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Carbon Reduction and Fossil Fuel Divestment Policy

Purpose: This policy outlines KIIT University's commitment to achieving a low-carbon and climate-resilient future by systematically reducing greenhouse gas emissions and divesting from carbon-intensive energy industries, particularly coal and oil. It integrates carbon management, sustainable investment, and renewable energy initiatives into the university's operational and academic framework to promote environmental responsibility and sustainable development.

Objectives:

- To reduce the university's total carbon footprint through efficient energy use, renewable energy adoption, and sustainable campus operations.
- To eliminate financial and operational dependence on fossil fuel-based energy systems.
- To promote investments in climate-positive, renewable, and energy-efficient technologies.
- To align university operations with global climate commitments.

Scope: This policy applies to all KIIT campuses. It covers infrastructure, transportation, energy procurement, waste management, and all investment or financial decision-making processes.

Policy Framework: -

A. Carbon Reduction Strategy

1. **Carbon Inventory and Baseline Assessment**
   - KIIT conducts comprehensive carbon inventories covering energy use, transportation, waste management, and water consumption.
   - Emissions are categorized into Scope 1 (direct), Scope 2 (indirect purchased energy), and Scope 3 (indirect activities such as commuting and waste).
   - A 2030 baseline is established for tracking progress toward long-term emission reduction goals.
2. **Emission Reduction Targets**
   - KIIT commits to a minimum 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
   - These targets align with international standards such as the Paris Agreement and Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi).
3. **Energy Efficiency and Renewable Integration**
   - Progressive retrofitting of all campus buildings with energy-efficient lighting, insulation, and HVAC systems.
   - Installation of a 200 MWP rooftop solar power plant to supply clean energy.
   - Expansion of solar thermal systems and biogas plants to replace LPG and fossil fuel use.
4. **Sustainable Transportation**
   - Phasing out fossil fuel-based campus vehicles and promoting electric or hybrid alternatives.
   - Providing EV charging infrastructure and dedicated EV parking across campuses.
   - Encouraging electric carts for intra-campus mobility and partnering with local authorities to promote public transport for students and staff.
5. **Waste and Water Management**
   - Implementation of comprehensive waste segregation, recycling, and composting programs.
   - Conversion of hostel food waste into biogas and manure, reducing landfill dependence.
   - Utilization of low-flow water fixtures, rainwater harvesting, and sewage treatment plants (STPs) for water recycling.

6. **Awareness and Education**
   - Conducting workshops, campaigns, and sustainability courses to educate students, faculty, and staff on carbon neutrality.
   - Encouraging student-led sustainability initiatives through green clubs and campus-wide competitions.
7. **Carbon Sequestration Initiatives**
   - Expanding green cover through reforestation, vertical gardens, and green roofing to increase carbon capture.
   - Promoting sustainable landscaping and soil carbon management practices within campuses.
8. **Monitoring, Reporting, and Continuous Improvement**
   - Conducting annual third-party carbon and sustainability audits to verify emission reductions.
   - Publishing an annual sustainability report to track progress and ensure transparency.
   - Periodically revisiting goals to incorporate technological advancements and policy updates.

B. Fossil Fuel Divestment and Sustainable Investment Policy

1. **Divestment Commitments**
   - KIIT formally commits to divesting from all direct and indirect investments in coal, oil, and other carbon-intensive energy industries.
   - The university discourages the use of fossil fuels and oil-based transportation within its campuses.
2. **Sustainable Investment Strategy**
   - KIIT's Sustainable Investment Policy prioritizes funding for renewable energy projects, energy-efficient technologies, and climate-positive enterprises.
   - Investments are directed toward clean energy solutions including solar, biogas, and electric mobility infrastructure.
3. **Key Implementation Actions**
   - Replacement of LPG with biogas systems for hostel and campus cooking operations.
   - Adoption of concentrated solar steam cooking systems catering to over 500 students.
   - Transition to renewable electricity generation to reduce dependency on coal-based thermal power.
   - Expansion of solar and biogas infrastructure as primary campus energy sources.
4. **Governance and Accountability**
   - The KIIT Green Investment and Energy Transition Committee oversees implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of divestment and sustainability initiatives.
   - The committee ensures transparency in investment decisions and alignment with KIIT's carbon neutrality objectives.

Sustainability Commitment: KIIT University reaffirms its leadership in sustainable education and climate action. Through this integrated Carbon Reduction and Fossil Fuel Divestment Policy, KIIT commits to building a clean-energy future—one that divests from polluting industries, invests in renewable solutions, and exemplifies institutional responsibility toward a sustainable planet.

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