



**SRI SRI
UNIVERSITY**
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SRI SRI UNIVERSITY

World University Rankings 2023-24

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), B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture, 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), M.Sc. Agriculture, 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 **1st in Odisha, 7th in India, and 250th in the world** as per UI Green Metric Awards World University Rankings 2021 which is a quantum jump from 2020's ranking which was 3th in Odisha, 7th in India, and 304th 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 has undertaken a multifaceted approach to addressing climate change through education, planning, outreach, and sustainability initiatives. The university actively integrates climate change education into its academic and extracurricular activities, fostering awareness and actionable knowledge among students, faculty, and the wider community. For instance, nature study trips to Barunei Hill were organized to deepen students' understanding of climate change and its effects on ecosystems. Educational campaigns, such as tree plantation drives and plastic awareness activities at public venues like Konark Beach and Nandankanan Zoological Park, highlighted environmental conservation and climate mitigation strategies. Moreover, academic courses like Meteorology and Climate Science have been introduced in programs such as B.Sc. Agriculture and Horticulture, complemented by practical tools like an automatic weather recorder and an agro-meteorology observatory. The university has also conducted skill development programs, including Solar Technician training and the Suryamitra solar PV installer course, equipping participants with expertise in renewable energy solutions.



Plate 1. Webinar on Sustainable and Climate resilient agriculture Organised by Farmers club, for students



Plate 2. Nature study trip on Climate change education and nature trail by University Students at Barunei hill, Khordha



Plate 3. Environment and Climate awareness, Plantation drive by Rover and Ranger Unit and NSS Unit of University



Plate 4. Awareness cum cleaning activity for Single use plastic at Konark Beach, Puri, Odisha

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:

- a. Use of the renewable sources of energy
- b. Efficient use of energy
- c. Development of green campus
- d. Water conservation and clean water
- e. Plantation and biodiversity conservation
- f. Sustainably farmed food practices
- g. Climate change education

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

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



Plate 5. Drinking water treatment plant

Plate 6. Effluent treatment plant

This 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 torich 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.

Sri Sri University’s Climate Action Plan, modeled on the National Action Plan for Climate Change, focuses on seven key areas: promoting renewable energy use, energy efficiency, green campus initiatives, water conservation, biodiversity preservation, sustainable food practices, and climate change education. The university has embraced renewable energy by incorporating solar power, solar streetlights, and water heaters across the campus. Energy audits, regular greening activities, and the replacement of high-energy appliances with efficient alternatives like LED lights and BLDC fans have significantly reduced energy consumption. Notably, solar energy production on campus reached a maximum daily generation of 2,998 units, contributing to a substantial reduction in carbon emissions.

Table: 1. Energy Conservation Impact (2023-2024)

Measure	Quantity Installed	Annual Energy Savings
LED Lighting	6,174 units	62,720 units
Solar Power Generated	35,976 units/year	N/A
BLDC Fans	472 units	Significant



Plate 7. Solar Panel in University campus

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.

Sri Sri University was envisioned by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Ji, the founder of 'The Art of Living.' The University has collaboration with 'The Art of Living' foundation, a multifaceted, not-for-profit educational and humanitarian NGO with a presence in over 140 countries. 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.

The university's outreach and awareness campaigns extend beyond its campus, emphasizing collaboration with local communities and governments. Disaster management training programs, conducted in partnership with agencies like the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), have strengthened the region's resilience to climate-induced calamities. Awareness drives, such as Earth Hour observances and campaigns to reduce single-use plastics, educated the public about sustainable practices. Additionally, Sri Sri University supports the Government of

Odisha by disseminating early warnings for cyclones and floods and implementing robust notification mechanisms to enhance preparedness.

Sri Sri University's commitment to combating climate change is evident through its comprehensive initiatives that combine education, infrastructure development, and community engagement. These efforts demonstrate a proactive approach to addressing global environmental challenges while fostering sustainable practices at the local and regional levels.



Plate 8. Sri Sri University has partnered with the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi in presence of Gurudev Sri Sri Ravishankar Ji.

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. Regular 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