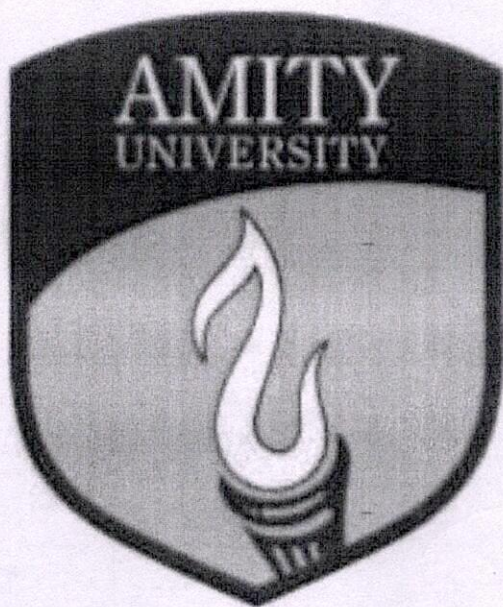


AMITY UNIVERSITY MADHYA PRADESH



**Sustainable Commuting Policy
(Total 07 pages)**

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Policy Guideline on Sustainable Commuting

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Policy

The purpose of this policy is to support the university's commitment to reducing its carbon footprint and promoting environmental sustainability through sustainable commuting practices. This policy aims to reduce the need for car-based commuting, encourage the use of environmentally friendly transportation options, and create a healthier campus community. By promoting sustainable commuting, the university will help lower its greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality, reduce traffic congestion, and improve the well-being of all campus users.

1.2 Scope of the Policy

This policy applies to all members of the university community, including students, faculty, staff, and visitors. It covers all aspects of commuting, including the use of public transport, cycling, walking, carpooling, and other forms of sustainable transportation.

2. Policy Objectives

The university aims to:

Promote Active Transportation: Encourage walking, cycling, and other active modes of transportation as primary commuting options.

Facilitate Public Transport Use: Provide support and incentives for those who use public transport, reducing reliance on private car commuting.

Encourage Carpooling and Ride-sharing: Create systems and incentives to support carpooling and

ride-sharing among university members.

Develop Infrastructure for Sustainable Commuting: Improve infrastructure to support walking, cycling, and public transport use, making sustainable commuting more accessible and appealing.

Reduce the Carbon Footprint: Significantly reduce the carbon emissions generated from commuting to and from the university by adopting green transport options.

3. Guiding Principles

The university commits to the following guiding principles to encourage sustainable commuting:

3.1 Encouraging Active Travel

The university will:

Promote Walking and Cycling: Encourage walking and cycling as the primary forms of commuting, particularly for short-distance journeys within the campus and surrounding areas. The university will enhance pedestrian paths, cycle lanes, and provide ample bike parking spaces.

Walkability and Cycling-Friendly Campus: Design and maintain a walkable and cyclist-friendly campus by providing well-maintained paths, sidewalks, bike racks, and dedicated bike lanes, ensuring that these facilities are convenient, safe, and accessible to all users.

3.2 Supporting Public Transport

The university will work to ensure public transport is an accessible and reliable commuting option:

Partnership with Public Transport Providers: Collaborate with local and regional public transport providers to offer discounted or subsidized transit passes for students, staff, and faculty.

Commuter Shuttle Services: Introduce or support commuter shuttle services between key locations (such as university campuses, public transport hubs, and residential areas) to make public transport use more convenient and viable.

3.3 Promoting Carpooling and Ride-sharing

To further reduce the number of individual car trips, the university will:

Carpool Matching Services: Offer an online platform or app to facilitate carpooling and ride-sharing among students, staff, and faculty. This service will help match individuals with similar commutes, making it easier to share rides and reduce car traffic.

Carpool Parking Spaces: Provide designated parking spaces on campus for carpooling and ridesharing groups to encourage these activities.

Incentives for Carpooling: Offer incentives such as discounted parking permits, priority parking, or even rewards for regular carpoolers to make carpooling more attractive.

4. Sustainable Commuting Infrastructure and Resources

4.1 Infrastructure Development for Active Travel

The university is committed to creating infrastructure that promotes sustainable commuting, including:

Improved Pedestrian and Cycling Facilities: Develop dedicated pedestrian pathways and bike lanes that connect key locations on campus, ensuring safe and easy access for all users.

Bike Storage and Showers: Install sufficient bike racks and secure bike storage facilities around campus, as well as shower facilities for cyclists to make cycling to campus a practical option.

Commuter Hub: Create a central location for information and resources related to commuting, including details on public transport routes, carpooling, and active travel options. This hub will also include an area for cyclists to rest and store their gear.

4.2 Support for Electric Vehicles (EVs)

In line with the university's sustainability objectives, the promotion of electric vehicle (EV) usage is encouraged through:

EV Charging Stations: Install electric vehicle charging stations in key campus parking areas to support the adoption of EVs and provide easy access for those who wish to commute using electric vehicles.

EV Car-sharing Programs: Promote electric vehicle car-sharing programs for students and staff as an alternative to individual car ownership and commuting.

4.3 Green Parking Spaces

The university will reserve parking spaces for green vehicles (e.g., electric cars, hybrid cars) and car-sharing vehicles. This will encourage more environmentally friendly travel options while ensuring convenient access to campus for these vehicles.

5. Incentives and Programs to Encourage Sustainable Commuting

5.1 Subsidized Transport Passes

The university will offer subsidized public transport passes or reimburse commuting costs for staff and students who use sustainable forms of transport. This may include:

Discounted Bus, Train, and Metro Passes: Partner with local transit companies to provide discounted passes for university members, making public transport more affordable and appealing.

Bike-to-Work Schemes: Encourage staff and students to use bicycles by offering tax-free financial incentives for those who participate in bike-to-work schemes.

5.2 Recognition and Awards

To further motivate sustainable commuting behaviors, the university will introduce recognition programs such as:

Commuter of the Month Awards: Recognize and reward individuals or groups who consistently engage in sustainable commuting practices.

Green Commuting Champion: Designate a "Green Commuting Champion" for each department or faculty, who will promote and encourage sustainable commuting among their colleagues and students.

Annual Sustainability Awards: Include a category for sustainable commuting in the university's annual sustainability awards, recognizing the efforts of departments, staff, and students in reducing commuting-related emissions.

6. Education and Awareness Campaigns

6.1 Raise Awareness of Sustainable Commuting Options

The university will:

Sustainability Awareness Campaigns: Launch regular campaigns to educate and raise awareness of the environmental and health benefits of sustainable commuting. This will include workshops, events, and distribution of materials such as brochures and posters.

Interactive Commuting Tools: Provide online tools and resources such as a sustainable commuting calculator that shows the environmental benefits of walking, cycling, carpooling, or using public transport.

6.2 Orientation Programs for New Students and Staff

The university will incorporate sustainable commuting information into new student and staff orientations, ensuring that all incoming individuals understand the available sustainable commuting options and how they can participate.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

7.1 Monitoring Sustainable Commuting Patterns

The university will track commuting patterns and make improvements based on collected data. Key metrics to be tracked include:

Surveys and Feedback: Conduct regular surveys to gather feedback from students, staff, and faculty on the effectiveness of sustainable commuting options and barriers to participation.

Usage of Transport Options: Monitor the uptake of sustainable transport services, including public transport use, cycling, and carpooling, to assess the success of the policy.

7.2 Reporting and Continuous Improvement

The university will regularly report on progress towards sustainable commuting targets in its annual sustainability report. This will include updates on the number of commuters using sustainable transport, reductions in car-based commuting, and changes in carbon emissions.

The university will also continuously evaluate and improve the policy based on feedback and evolving best practices to ensure it remains effective in reducing the environmental impact of

commuting.

8. Conclusion

The university's Sustainable Commuting Policy is a key component of its broader sustainability strategy. By implementing this policy, the university will not only reduce its carbon footprint and contribute to global climate change mitigation efforts but also foster a healthier, more active, and engaged campus community. Through collaboration, infrastructure improvements, incentives, and educational campaigns, the university can achieve its goal of creating a more sustainable, accessible, and environmentally friendly campus.

This policy will be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect new developments in sustainable transportation options and university sustainability goals.

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