KARUNYA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCES

KITS/EFTP/2025/01

Eco-Friendly Transportation Policy

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PREAMBLE

Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences (KITS) recognizes transportation as a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution and energy consumption, with implications for environmental sustainability, public health and campus safety. As a values-driven higher education institution committed to climate responsibility, KITS promotes eco-friendly, low-carbon and inclusive transportation systems that prioritize walking, cycling, shared mobility and clean energy alternatives.

Aligned with the Institute's Climate Change Mitigation and Sustainability Policy, national climate commitments and global sustainability frameworks, this policy seeks to systematically reduce transport-related emissions while improving mobility efficiency, accessibility and quality of campus life through planned infrastructure, behavioural change and continuous monitoring.

RATIONALE

Transportation within higher education campuses is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, traffic congestion and energy consumption, particularly due to daily commuting, institutional vehicles and service logistics. As campus populations and activities expand, there is a growing need to manage mobility in a manner that supports environmental sustainability, public health, safety and efficient campus operations.

The Eco-Friendly Transportation Policy is formulated to reduce carbon emissions arising from campus mobility by promoting sustainable and non-motorized transport systems such as walking, cycling, shared mobility and electric vehicles. These measures support a shift away from fossil-fuel-based transportation while encouraging healthier travel behaviour and reduced environmental impact.

This policy aligns with India's climate commitments, including the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement and Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), and is further strengthened by alignment with Tamil Nadu State policies such as the Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy, Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change (TNSAPCC) and regional initiatives promoting clean mobility, public transport integration, and emission reduction.

The policy also ensures compliance with UGC Green Campus Guidelines, AICTE Sustainability and Environmental Protection Guidelines, and NAAC/NBA quality benchmarks, all of which emphasize sustainable infrastructure and responsible campus mobility planning. In addition, transport-related sustainability actions directly contribute to improved institutional performance in QS Sustainability Rankings, THE Impact Rankings and UI GreenMetric World University Rankings.

Beyond environmental objectives, the policy seeks to enhance road safety, accessibility and inclusivity through pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, regulated vehicular movement and equitable access for all campus users. By integrating transportation planning with digital practices, infrastructure development, and continuous monitoring, the policy contributes to an improved quality of campus life while reinforcing KITS' role as a model institution for sustainable and climate-responsible transportation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Eco-Friendly Transportation Policy establishes a structured and institution-wide framework for promoting sustainable, low-carbon, and inclusive transportation systems at Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences (KITS). The policy seeks to systematically reduce greenhouse gas emissions and environmental impacts arising from campus mobility and commuting, while enhancing safety, accessibility, and efficiency for all campus users.

The policy emphasizes the adoption of low-carbon and non-polluting modes of transport, including walking, cycling, shared mobility, and public transportation, as preferred options for on-campus and institution-related travel. It aims to reduce dependence on fossil-fuel-based vehicles through demand management, rationalization of vehicular access, and gradual transition of institutional transport services toward cleaner alternatives.

A key focus of the policy is the promotion of electric mobility and shared transportation systems, including service vehicles and carpooling initiatives, supported by the development of charging infrastructure and enabling policies. These measures contribute to reduced emissions, improved air quality and efficient use of resources.

The policy integrates transport sustainability into campus planning and governance, ensuring that transportation considerations are embedded in infrastructure development, land-use planning, procurement, and operational decision-making. Clear roles, responsibilities, and institutional mechanisms are established to guide implementation and accountability.

To ensure effectiveness and continual progress, the policy provides for robust monitoring, reporting, and review mechanisms, including periodic audits, performance indicators, stakeholder feedback, and benchmarking against national guidelines and global sustainability rankings. Through a Plan–Do–Check–Act (PDCA) approach, KITS commits to continuous improvement in sustainable transportation practices, reinforcing its leadership in climate action and green campus development.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Minimize transport-related greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution

- Promote walking, cycling and the use of public and shared transportation systems
- Encourage the adoption of electric and alternative-fuel vehicles for institutional and personal use
- Improve traffic safety, pedestrian infrastructure and accessibility across the campus
- Support behavioural change consistent with Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) principles

This policy applies to:

- All students, faculty, staff, and administrators of Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences (KITS)
- All institutional vehicles, shuttle services, and transport facilities operated by or on behalf of KITS
- All contractors, vendors, service providers, and outsourced agencies operating within the campus
- All on-campus and institution-controlled off-campus transportation and mobility activities

DOCUMENT CONTROL & REVISION HISTORY

Policy Title	Eco-Friendly Transportation Policy
Reference Number	KITS/EFTP/2025/01
Version	1.0
Issue	02
Policy Created on	July 2022
Revision History	Revised on 29th August 2025 (28th IQAC Meeting).
Responsible Executives	Vice-Chancellor, Registrar and Chief Engineer
Responsible Office	Registrar's office & Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)
Policy Review Frequency	Policy shall be reviewed every three years, or earlier if required by UGC, AICTE or other regulatory authorities.

The policy is described in the following articles

ARTICLE 1

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences (KITS) commits to promoting environmentally sustainable, safe, inclusive, and efficient transportation practices across all institutional activities. The Institute shall adopt a systematic, evidence-based, and participatory approach to transportation planning and management, integrating sustainability principles into campus design, operations, and governance.

Transportation-related decisions at KITS shall prioritize the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, improvement of energy efficiency, enhancement of road safety, and universal accessibility, while minimizing environmental and social impacts. The Institute shall actively encourage non-motorized transport, shared mobility, and low-emission vehicles, and progressively discourage the use of high-emission, fossil-fuel-based transport within the campus.

KITS further commits to continuous improvement in sustainable mobility through regular monitoring, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and alignment with national policies, accreditation requirements, and global best practices in eco-friendly transportation. Compliance with this policy shall be mandatory for all stakeholders, subject to institutional rules and procedures.

ARTICLE 2

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY

KITS adopts the following strategies to promote sustainable, low-carbon, and efficient transportation across the campus:

- Promotion of walking and cycling as the primary modes of on-campus mobility through safe, accessible, and well-maintained infrastructure
- Restriction and rationalization of private fossil-fuel-based vehicle usage on campus to minimize emissions, congestion and safety risks
- Gradual transition of institutional transport services and vehicle fleets to electric and alternative-fuel vehicles, in a phased and feasible manner
- Optimization of campus transport routes, schedules and occupancy to reduce fuel consumption, travel time, and operational inefficiencies
- Integration of transportation planning with green campus development, land-use planning and infrastructure expansion initiatives

ARTICLE 3

KEY INITIATIVES

3.1 Non-Motorized Transport

- Development of safe, accessible pedestrian pathways and dedicated cycle tracks across the campus
- Provision of secure bicycle parking facilities at academic, residential, and common-use locations
- Identification and implementation of car-free or low-traffic zones within the campus to enhance safety and reduce emissions

3.2 Electric and Low-Emission Mobility

- Introduction of electric buses, shuttles, and service vehicles for institutional transport
- Installation and maintenance of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at strategic locations
- Provision of incentives and preferential access for electric and low-emission vehicles

3.3 Shared and Public Transport

- Promotion of carpooling and shared transport systems among students and staff
- Optimization of institutional bus routes, schedules, and occupancy levels
- Coordination with public transport authorities and service providers to improve connectivity and reduce private vehicle dependence

3.4 Traffic Management and Safety

- Enforcement of speed limits, traffic calming measures, and signage within campus
- Designation of regulated parking zones to prevent congestion and ensure pedestrian safety
- Conduct of road safety awareness and training programmes for campus users

3.5 Digital and Flexible Practices

- Promotion of online meetings, hybrid teaching–learning modes, and flexible work schedules, wherever feasible
- Adoption of digital systems and administrative processes to reduce the need for physical travel

ARTICLE 4

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Vice-Chancellor:** Provides strategic leadership, approves the Eco-Friendly Transportation Policy, and ensures alignment with institutional sustainability and climate objectives.
- **Registrar:** Ensures policy compliance, institutional coordination, documentation control and communication of the policy across all stakeholders.
- **Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC):** Monitors implementation, conducts audits, prepares reports, benchmarks performance against national and global sustainability frameworks, and supports continuous improvement.
- **Chief Engineer:** Plans, develops, and maintains sustainable transportation infrastructure, including pedestrian pathways, cycling facilities, EV infrastructure, and traffic management systems.
- **Transport Office:** Manages day-to-day transportation operations, enforces transport-related rules, oversees institutional vehicle services, and supports the transition to low-emission mobility.
- **Faculty and Students:** Actively adopt and promote sustainable mobility practices, participate in awareness programmes, and support institutional initiatives related to eco-friendly transportation.
- **Vendors and Contractors:** Comply with eco-friendly transportation norms, institutional guidelines, and contractual sustainability requirements while operating within the campus.

ARTICLE 5

MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW

- Preparation of an Annual Sustainable Transportation Report documenting performance, initiatives and outcomes
- Monitoring of fuel consumption, energy use, and transport-related greenhouse gas emissions across institutional transport systems
- Collection of user feedback, conduct of road safety audits, and periodic assessment of mobility infrastructure

- Benchmarking of transportation performance against indicators used in QS Sustainability Rankings, THE Impact Rankings, and UI GreenMetric World University Rankings
- Adoption of a Plan–Do–Check–Act (PDCA) approach to ensure continuous improvement in sustainable transportation practices

ARTICLE 6

GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL AND APPEALS

Stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, visitors, vendors and service providers, may submit grievances related to transportation facilities, safety, accessibility, service quality, or policy implementation to the Registrar through the prescribed institutional grievance mechanism.

All grievances shall be acknowledged promptly, examined objectively, and resolved within stipulated timelines as per institutional procedures. The Institute shall ensure confidentiality, fairness, and a strict non-retaliation policy for all complainants. Where required, grievances shall be escalated to the appropriate authority for corrective or preventive action.

ARTICLE 7

VIOLATIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

Non-compliance with this Eco-Friendly Transportation Policy by any stakeholder shall attract proportionate corrective and disciplinary measures, depending on the nature, severity, and recurrence of the violation. Such measures may include warnings, mandatory corrective actions, penalties, restriction or withdrawal of vehicle access, suspension of transportation privileges, or contractual action in accordance with institutional rules and applicable regulations.

Repeated or serious violations may lead to escalation to competent institutional authorities and where applicable, action under statutory or regulatory provisions.

References

- Government of India, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – Updated Submission (2022), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- Government of India, National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), MoEFCC.
- Government of India, Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- Government of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy, Industries Department.
- Government of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change (TNSAPCC).
- University Grants Commission (UGC), Green Campus and Environmental Sustainability Guidelines, Government of India.
- All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Sustainability and Environmental Protection Guidelines.

- National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Manual for Higher Education Institutions.
- National Board of Accreditation (NBA), Accreditation Criteria for Engineering and Technology Programs.
- International Organization for Standardization
- Times Higher Education (THE), Impact Rankings Methodology.
- Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), QS Sustainability Rankings Methodology.
- Universitas Indonesia, UI GreenMetric World University Rankings.

Definitions

- Eco-Friendly Transportation: Transportation systems and practices that minimize environmental impact by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, energy consumption, and resource use.
- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions: Gases released into the atmosphere that contribute to climate change, including carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), and nitrous oxide (N_2O), arising from transportation and fuel use.
- Non-Motorized Transport (NMT): Modes of transport that do not rely on motorized power, including walking and cycling.
- Electric Vehicle (EV): A vehicle powered wholly or partially by electricity, including battery electric vehicles and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.
- Low-Emission Vehicle: A vehicle that produces significantly lower emissions compared to conventional fossil-fuel-based vehicles, including electric and alternative-fuel vehicles.
- Shared Mobility: Transportation services that allow multiple users to share vehicles or rides, such as carpooling, shuttle services, and institutional bus systems.
- Institutional Vehicles: Vehicles owned, leased, or operated by or on behalf of KITS for academic, administrative, or service purposes.
- Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment): A Government of India initiative promoting environmentally responsible behaviours and sustainable lifestyles to address climate change.
- Sustainable Transportation: Transportation planning and practices that meet mobility needs while reducing environmental impact, enhancing safety, and ensuring social inclusivity.
- PDCA Cycle (Plan–Do–Check–Act): A continuous improvement methodology used for planning, implementing, monitoring, and improving institutional processes.

ANNEXURE I - Policy Alignment with National, International & Ranking Frameworks

Framework / Policy	Alignment with Eco-Friendly Transportation Policy
India's Nationally Determined Contributions (2022)	Reduction of transport-related emissions, promotion of clean mobility
Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)	Behavioural change, sustainable travel practices
National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)	Energy efficiency, sustainable habitat, emission reduction

Tamil Nadu Electric Vehicle Policy	Promotion of EVs and charging infrastructure
Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change (TNSAPCC)	Clean mobility and regional climate action
UN Sustainable Development Goals	SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), SDG 13 (Climate Action)
UGC Green Campus Guidelines	Sustainable mobility and green infrastructure
AICTE Sustainability Guidelines	Environmental responsibility and campus planning
QS Sustainability Rankings	Environmental impact and governance indicators
THE Impact Rankings	SDG-linked transport and climate actions
UI GreenMetric	Transportation indicators

ANNEXURE II – Key Measurable Sustainable Transportation Indicators

Area	Indicative Metrics
Campus Mobility	% trips by walking/cycling
Vehicle Fleet	% institutional EVs
Energy & Emissions	Fuel consumption, transport-related GHG emissions
Infrastructure	Length of pedestrian/cycle pathways, EV chargers
Safety	Number of accidents, safety audits conducted
Awareness	Participation in mobility awareness programmes

ANNEXURE III –Scope of Transport-Related Emissions (GHG Protocol – Transport Context)

Scope	Description	Examples at KITS
Scope 1	Direct emissions from owned/controlled vehicles	Institutional buses, service vehicles, diesel cars
Scope 2	Indirect emissions from purchased electricity	Electricity used for EV charging
Scope 3	Other indirect emissions	Staff/student commuting, outsourced transport services, business travel

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Acronym	Full Form
AICTE	All India Council for Technical Education
EV	Electric Vehicle
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHG Protocol	Greenhouse Gas Protocol
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IQAC	Internal Quality Assurance Cell
KITS	Karunya Institute of Technology and Sciences
LEV	Low-Emission Vehicle
LiFE	Lifestyle for Environment

MoEFCC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
NAPCC	National Action Plan on Climate Change
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NMT	Non-Motorized Transport
PDCA	Plan–Do–Check–Act
QS	Quacquarelli Symonds
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
THE	Times Higher Education
TNSAPCC	Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change
UI	Universitas Indonesia
UGC	University Grants Commission

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