SATHYABAMA

INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DIVESTMENT POLICY

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SATHYABAMA
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY
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Policy for Divestment from Carbon-Intensive Energy Industries and Promotion of Clean Energy (SDG 7)

Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology (Deemed to be University), Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Chennai – 600 119

1. Purpose

Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology (SIST) is committed to providing clean and affordable energy across its campus while reducing carbon emissions and its dependence on fossil fuels such as coal and oil. This policy sets out how the Institution will reduce its financial ties to carbon-intensive energy industries, redirect resources toward renewable energy and sustainable technologies, and keep growing the renewable energy already in use on the campus. It supports United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), the Government of India's clean energy initiatives, and the Institution's Climate Action Plan and Green Campus Policy.

2. Background

SIST has already taken practical steps away from conventional energy. These include a solar steam cooking system for the hostel mess, solar-powered LED lighting along campus walkways, a solar-wind hybrid system supplying scientific facilities, battery-operated vehicles for campus transport, and the conversion of waste cooking oil into biodiesel for buses, generators and pump sets. The Centre of Excellence for Energy Research (CEER) works on solar cells, solar thermal, fuel cells and bioenergy. This policy builds on these actions and extends the Institution's commitment to its financial and investment decisions.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All funds, deposits, investments and endowments held or managed by the Institution, its constituent units and any trusts or bodies acting on its behalf.
- All energy procurement and energy use across the campus, hostels, laboratories, hospitals and transport.
- All students, faculty, staff, researchers, contractors and vendors working on the campus.

4. Policy Objectives

The Institution will:

1. Divest from, and not make new investments in, companies whose main business is the extraction, production or distribution of coal and oil, and progressively reduce exposure to other carbon-intensive energy industries.

2. Redirect capital toward renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable technologies and ESG-aligned instruments.
3. Ensure access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services on the campus.
4. Substantially increase the share of renewable energy in the Institution's total energy use.
5. Improve energy efficiency across buildings, laboratories, hostels and transport.
6. Support research, innovation and community outreach on clean energy.

5. Divestment Principles

1. **Review of holdings.** The Finance Office, with the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), will review current investments and identify any holdings in carbon-intensive energy industries, with a particular focus on coal and oil.
2. **Divestment plan.** Where such holdings are found, a time-bound plan will be prepared to exit them in an orderly way that limits financial disruption. The target year for full exit is to be set by the competent authority.
3. **No new carbon-intensive investments.** From the date of adoption, no new investments will be made in companies primarily engaged in coal or oil extraction, production or distribution.
4. **Reinvestment.** Funds released through divestment will be placed, as far as financially prudent, in renewable energy projects, energy efficiency measures, green infrastructure and sustainable technologies, including solar installations on campus.
5. **Due diligence.** Before any new investment, the climate and ESG profile of the investee will be assessed, including its carbon footprint and alignment with this policy.
6. **Reporting.** The share of institutional funding sourced from or invested in carbon-intensive energy industries will be reported annually.

6. Guidelines for Clean Energy on Campus

The Institution commits to reducing fossil fuel use and maximising renewable energy through the following measures:

- **Solar energy.** Maintain and expand the solar steam cooking system, solar walkway lighting, solar street lighting, solar charging points and solar water heaters, and install rooftop solar panels on all feasible new and existing buildings.
- **Hybrid and other renewables.** Continue the solar-wind hybrid system for laboratories and explore further wind, biogas and other renewable sources.
- **Clean transport.** Restrict private vehicle movement on campus, promote battery-operated and electric vehicles for internal travel, and encourage walking on the campus walkways.
- **Biofuels.** Continue converting waste cooking oil from the mess into biodiesel for buses, generators and pump sets.
- **Energy efficiency.** Use LED lighting, energy-efficient fans, air conditioners and equipment, and motion sensors in suitable rooms, and plan new buildings with energy-efficient designs.
- **Reducing LPG and diesel.** Replace LPG and diesel use with solar and other cleaner alternatives wherever feasible.
- **Audits.** Conduct regular green, energy and carbon footprint audits, with a focus on fossil fuel use, and act on their recommendations.

- **Targets.** Increase the share of renewable energy each year, with a target for the proportion of total energy from renewables to be fixed by the competent authority (for example, a target year and percentage to be confirmed).

7. Research, Education and Outreach

- Support research at the Centre of Excellence for Energy Research and other centres on solar cells, solar thermal, fuel cells, bioenergy and related clean energy technologies.
- Encourage student and staff projects, internships and curriculum content on renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- Strengthen national and international partnerships for clean energy research, technology and investment.
- Extend technology transfer and awareness programmes on clean energy to adopted villages, local residents, government agencies and NGOs through student volunteering and outreach.

9. Dissemination

- Signage promoting energy saving and renewable energy will be displayed in public areas such as walkways, canteens, auditoriums and hostels.
- Awareness programmes will be held regularly for all stakeholders on efficient energy use and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
- The policy and any updates will be published on the Institution's website.

10. Monitoring and Review

The IQAC will monitor progress against this policy and report annually on the items below. The policy will be reviewed at least once every three years, or sooner if national targets, financial norms or institutional needs change.

- Share of institutional funds invested in carbon-intensive energy industries.
- Renewable energy generated and its share of total energy use.
- Energy saved through efficiency measures.
- Biodiesel produced and used.
- Carbon emissions avoided.