

SmartCampusCloud Network

An Introductory note

BY

TERRE Policy Centre

Background

SmartCampusCloud is a global network of the education campuses of schools, colleges, institutes and universities committed to make a tangible contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted unanimously by all the countries on 25th September 2015 at UN Sustainable Development Summit in New York to be achieved by 2030. (See: sustainabledevelopment.un.org)

There are nearly 1.5 million schools and 50,000 centers of higher learning including colleges, universities and institutes where about 30 million students are studying as per 2014 statistics.

Campuses are where talent is incubated, minds are molded, actions are forged and targets are prioritized. Here is the place to resolve mainstreaming sustainable development in the career development of the aspiring youth.

Focus and Objective

SmartCampusCloud will focus on the activities in campus that care for ecosystems including measures to mitigate climate change by reducing green house gases, reducing air and water pollution while improving the health, wellbeing and economic opportunities for the youth.

Student participation and consultation with faculty will be the core approach of the Smart Campuses. The overarching activities, include but not limited to, discussion/dialogue-forum and action-platforms for campus wide energy conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, waste management, sustainable mobility, sustainable consumption, environment-friendly behaviour, DSM programs (air conditioners, fans, different lighting systems, heating for cooking, etc), lower roof colours, and double pane windows. Partnership with business and NGOs would be the key axis around which this network will flourish. Encouraging sustainable, scalable, campus-led contribution towards the achievement of SDGs by leveraging the young minds and use of technologically and socially validated interventions would be the focus of the network.

The network will play a role of unique part of the knowledge and action platforms aimed at 'achieving by performing' and 'meeting the goals by modelling the roles'. It brings together

students and faculty to shape the minds and muscles of tomorrow's leaders, business managers, entrepreneurs, academicians, researchers and civil society stewards to act locally and collaboratively.

Benefits to Colleges

- The institute will get access to the basic Smart grid / Renewable energy technology implementation in the campus and also access to the common cloud hosted energy monitoring and data sharing platform - Smartsense
- Through this platform, the participating campus will also have access to national/international bench marking of campuses on a single dashboard with regards energy, water, fuel, air quality
- The institute's students will also get access to the platform's API for them to develop smart campus applications and analytics. Training for using the API will be given by SCCN
- They will get access to subject matter expertise in the areas of Smart campus. Smart cities and events will be organized in the area.
- Overall through these initiatives- the institute will also be able to reduce its costs and carbon footprint and also train Students to become better in the areas.

- **Operational efficiencies.**

At a time when educators at every level are scrutinizing budgets, it is important to not only consider the initial cost of a new campus building, but also the operational cost of the building for the next 50 years. A sustainable campus that swears by energy efficient engineering can pay back operating costs over time and provide a financial benefit to the budget. The cost saved can be used for increased scholarships, tuition waivers etc.

- **Health, Safety and Student & Employee Satisfaction.**

A sustainable campus that provides a healthy and safe environment, both indoors and outdoors, will improve the health of employees subsequently lowering health benefit costs. A healthy environment will enhance morale, and faculty, staff, and students will be easier to attract and retain. Lower absenteeism among employees will increase productivity, and lower absenteeism among students will enhance their educational experiences.

Tools of Education for Sustainable Development.

The development of this project would require technical and creative participation of Students. Alternative means of energy calls for innovation which is a skill building tool for today's youth. The participation in such an initiative would attract prospective employers and ensure more placements.

Expected Outcome

The network will facilitate dialogue between students and faculty within the Campus to build Smart Campuses. Built trusted associations and community spirit, the network will share ideas, projects, experiences, lessons and successes as well as failures to make a positive contribution to SDGs.

SmartCampusCloud network will connect the youth by communication and actions and leverage their collective potential to forge partnerships to access technical and financial resources.

The expected results would not be assessed only by data collection in numbers and statistics but also in terms of skilling the youth to build Smart Cities and ultimately to take Smart India on global platform.