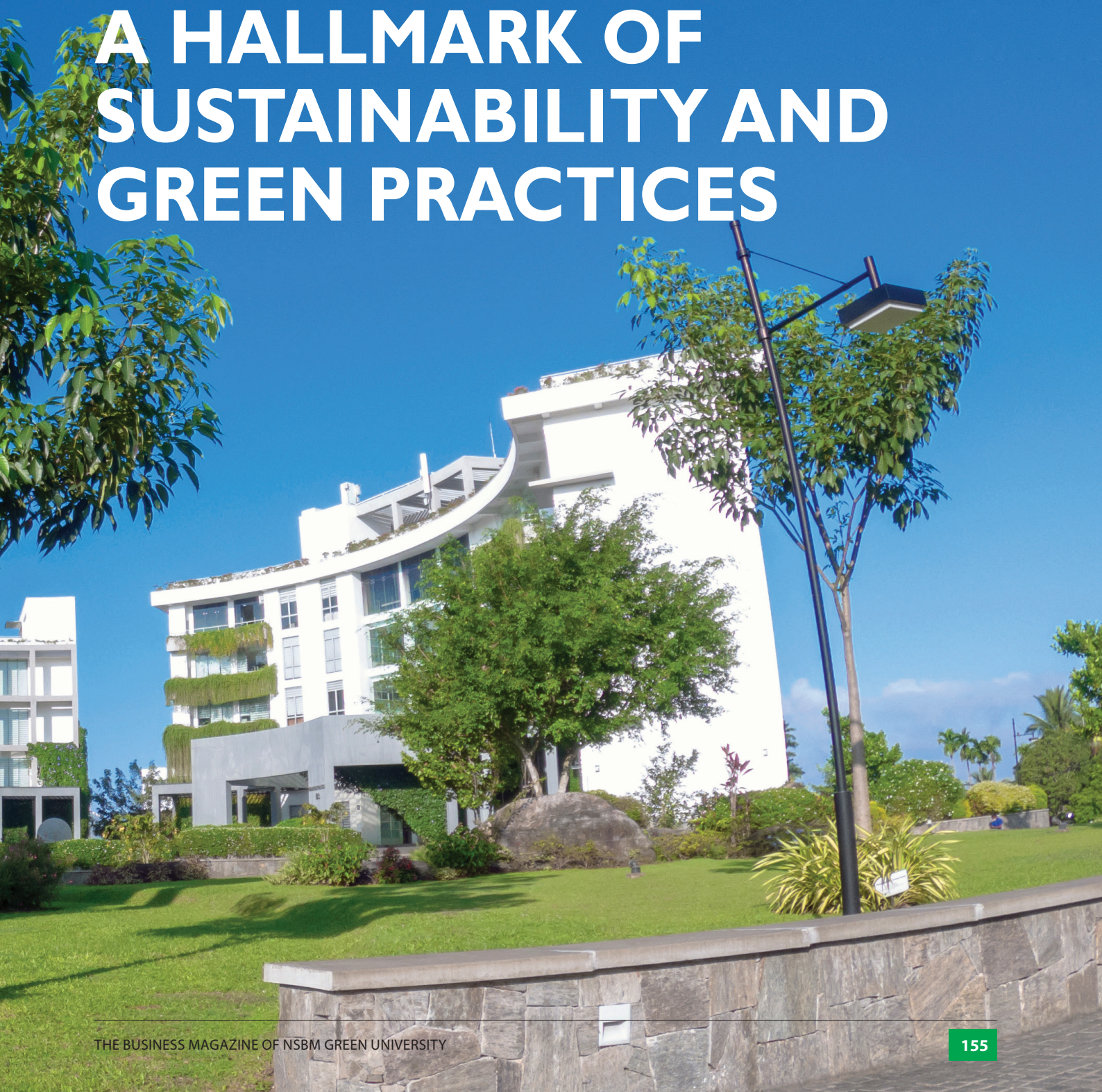


NSBM GREEN UNIVERSITY

A HALLMARK OF
SUSTAINABILITY AND
GREEN PRACTICES



Amidst the plethora of reasons that make NSBM Green University a pioneering educational institution in the country, one reason that sets itself apart from the rest is its remarkable commitment towards operating as a 'green' entity. NSBM brands itself as a 'green' university; yet it is the University's resounding dedication towards being environmentally conscious across all its operations that truly personifies this brand ethos. The green concept is well identified through the University's unwavering focus for minimizing adverse environmental impacts, conserving energy and materials, enriching the indoor environment for better mental well-being and providing directions for making continual improvements to the environment.

A Unique and Flamboyant Architectural Masterpiece

NSBM Green University's cornerstone in green practices lies in its architectural design itself. The University is a purpose-built university complex with a clearly defined location and facility with a strong underlying focus on sustainability and environmental preservation. The University's overall architectural design harmonizes with the existing physical and natural environment of the area while visually reconnecting individual buildings, thereby ensuring continuous interaction between students, staff and the University.

The University epitomizes the importance of human's harmony with nature for survival and graceful existence. The prevailing terrain of the area has been retained with tremendous success offering an aesthetic appeal to the University where natural peaks, valleys and

water bodies can be seen throughout the premises. As an example, the University playground lie at a comparatively lower elevation than the rest of the University, ensuring minimum cut and fill was done during the construction phase. Moreover, the University has been built by preserving several natural rock boulders intact in their original locations which is visible in areas such as the open-air amphitheater and the student centre, which has aptly contributed towards breathtaking backdrops across key buildings of the premises.

The overall design of the University also capitalizes on maximizing natural daylight and natural ventilation through wide open spaces across the premises. Large open spaces of double and triple heights supplemented with open courtyards is a common sighting across all the university buildings, especially in the main faculties. Several lecture halls across faculties are built to optimally utilize natural ventilation, where windows open towards the rear of the premise, opening to paddy fields that allows conducting lectures with optimal natural ventilation and lighting as and when required. The University also house a number of informal learning spaces where students can gather for study and group discussions. This phenomenal and environmentally conscious design structure is further supplemented by several other sustainable design strategies such as green rooftops that reflect heat, green walls that cut off heat entering the buildings, plant troughs that contribute to overall air purification and green pavers that reduce heating and pollution.

NSBM's Green University's prodigious architectural design immeasurably

aided it to also obtain the gold rating in the CIOB Green Mark Rating System consecutively in 2016 and 2018 thereby further evidencing that the NSBM Green University was designed, built and operated in an eco-friendly and sustainable manner.

Green Governance and Education

NSBM Green University's commitment to protection, conservation and upliftment of the environment goes beyond its iconic built environment. The University has taken extraordinary measures to ensure that environmental considerations are given the highest priority in its future planning and its day to day operations as well.

In line with this thought process, NSBM Green University has established a management framework and corporate sustainability policy under the direction of the Vice-Chancellor within which a dedicated pillar focuses on the environmental aspect of the University to develop and carry out impactful, feasible and effective internal and external sustainability initiatives.

Moreover, NSBM Green University made a novel transformation to its degree programmes in 2021 with the introduction of a non-credit but mandatory course module titled 'Introduction to Sustainability Development' for the benefit of 1st year students, across all faculties and study programmes. This module that spans across a 30-hour duration, provides students with an understanding of environmental devastation as a global issue as well as the University's contribution towards its containment from a holistic perspective.



“The University epitomizes the importance of human’s harmony with nature for survival and graceful existence. The prevailing terrain of the area has been retained with tremendous success offering an aesthetic appeal to the University





A Safe Haven for the Natural Environment

Any visitor to NSBM Green University is often mesmerized by the complete environmental transformation they witness as soon as they enter the premises. Natural flora has been optimally used across the University to further beautify the overall environment. Over 300 shade and flowering trees have been planted within the University which will eventually give an unprecedented natural canopy to the University premises amidst a number of other environmental benefits.

One of the most iconic green initiatives of NSBM Green University is its Ceylon Ironwood (Naa) tree plantation project both within and outside the University. As of today, 134 Naa trees have been planted by the University, with the vast majority being planted on the aisle of the approach road to the NSBM Green University. When fully grown, these trees will offer the wayfarers a shady canopy full of flowers of a heavenly aroma, reminiscent of the nation's traditional woodlands.

Furthermore, the university premises is meticulously designed and landscaped by using the varying terrain of the area to its advantage. The overall landscaping strategy allows for the wide-open spaces of the University to intermingle with the scenery by prioritizing the importance of maintaining a natural setting. A dedicated team conducts landscaping activities on a pre-scheduled basis, with their scope of work being consistently regulated by the management to ensure that it continues to align with the University's overall sustainability policy.

Championing renewable energy usage

NSBM Green University has taken significant strides in optimally using renewable energy sources to facilitate University's functions. The University currently houses a 50 Kw, 192 panel roof-mounted solar power system (as a pilot project) that generates approximately 3-5% of the University's monthly electricity requirement. Furthermore, the University is currently working on expanding its solar energy

generation capacity by way of using the widely available roof tops of several key university buildings to mount solar panels with the intention of adding a further 600 Kw of renewable energy supply in the future.

The University also house its own rainwater harvesting system where rainwater is primarily collected in the main pond located in front of the library building and the administration building which is used to beautify and improve the natural ventilation of the University. Any excess water from here is automatically flown directly into the rainwater collecting lake through a network of drains to join with the flow of any rainwater accumulated in other areas of the University.

Ardent Participant in the Circular Economy

NSBM Green University is an enthusiastic advocate of the widely acknowledged 3R concept, with a number of its green initiatives aligning with reducing, reusing and recycling limited resources. For instance, the University maintains



its own inhouse sewage treatment plant that treats waste water generated within the campus prior to releasing it to the environment where it is used for gardening and irrigation purposes, thereby reducing the overall water consumption by the University. The University also uses several landscaping-based wastes generated (primarily grass) to produce compost within the university premises itself. The compost is produced in an open pit, and the produced manure is re-used internally for gardening purposes within the University's gardens.

NSBM Green University also commits to the reduction of single use plastic and polythene within the University premises through a number of initiatives adopted as a part of its overall sustainability policy, including and notwithstanding presenting all academic staff members refillable glass water bottles for personal use and the installation of water filters in key public and staff areas for both staff and students to refill water bottles as and when needed. More importantly, the University also recently partnered with Plastic-cycle, a social entrepreneurship project



initiated by John Keells Group aimed at reducing plastic pollution as well as creating awareness among students.

A Trailblazer in Facilitating 'Green Events and Initiatives'

The need to uphold the green concept within and beyond the University in all its activities is well evidenced in the co-curricular activities done by the University as well. During the last five years of operations, NSBM Green University has conducted a remarkable number of projects and initiatives in line with the 'green' concept with the active participation of the University's students through its core CSR arm, the University's Green Task Force and a number of other student-led clubs, societies and student circles.

Amidst these monumental projects; 'Green Future' a large-scale tree planting project in Wilpaththu and Silwathura, 'Green Hope' a reforestation project in Kanthale, 'Green Capture' a photography competition based on the green concept for University students,

'Free to Live' an ocean clean-up project based in Panadura and 'Green Revolution' an annual tree planting programme and awareness building session within the University remains emblematic of NSBM Green University's resounding commitment towards the environment.

NSBM Green University's avid commitment towards conducting environmental related activities has also become a natural part of the University's DNA as it often showcases on several occasions that, in essence, does not fundamentally require a 'green' element in an ordinary scenario. For instance, NSBM Green University has adopted a practice of planting trees to mark special milestones of the University across a wide variety of important dates, including visits by VIP guests to the University. Moreover, the majority of University's clubs, societies and circles has also initiated gifting plants and plant saplings as tokens of appreciation and gifts for special guests attending the University's events in order to broaden its environmental responsibility beyond its internal environment. Most importantly, as



“During the last five years of operations, NSBM Green University has conducted a remarkable number of projects and initiatives in line with the ‘green’ concept with the active participation of the university’s students”



a higher education institution with its own profound set of key academic objectives NSBM Green University has also managed to emphasize the 'green' concept across a majority of its trademark publications, including the conference proceedings of ICObI (International Conference on Business Innovation), Business Dialogue the bi-annual business magazine of

the University and Talk-back the bi-annual newsletter publication of the University as well.

As a premier higher educational institution in Sri Lanka, NSBM Green University has opted out from the mundane practice of considering 'green' activities as a supplement of an organization's core functions. Rather in the case of NSBM, it is indisputable that green practices are a 'way of life'

embedded in the very foundation of the University's overall value system. Hence, whilst NSBM continues its journey of setting a new benchmark in the Sri Lankan higher educational spectrum, it is undeniable that NSBM Green University will also continue to thrive and prosper as a touchstone for 'green organizations' both locally and internationally. ■

Compiled by Janith Iddawela & Thisal Yatawara