchored in the internationally recognised United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI), developed under the UN Global Compact and UNEP Finance Initiative. The policy has been formally embedded in the university’s governance

structure and is documented in the official Self-Study Report submitted to NAAC. It is supplemented by Amrita’s own Internal Sustainability Knowledge Assessment (AISKA), used to ensure that investment decision-makers and finance staff possess the sustainability literacy required to implement this policy effectively.

2. Institutional Context & Policy Basis

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham’s commitment to sustainable investment is grounded in three interconnected institutional mandates:

- **Sustainability & Climate Action Policy (AVV/SUSTAIN/CAP/2025):** Requires that the Chief Sustainability Officer, in coordination with the Finance Division, maintain a formal mechanism to ensure all financial investments are screened for ESG compliance, enabling evidence-based reporting to QS, NAAC, and other accreditation bodies.
- **NAAC A++ Self-Study Report (Criterion VII — Institutional Values & Best Practices):** Explicitly documents Amrita’s use of ESG investment screening and responsible investment principles as a core institutional commitment, demonstrating alignment between financial management and the university’s stated values.
- **UNESCO Chair on Experiential Learning for Sustainable Innovation & Development:** Amrita’s role as a UNESCO Chair holder requires systematic measurement of sustainability competencies across the institution — including finance and investment functions — as part of global best-practice implementation.

Additionally, Amrita researchers (Amritapuri campus) have published peer-reviewed research on sustainability assessment frameworks in PLOS ONE (2024), demonstrating deep institutional academic engagement with ESG measurement beyond mere administrative adoption. This research directly informs the AISKA tool used to assess finance staff sustainability literacy.

3. Sustainable Investment Policy Statement

3.1 Policy Commitment

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is committed to investing its financial resources in a manner that is consistent with its founding values of compassion (karuna), selfless service (seva), and commitment to the wellbeing of all living beings. The university recognises that financial investment decisions are not ethically neutral — they either support or undermine the sustainability of the natural and social systems on which all human flourishing depends.

Full Policy Title	Policy for Sustainable and Responsible Investment (SIP)
Policy Reference	AVV/SUSTAIN/SIP/2025
Developed by	Office of the Chief Sustainability Officer & Finance Division

UN Framework	United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI)
UN Endorsement	UN Global Compact, UNEP Finance Initiative, UN SDG Partnership
Supporting Frameworks	Paris Agreement, TCFD, IIGCC Net Zero Investment Framework, SEBI BRSR
Governance Body	Investment Committee, Finance Committee, Board of Management
Review Cycle	Biennial (next review: December 2027)

3.2 What the Policy Covers

The Sustainable Investment Policy assesses responsible investment across two integrated dimensions:

- **Financial & ESG Integration:** Evaluation of all investee companies and fund managers against Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria, ensuring that financial return is not pursued at the expense of environmental integrity, social justice, or sound governance.
- **Institutional Alignment:** Ensuring that the university’s investment portfolio is consistent with its public commitments on climate change, sustainability education, community wellbeing, and institutional governance — the four pillars assessed by QS Sustainability Rankings.

Questions are drawn from the university’s comprehensive ESG screening framework, covering all 17 UN SDGs and aligned with the Paris Agreement’s 1.5°C pathway, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and India’s National Action Plan on Climate Change.

4. ESG Integration Framework

4.1 The Three Pillars of ESG

All investment decisions are evaluated through a three-pillar ESG lens, directly aligned with the QS Sustainability Rankings categories of Environmental Impact, Social Impact, and Governance:

ESG Pillar	Key Focus Areas	QS Lens Alignment	UN SDGs Targeted
Environmental	Climate risk, carbon footprint, renewable energy, biodiversity, net-zero transition	Environmental Impact, Sustainability Education	SDG 7, 13, 14, 15
Social	Labour rights, gender equity, community impact, human rights, diversity & inclusion	Equality, Knowledge Exchange, Health & Wellbeing	SDG 3, 4, 5, 10, 17
Governance	Board diversity, anti-corruption, transparency, executive remuneration, shareholder rights	Governance: Institutions, People, Impact	SDG 16, 17

4.2 Negative Screening (Exclusions)

The university shall not make or maintain direct investments in companies primarily engaged in the following activities:

- Thermal coal extraction and coal-fired power generation (inconsistent with Paris Agreement)
- Unconventional oil and gas including tar sands, Arctic drilling, and fracking (above 5% revenue threshold)
- Tobacco production and manufacture
- Cluster munitions, landmines, depleted uranium, chemical and biological weapons
- Gambling (where gambling constitutes more than 10% of revenue)
- Companies in serious and persistent breach of international human rights instruments

4.3 Positive Screening (Preferred Sectors)

The university actively seeks and increases allocation to investments in the following sectors, aligned with Amrita's academic strengths and the QS Sustainability framework:

- Renewable energy and clean technology (solar, wind, green hydrogen, battery storage)
- Healthcare, biotechnology, and medical technology
- Education technology and learning innovation
- Sustainable agriculture and food systems
- Green infrastructure, sustainable buildings, and low-carbon transport
- Financial inclusion and community development finance

5. Governance Structure

Sound governance is the foundation of responsible investment. The following governance architecture ensures accountability, expertise, and independent oversight, consistent with the practices of leading QS Sustainability-ranked institutions:

Governance Body	Responsibilities
Board of Management	Ultimate fiduciary authority; approves Investment Policy and major divestment decisions
Finance Committee	Oversees implementation; reviews Investment Committee recommendations; approves asset allocation strategy
Investment Committee	Operational oversight; selects and monitors fund managers; conducts annual ESG review; appoints specialist sustainability member per Oxford best practice

Governance Body	Responsibilities
Responsible Investment Advisory Group	Independent advisory body comprising faculty sustainability experts, student representatives, and external ESG specialists
External Fund Managers	Must be UN PRI signatories; submit quarterly ESG compliance reports; engage investee companies on material ESG issues
Chief Sustainability Officer	Coordinates cross-institutional sustainability strategy; provides ESG risk briefings; liaises with QS HUB data submission portal

6. Climate Change and Net-Zero Commitment

Climate change represents the most material systemic financial risk facing long-term investors. Amrita’s approach to climate risk is grounded in the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) framework.

6.1 Net-Zero Portfolio Alignment

- Align entire investment portfolio with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040
- Annual measurement and public disclosure of portfolio’s weighted average carbon intensity (WACI)
- Scope 1, 2, and material Scope 3 emissions of investee companies assessed annually

6.2 Fossil Fuel Divestment Timeline

Asset Class	Action	Deadline
Direct coal extraction	Full divestment	31 December 2026
Unconventional oil & gas	Phase-out of direct holdings	31 December 2027
Fossil fuel-adjacent holdings	Net-zero transition plan required from managers	From January 2026
Index / pooled fund exposure	Engagement-first; divestment if no progress	Review annually

7. Measurable Targets and Key Performance Indicators

In accordance with best practice at Edinburgh (which publishes an annual carbon footprint of its endowment) and UCL (which requires annual manager reporting on SRI compliance), the university adopts the following measurable targets:

Commitment	Target / Metric	Deadline / Frequency
ESG-screened portfolio share	≥ 80% of total assets under management	By 31 December 2027
Carbon intensity reduction	50% vs 2022 baseline	By 31 December 2030

Commitment	Target / Metric	Deadline / Frequency
Net-zero alignment	100% portfolio net-zero aligned	By 2040
Renewable energy allocation	Minimum 15% of equity portfolio	By 31 December 2027
UN PRI reporting	Annual Transparency Report (target rating: A)	Every September
Carbon footprint disclosure	Annual publication of portfolio carbon intensity	Every March
Staff sustainability literacy	100% finance staff complete AISKA assessment	Every academic year
Policy review	Full biennial review by Investment Committee	December 2027, 2029...

8. Transparency, Disclosure and Reporting

Transparency is a defining characteristic of leading sustainable universities and a direct input into the QS Sustainability Rankings Governance category. Amrita commits to the following disclosure obligations:

- **Public Investment Policy Statement:** This Policy shall be published in full on the university's official website and updated within 90 days of any revision.
- **Annual Sustainable Investment Report:** The Investment Committee shall publish an Annual Sustainable Investment Report each March, covering portfolio ESG scores, carbon intensity, progress against targets, proxy voting records, and manager engagement outcomes.
- **QS HUB Data Submission:** The Chief Sustainability Officer shall ensure complete and accurate data submission via the QS HUB platform by the deadline specified in the QS data collection cycle each year.
- **UN PRI Transparency Report:** Following UN PRI sign-up, the university shall publish its annual PRI Transparency Report each September.
- **Biennial Holdings Disclosure:** A summary of major asset class allocations shall be published biennially by the Finance Committee.

9. Staff Sustainability Literacy in Investment Functions

A key differentiator of Amrita's approach — directly relevant to the QS Sustainability indicator on assessment tools — is its requirement that all staff involved in investment decision-making demonstrate baseline sustainability literacy, assessed through the SULITEST (TASK™) and the Amrita Internal Sustainability Knowledge Assessment (AISKA).

Assessment Tool	SULITEST (TASK™) — UN/HESI endorsed; Amrita Internal Sustainability Knowledge Assessment (AISKA)
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Staff Covered	All Finance Division staff, Investment Committee members, and fund manager relationship managers
Assessment Cycle	Annual (every Academic Year)
Minimum Score	65% (SULITEST global benchmark for sustainability literacy)
Training Pathway	Staff scoring below 65% receive targeted sustainability training through the Amrita Centre for Sustainability Education
Documentation	Results logged in the HR Sustainability Compliance Register; reported annually to the Investment Committee

10. Benchmarking Against QS Top-Ranked Institutions

This Policy has been developed with reference to the publicly available responsible investment policies of the world’s highest-ranked institutions in the QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2026:

Institution	QS Rank 2026	Key Practice Adopted by Amrita
Lund University (Sweden)	#1 Global	Interdisciplinary sustainability governance; trust-based collaboration model
University College London	#3 Global	SRI Policy structure; Investment Committee to Finance Committee to Council chain
University of Toronto	#2 Global	ESG screening across all asset classes; annual sustainability reporting
University of Oxford	#14 Global	Oxford Martin Principles for Climate-Conscious Investment; sustainability member on Investment Committee
University of Edinburgh	Top 25	Fossil fuel divestment completed 2021; annual portfolio carbon footprint publication
University of Glasgow	Top 30	Full fossil fuel divestment; IIGCC and Climate Action 100+ membership

11. Approval and Signatories

Vice-Chancellor

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signature & Date

Signature & Date

Chief Sustainability Officer

Chairperson, Finance Committee

Signature & Date

Signature & Date

References and Benchmarked Institutions

- University of Oxford — Investment Policy Statement (2023) & Socially Responsible Investment Report; Oxford Martin Principles for Climate-Conscious Investment. QS Sustainability Rank: #14, 2026.
- University College London — Policy for Socially Responsible Investment (2020, rev. 2024); UCL Investment Policy. QS Sustainability Rank: #3, 2026.
- University of Edinburgh — Responsible Investment Policy Statement (2025); first European university UN PRI signatory; 64% portfolio carbon reduction achieved.
- University of Glasgow — Socially Responsible Investment Policy (2024); full fossil fuel divestment completed September 2023.
- Lund University — Sustainability Investment Framework; QS Sustainability global #1, 2026.
- University of Toronto — ESG Investment Policy; QS Sustainability global #2, 2026.
- QS World University Rankings: Sustainability 2026 — Methodology (Environmental Impact, Social Impact, Governance). Available: support.qs.com
- UN Principles for Responsible Investment — Six Principles. Available: unpri.org
- Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) — Recommendations. Available: fsb-tcfid.org
- SULITEST / TASK™ — Sustainability Literacy Test for institutional assessment. Available: sultest.org

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