



Learn Lead Serve



## **SRI SRI UNIVERSITY**

### **World University Rankings 2022**



**Climate change, Climate change education, Energy Uses, Energy Conservation, Planning, Awareness, Policy, Good Practice**

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## *About Us*

Sri Sri University was established as a State Private University in Odisha, India which started its first academic year in 2012 and has been envisioned by Global Humanitarian, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji. The University offers a range of pivotal, unique, and cutting-edge undergraduate, postgraduate degree programs under eight Faculties, short-term, diploma, and certificate courses, Doctoral studies (Ph. D.), that offers the best of the East and offers the best of the West.

The impressive list of undergraduate programmes offered at Sri Sri University includes B. Sc. (Data Science), B. Sc. (Osteopathy), B. Sc. (Psychology & Contemplative Studies), B. Sc. (Food, Nutrition, and Dietetics), B. Sc. (Agri-business), Bachelor in Interior Design, etc., and that of post graduate programmes offered includes M.Sc. Osteopathy (first time in Asia), MBA (Entrepreneurship), MBA (General Management), MBA (Agri-Business Management), M.Com., M.A./M.Sc. in Psychology and Contemplative Behaviour, M.Sc. Environment Science, B. Tech. & M. Tech. (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning), etc.

Located in a sprawling 188- acre green lush campus, Sri Sri University takes pride in offering a curriculum that enriches both domain expertise and life skills. It provides a unique social culture that nurtures a rich learning environment and aids excellence in students through its virtually smoke-free, alcohol-free, drug-free, and completely vegetarian campus. The University defines Excellence as an academic process of motivating the students to learn in ways that make a sustained, substantial, and positive influence on how they think, act, and feel which defines our core value of **Learn-Lead-Serve**.

Sri Sri University has been ranked by Times Higher Education World University Impact Rankings on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the band of 601-800 based on all 17 SDGs. In the top four individual SDGs, Sri Sri University was ranked in the band of **101-200** for SDG 2: Zero Hunger. For the SDG 13: Climate Action and SDG15: Life on Land stand in the band of 201-300. Sri Sri University has been ranked **1<sup>st</sup> in Odisha, 7<sup>th</sup> in India, and 250<sup>th</sup> in the world** as per UI Green Metric Awards World University Rankings 2021 which is a quantum jump from 2020's ranking which was 3<sup>th</sup> in Odisha, 7<sup>th</sup> in India, and 304<sup>th</sup> in the world.

Being from the parentage of the Art of Living, one of the largest volunteer based organization in the world, and given the stature of the work of our founder Poojya Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar ji in the last four decades, we aspire to contribute in finding solutions to the problems faced by the world at large by way of conflict resolution, agriculture, Arts & Crafts, etc. Few of our initiatives in this regard includes the creation of Sri Sri University Resource Centre for Climate Change & Sustainability Education & Practices, Sri Sri Advanced Global Centre for Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies, and Sri Sri Centre for Advanced Research in Water Resources and Environment Management, to name a few.

## ***Introduction***

Climate change and its global impacts are a matter of paramount concern worldwide. This issue is highly debated within the scientific community, among governments, and among the general population. In fact, the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the agenda 2030 are centered around climate change and its multifaceted consequences. It's difficult to find any part of the biosphere that has not been adversely affected by climate change. It has had adverse effects on biodiversity, hydrology, agricultural systems, mountain ecosystems, the economy, etc. Furthermore, these impacts are not only severe but also disproportionate in nature.

Various United Nations entities, such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), UNESCO, UNEP, UNDP, along with governments worldwide, have been engaged in efforts to combat climate change and develop adaptive measures. However, achieving the desired goals is contingent on the involvement of individuals and institutions. Institutions like universities and business enterprises around the world have been contributing at the institutional level through education, actions, and awareness-raising initiatives. In this regard the Times Higher Education World University Rankings have played a significant role in providing a platform for universities to work towards combating climate change.

Sri Sri University has been participating in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings since 2019 and has steadily improved its rankings, especially in the category of 'Climate Action.' The most recent ranking for Sri Sri University in Climate Action (SDG 13) falls within the range of 200 to 300.

## ***Climate Change and Education Programme***

Sri Sri University's commitment to addressing climate change is evident through a range of activities, educational research integrated into academic curricula, awareness campaigns via workshops and seminars, training programs, and outreach initiatives. The university has established a dedicated center for sustainability and climate change education, as well as another center focusing on water resource management, which also incorporates aspects related to climate change. Climate change-related course contents have been included in two programs, namely B.Sc. (Hons) Environmental Science and B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture. Recently, the university organized an international workshop on climate education (**Fig. 1**) and another

workshop on climate change, women, and their adaptive capacity as part of the W20-G20 event. Both programmes were related to the climate change education. The seminars/workshop are one of the measures to raise the awareness and to educate the people on the vulnerability to sustainability due to climate change. Sri Sri University, in collaboration with City University of New York and the US Consulate Hyderabad, organized a conference on climate change education on September 22 and 23, 2022. Environmental Science Day was also celebrated during the conference. The students of Sri Sri University and other universities participated in this event.



**Fig. 1. Conference on climate change education**



**Fig. 2. A W20 event on climate change**

The W20 event was organized in rural areas, with women leaders from eight villages participating in this event (Fig. 2). Sri Sri University has introduced the Suryamitra solar PV installer training course, an initiative of the Government of India. Students from both Sri Sri University and outside institutions participate in this program.

Given the increased frequency of cyclones in this region due to climate change, the university is committed to addressing the aspects of disaster management in its educational, training, and outreach programs. It collaborates

with governmental agencies such as the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). Such programs are organized at the university at regular intervals.

## *Climate Action Plan*

Sri Sri University has its Climate Action Plan in place. The plan has been formulated on the lines of the National Action Plan for Climate Change. It focuses on the 8 goals mentioned below:

- i). Use of the renewable sources of energy
- ii). Efficient use of energy
- iii). Development of green campus
- iv). Water conservation and clean water
- v). Plantation and biodiversity conservation
- vi). Sustainably farmed food practices
- vii). Climate change education

## *Actions*

Activities aimed at combating climate change are aligned with the goals outlined in the climate action plan. The university has already taken steps towards this commitment by installing solar street lights on the campus and currently possesses 8 kV solar panels. These existing solar panels are set to undergo upgrades and enhancements in the near future (Fig. 3). The university is dedicated to transitioning from conventional energy sources to renewable energy sources by 2023, and this transition will occur in a phased manner

In order to use energy efficiently, the university has replaced all MH land MH high mast lights with LED street lights, 78 MH high mast lights have been replaced with LED high mast lights. The replacement of fans into BLDC and air conditioners is in the process. Many other energy efficient measures like building structure, solar water heaters, PNG gas station, e-vehicles, etc. are being used in the campus.



**Fig. 3. Solar panels installed in the campus**

To achieve the goals of the development of green campus, the university undergoes the audit process at a regular interval. The university has its green audit, environmental audit and the energy audit reports (<https://srisriuniversity.edu.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Sri-Sri-University-Green-Audit-Report.pdf>) and (<https://srisriuniversity.edu.in/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Sri-Sri-University-Environment-Audit-Report.pdf>).

Water conservation and the maintenance of water quality is one of the top priorities of Sri Sri University. All hostels, residence, and offices are supplied with RO water. Prior to supply the water, drinking water is treated in the water treatment plant (**Fig. 4**). The quality of drinking water is assessed through an accredited third party. The university has established a sewage treatment plant (STP), where all grey and black waters are collected and treated. After the treatment, water quality is assessed as per the BIS standards and is used for the irrigation purpose in the farmland and plantation site. The university has a mechanism to collect the rainwater in abandoned quarries. The harvested water and other runoff is treated in the effluent treatment plant and used in the plantation sites (**Fig. 5**). This action not only leads to positive impacts on plant and farmland but



**Fig. 4. Drinking water treatment plant**



**Fig. 5. Effluent treatment plant**

play a significant role in the water conservation. The waste water without treatment is not discharged to the land ecosystem. In this regard, Sri Sri University has a well-defined ‘Water Reuse Policy’ in place.

Plantation is one of the goals of the Climate Action Plan. Plantation is a regular activity in the university campus, which is conducted in the monsoon season and on the occasions of World Environment day, World Forest day, etc. The plantation activities for many years in the



university campus have converted the a degraded ecosystem into a landscape providing shelter to rich faunal biodiversity. In addition to the plantation on the university campus, different constituents of the university like Eco Club, Rovers and Rangers, etc. perform their activities on the shared ecosystems like rural areas, degraded land, community land etc. (**Fig. 6**).



**Fig. 6. Plantation in Sandhapur village**



**Fig. 7. Farm located on the university campus**

Sri Sri University boasts its own agricultural farms and cow sheds, serving not only as valuable resources for education and research but also efficiently meeting the university's needs (**Fig. 7**). The university has a sustainably Farmed Food policy encouraging the organic farming. use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides is discouraged to prevent any residual toxicity in soil and water. In-situ composting mechanism is applied. The homemade “Jeevamrit” is used as a natural fertilizer while neem cakes are used instead of any pesticides/fertilizers.

An animal farm has been developed with organic principles to produce nutritionally healthy milk and milk products. In addition, the university is engaged in the knowledge sharing with rural farmers and other outreach programmes.

### ***Outreach Activities and Awareness Campaign***

Sri Sri university has been engaged in different outreach programmes related to the climate change, its consequences and adaptive capacity to cope with climate change. Such programmes comprise webinars, interaction with rural people, plantation, etc. The W20 as a part G20 programme in the university was dedicated to the climate change with especial reference to the

adaptive capacity of rural women and agriculture and ethics. The university has performed an outreach training programme on disaster management resulting from climate change (**Fig. 8**).



**Fig. 8. A programme on disaster management conducted in the Sri Sri university**

Sri Sri University was envisioned by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji, the founder of 'The Art of Living.' The University has a collaboration with 'The Art of Living' foundation, a multifaceted, not-for-profit educational and humanitarian NGO with a presence in over 140 countries. Among its various activities, environmental protection and environmental education are particularly significant.

These activities include regular tree plantation, sustainable farming practices, river rejuvenation, cleaning drives, and environmental awareness campaigns, etc. Sri Sri University is directly and indirectly involved in these initiatives (<https://beta.in.artofliving.org/environment-care>). The university is moving to develop a carbon neutral campus in the phased manner through its action and awareness campaign.

### ***Policies & Guidelines***

The policy addressing the aspects of climate change includes 'Zero Emission Policy'. The policy aims to develop an emission free campus and to implement all process, procedures, and initiatives that ensure compliance with environmental legislation and best practices. The university has formulated a comprehensive 'Climate Action Plan'; its details are mentioned above. The university has an institutional framework to collect all the information from the Indian Meteorological Department and the state government of Odisha regarding the any type of calamity resulting from the climate change or other type of the disaster. Based on the information, the university administration takes necessary actions.

## *Good Practices*

Good practices towards climate change include

1. Students and staff are encouraged to use zero emission vehicles. For zero emission vehicles, there is no parking charges
2. Use of shuttles (including electric vehicles) inside the campus for staff at no cost so that staff could avoid their private vehicles
3. Provision of vehicle pass for the students to minimize the density of vehicles
4. Provision of parking charges to minimize the number of vehicles in the campus
5. Regulation plantation in the university campus
6. Awareness campaign regarding the waste disposal
7. Regular plantation in the campus
8. Smoking is completely prohibited inside the university campus