

NIT Rourkela Sustainable Investment Policy

Sustainable Investment Plan of NIT Rourkela has been designed and developed taking into consideration Indian net-zero emission targets up to 2070 and inputs from various stakeholders. The investment plan is focussed on adoption of renewables and reduction in emission by 25% by 2030. It sets out the policy direction the institute would undertake up to 2030. The core policy guidelines are reflected in the sustainable investment policy framework.

1. Policy Statement

This statement addresses key objective, guiding principles, implementation approaches, monitoring and reporting frameworks that would highlight and accelerate key initiatives, activities and behaviour on the institute campus to promote sustainable investment.

2. Objectives

- (i) Incorporate ESG criteria into at least 25% of applicable financial and investment-related decisions by 2030, 45% by 2036 and 100 % by 2045.
- (ii) Accelerate low-carbon investment pathways by 25% by 2030 aligned with national and state level policy guidelines set out for different sectors.
- (iii) Establish a formal sustainability reporting and annual sustainable investment report from 2027 onwards to achieve 100% disclosure of sustainable financial decisions by the institute.

3. Guiding Principles

NIT Rourkela is investing in a sustainable manner taking into consideration the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, the guiding principles for sustainable investment plan are in line with the national and state level policy directions to achieve net zero target by 2070. Several government schemes and policies for sustainable investment envisioned by the respective governments are continuously being scrutinised for their applicability and implementation by the institute.

4. Implementation Approach

Implementation Stages:

- **Phase I: Foundation**

In Phase I, the emphasis has been on gaining an insight into the present financial structure. The first task involves conducting a baseline evaluation of the existing financial systems and allocation of funds. Following this, the aspects will be determined where discretionary financial decisions could take account of the ESG criteria. On the other hand, internal guidelines for sustainability will be formulated to ensure that all financial decisions made are responsible. Training programs will be launched for the financial and administrative departments so that they have some knowledge of the ESG criteria. The first step toward implementation will be to consider ESG in certain financial decisions on a trial basis.

- **Phase II: Integration**

In this phase, there would be greater integration of ESG considerations in financial activities. ESG filters would be applied to certain investment opportunities and fund allocation. There would also be sustainability indicators like carbon foot-printing and

ethical compliance. The objective would be to ensure that financial considerations become consistent with those of clean energy, green infrastructure, and sustainable technologies. An internal reporting system would be devised to monitor sustainability progress. Cooperation with governments and financial institutions supporting responsible investments would also improve.

- **Phase III: Optimization**

During the last stage, sustainability will be incorporated in all relevant financial decision-making processes. Sustainability criteria, including green allocation rate and carbon intensity reduction rate, will be set up for quantifying performance. Sustainability and investment disclosure reports will be released every year to ensure transparency. Ultimately, the objective is to make NIT Rourkela an exemplary institution in sustainable finance management within the academic sector.

- **Financial Integration Mechanism**

- A) Treasury and Fund Allocation**

- Preference for safe and low-risk investments. The funds are invested in risk free financial instruments and Term/Fixed Deposits.
- In a centralized fund management approach, all the contributions are deposited in a single designated bank account. Separate ledgers are maintained for different schemes.
- Focus on eco-friendly and low risk financial instruments
- Promote allocation toward green bonds, ESG funds or sustainable financial products, where feasible.

- B) Project and Research Funding**

- Match internal funding with focused-sustainability innovation and research
- Promote cross-disciplinary projects towards climate, energy, circular economy and sustainability

- C) Procurement and Vendor Alignment**

- Blending of ESG criteria into procurement and vendor selection processes
- Proposing vendors and partners with sustainability certifications or responsible practices

- (D) Capacity building and institutional integration**

- Assisting in training workshops for finance officers, administrators and decision makers
- Creating guidelines and manuals for financial decision-making using ESG-based principles.
- Embedded sustainability into planning, budgeting and review processes of institutions.
- Promote faculty participation in creation of sustainability metrics and evaluation tools

5. Monitoring, Reporting and Metrics

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

- Proportion of funds matched with sustainable/ESG basis
- Mitigation of financial portfolio with carbon exposure
- Equity stake in green or sustainable sectors
- Number of socially ESG-screened financial decisions were made

Reporting Mechanisms

- Annual sustainable investment report
- Incorporation to NIT Rourkela Climate Action Plan Report
- Internal audits and compliance reviews from time to time

6. Conclusion

The sustainable investment plan of NIT Rourkela represents a strategic step towards integrating the financial disclosures with ESG. The adoption of a structured, quantified and measurable approach to integrate the ESG disclosure has started to take shape. This places NIT Rourkela to progressively meet the net zero action plan of the institute by 2030.

List of Key Policy Documents:

- NIT Act, 2007
- NIT Statutes (2007, amended 2012)
- Compliance with NITSER Act, 2007
- Management Model of NIT Rourkela
- Minutes of governing bodies:
 - Board of Governors (BOG)
 - Senate
 - Finance Committee (FC)
 - Building & Works Committee (BWC)
- NIT Council
- Anti-ragging policies
- GFR 2017



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Chairman, Sustainable Development Committee (SDC)