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Green warriors all

More and more schools, colleges and institutes are introducing programmes to generate eco-awareness. They are also encouraging students to participate proactively to protect the environment; introducing 'green syllabi'; and are according all possible support to eco-related projects by students. From recycling plants on the campus to saving turtle eggs from getting damaged at beaches, colleges across the country are doing their bit for the environment. We take a snapshot of some of these efforts that will go a long way in protecting our now-fragile ecology.

Colleges go green

From having recycling plants on campus to saving turtle eggs from getting damaged at beaches, the environment clubs in colleges across the country are doing their bit for the environment.

CHENNAI



Training in mushroom cultivation at Stella Maris College.

Stella Maris College

Stella Maris College has practically taken steps to keep the campus clean. There is a recycling unit on campus where vermicompost is produced out of waste. In fact, students and staff have the option of buying the vermicompost.

The grey water recycling plant is used for recycling water at the primary level so that it can be used for gardening purposes. There is a reverse osmosis plant on campus that supplies potable water.

The Enviro Paw Pals, as the club is officially known, has tie-ups with a number of environmental organizations such as Reclaim

Our Beaches which organised a symposium at the college as a precursor to the beach clean up. Reusable sanitary pads made at Eco Femme, Auroville are also promoted by the club.

Students also participate in ‘turtle walks’ organised by the Chennai Students' Sea Turtle Conservation Network from Neelangarai to Besant Nagar during the nesting season to save ‘turtle eggs’ from being damaged in the beaches.

Madras Christian College

The environment club at MCC, better known as the Scrub Society, organised a fresher’s walk in July. This was intended to familiarise the students with the locales of the college. The society also organised a campus clean up in September. The waste was then sent to the Tambaram municipality.

Interestingly, the 365-acre campus houses a farm, with cows and poultry, near the Heber gate. The college, which neighbours the Vandaloor Zoo, is home to the deer.

There is a lake on the campus that is visited by migratory birds, although their population has dwindled over the years, says Kiran, a second-year journalism student.

The society is planning to hold a tree count and deer census in the third semester.

Women’s Christian College

“Reuse and Recycle is the buzz word for the Enviro club at WCC,” says Mary Pearl Ravikumar, a professor of Zoology, WCC. Students are taught to make paper

bags out of old newspapers and magazines, after which they are supplied to the canteen.

A garden is maintained at the Child Development Centre, WCC, where students are taught to till the soil, plant seeds and weeding. The children from CDC are involved in the gardening activities.

Posters and articles are put up on the 'Enviro notice board' to sensitise fellow students on environmental issues. Besides, student presentations are organised once a month on topical environmental issues.

Eco-literature is part of the English literature course. As part of this paper, students are taken for nature campaigns to places such as Kolli Hills and Silent Valley to sensitise them to the changes that have taken place on the natural landscape.

SRM University

Green Wars is a student-run NGO that works on promoting green products and services and empowers the younger generation with the knowledge and opportunity to contribute to a greener, more sustainable future.

AARUUSH, 2011, a national-level techno-management festival hosted by SRM University. was aimed at spreading awareness about various pressing environmental concerns among the participating students.

Today, the organisation is successfully conducting paper-recycling drives in SRM University .

PEP or Paper Recycling Program shows much promise with contracts for recyclable paper products under their belt.

Another project, GWEPP or the Green Wars Environmental Education Programme has seen active participation of schools. Plans are on to nationalise the programme.