Link - https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg-26/sdg7/divestment-policy/

Date - 1/Dec/2024

Policy on Divesting Investments from Carbon-Intensive Energy Industries at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

Invest in renewable energy and divest from carbon-intensive sources to achieve a just climate future.

Bold Commitment to Fossil Fuel Divestment

In line with Chancellor Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi's vision for a sustainable and climate-resilient campus, **Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is firmly committed to divesting from carbon-intensive energy industries, particularly coal and oil**. This bold step underscores the university's dedication to reducing energy consumption, minimizing its carbon footprint, and driving the transition to clean, renewable energy.[1]

Key Achievement (2023 Data): **"In alignment with our sustainable campus policy, 0% of funding in 2023 was sourced from carbon-intensive energy industries."**[2][1]

Links:

- https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/ (Published: December 23, 2024)
- https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg-sustainable-campus-policy2023/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

Comprehensive Disinvestment Policy Framework

Overview of sustainable investing strategies including exclusion, best in class, thematic investing, and ESG integration.

1. Policy Integration in Sustainable Campus Policy Pack (2023)

A comprehensive **Disinvestment Policy for Carbon Intensive Energy Industries was integrated in the Sustainable Campus Policy Pack in 2023**. This signifies the university's unwavering commitment to environmental sustainability and its role in addressing climate change.[1][2]

The **Sustainable Campus Policy** was formulated first and issued in 2020, with the last update on **November 11, 2023**. This policy broadly covers:[2]

- Sustainable Water Policy
- Sustainable Energy Management Policy
- Sustainable Waste Management Policy
- Sustainable E-Waste Management Policy
- **Divestment from Carbon-Intensive Energy Industries Policy**
- Bio-Diversity Management
- Sustainable Transportation Policy
- Sustainable Land Use Management
- Sustainable Construction and Demolition Waste Management Policy
- Construction of Buildings
- Green Building
- Green Building Certification
- Sustainability Reporting and Accountability

By divesting from fossil fuel industries, the university aims to redirect its investments towards renewable energy sources and other sustainable initiatives.[1]

Links:

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2. Strategic Divestment Roadmap

Silhouette of an oil pumpjack representing the oil industry related to carbon-intensive energy.

The university's divestment policy outlines a **clear roadmap for phasing out existing investments in coal and oil industries within a specified timeframe**. Funds generated from this divestment are **strategically reinvested in renewable energy projects, energy-efficient technologies, and other sustainable development initiatives**.[1]

This approach not only reduces the university's carbon footprint but also promotes innovative solutions to address climate challenges.[1]

Link:
https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

Reinvestment in Renewable Energy and Sustainable Technologies

solar panels and wind turbines in a clean energy setup

solar panels and wind turbines in a renewable energy facility

3. Investment in Renewable Energy Projects (2024 Data)

Renewable Energy Source Installations - 4 MW Solar Capacity:

Amrita University is committed to installing **4 MW of renewable energy capacity** through solar power systems across its campuses. This initiative is a significant step toward reducing the carbon footprint and achieving **100% renewable energy by 2035**.[1]

The 4 MW installation powers a substantial portion of campus operations, contributing to a cleaner, more sustainable energy future.[1]

Low Carbon Energy Tracking Achievements (2024):[2]

- **5.24% excess generation of clean energy** of the campus's total energy demand
- **311 metric tons of CO_2 emissions reduced** by implementing solar water heater
- Carpooling is heavily promoted within the campus
- **45% car fleet is based on Electric vehicle or CNG**

- **300 tons of carbon emission neutralized** from waste recycling
- Construction of Shared workspaces in campus naturalized over **550 metric tons of CO_2 emissions**

Links:

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4. Efficient Lighting Systems (2024 Data)

Amrita University has implemented an innovative lighting strategy to promote energy efficiency on campus:[3][1]

- Turning off lights in unused rooms and corridors
- **100% adoption of sensor-based workspace automation**
- Reduced carbon footprint while fostering a smart, eco-friendly campus environment[3]

Link: https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg-25/sdg7/plan-to-reduce-energy/ (Published: December 22, 2024)

5. Optimized Water Heating (2024 Data)

- Heated water availability is restricted during off-peak hours to optimize energy use and minimize waste[1]
- Solar water heaters installed to utilize renewable energy, decreasing reliance on conventional energy sources[1]
- **311 metric tons of CO_2 emissions reduced** by implementing solar water heater[2]

Links:

- https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/ (Published: December 23, 2024)
- https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg-sustainable-campus-policy2023/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

6. Building Design and Energy Efficiency (2024 Data)

To reduce energy consumption:[1]

- Operational hours for low-use buildings are reduced to optimize energy consumption, minimizing energy waste
- Buildings are retrofitted with insulation to improve energy performance, reducing heat loss in winter and heat gain in summer
- Reflective paints and green roofs added to further reduce cooling demand, enhancing energy efficiency[1]

Link: https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

7. Renewable Energy Promotion (2024 Data)

Efforts focused on encouraging reduced electricity consumption from the grid by:[1]

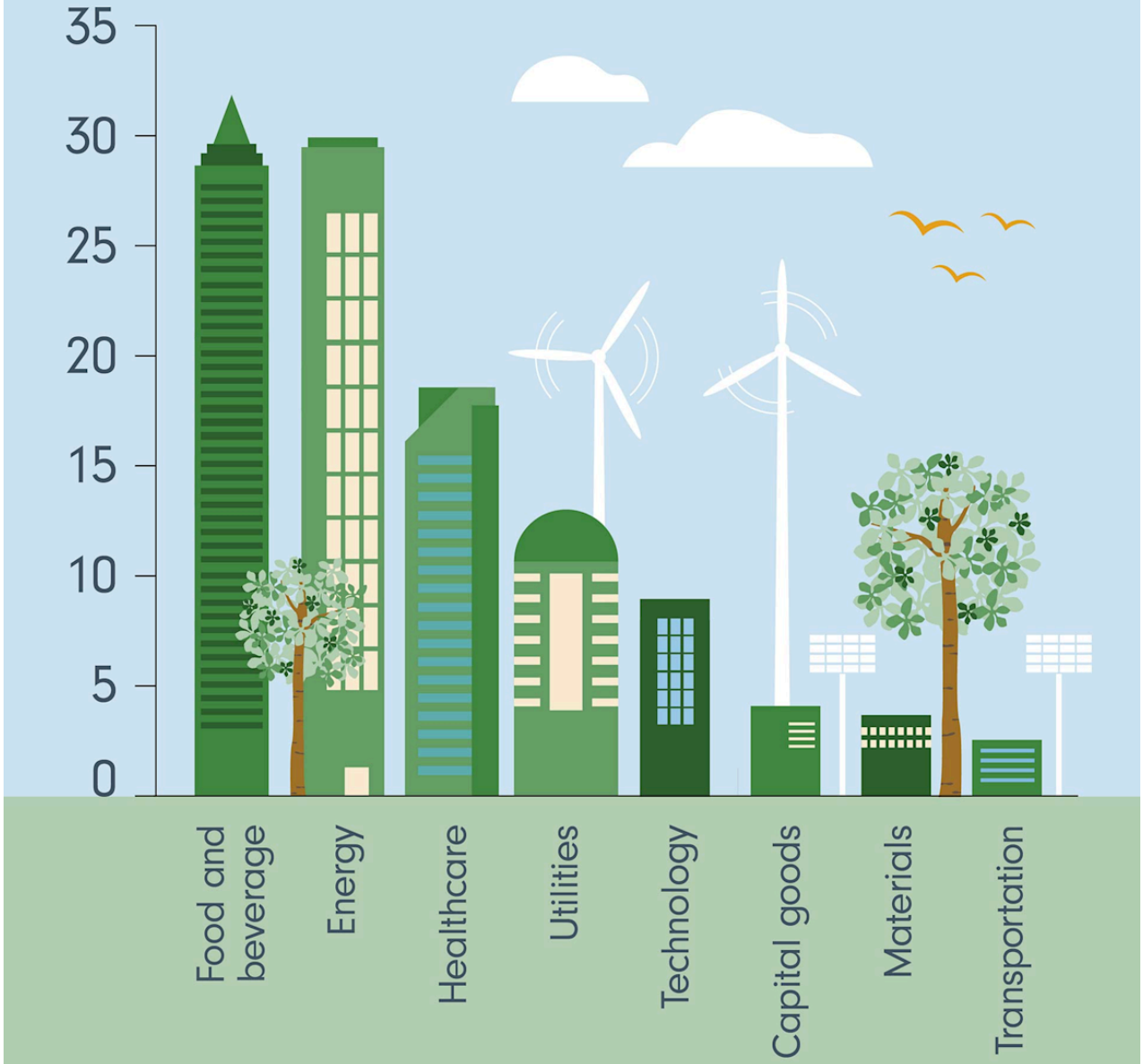
- Promoting energy-saving practices across campus
- Increasing awareness and implementing energy-efficient measures
- Installing solar panels on rooftops to generate clean, renewable energy
- Reducing reliance on conventional energy sources, lowering electricity costs
- Supporting the university's commitment to sustainability[1]

Link: https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

Support for Low-Carbon Innovation (2023-2024 Data)

ESG companies offer better returns

Outperformance of ESG stocks over industry peers (%)



Source: Kumar et al (2016), Journal of Sustainable Finance & Investment.

ESG stocks outperform industry peers across sectors, notably leading in Food and Beverage and Energy sectors with over 30% better returns.

Amrita Technology Business Incubator (TBI) - Low-Carbon Startups

As part of its commitment to divesting from carbon-intensive industries, Amrita actively supports **low-carbon innovation and sustainable entrepreneurship**:[4]

2023 Achievements:[4]

- **30+ startups** centered on developing low-carbon innovations nurtured
- **8 pitchfests** hosted across all campuses
- **Over $1.5 million raised** in funding for low-carbon startups
- Collaboration with Technology Enabling Center to expose students to carbon-intensive business practices and inspire sustainable alternatives[4]

Featured Low-Carbon Startups (2023):[4]

Greenamour Ventures: Eco-packaging and sustainable living solutions using reused materials for cosmetics, food, and pharmaceuticals industries

Tranquility IoT & Big Data Solutions (TIBS): Developed indigenous solutions including:

- Automated Irrigation Control System (reduces water wastage)
- Smart Meter Wireless Adaptor (real-time energy monitoring)
- Pressure, Temperature, and Vibration Sensors (sustainable monitoring)

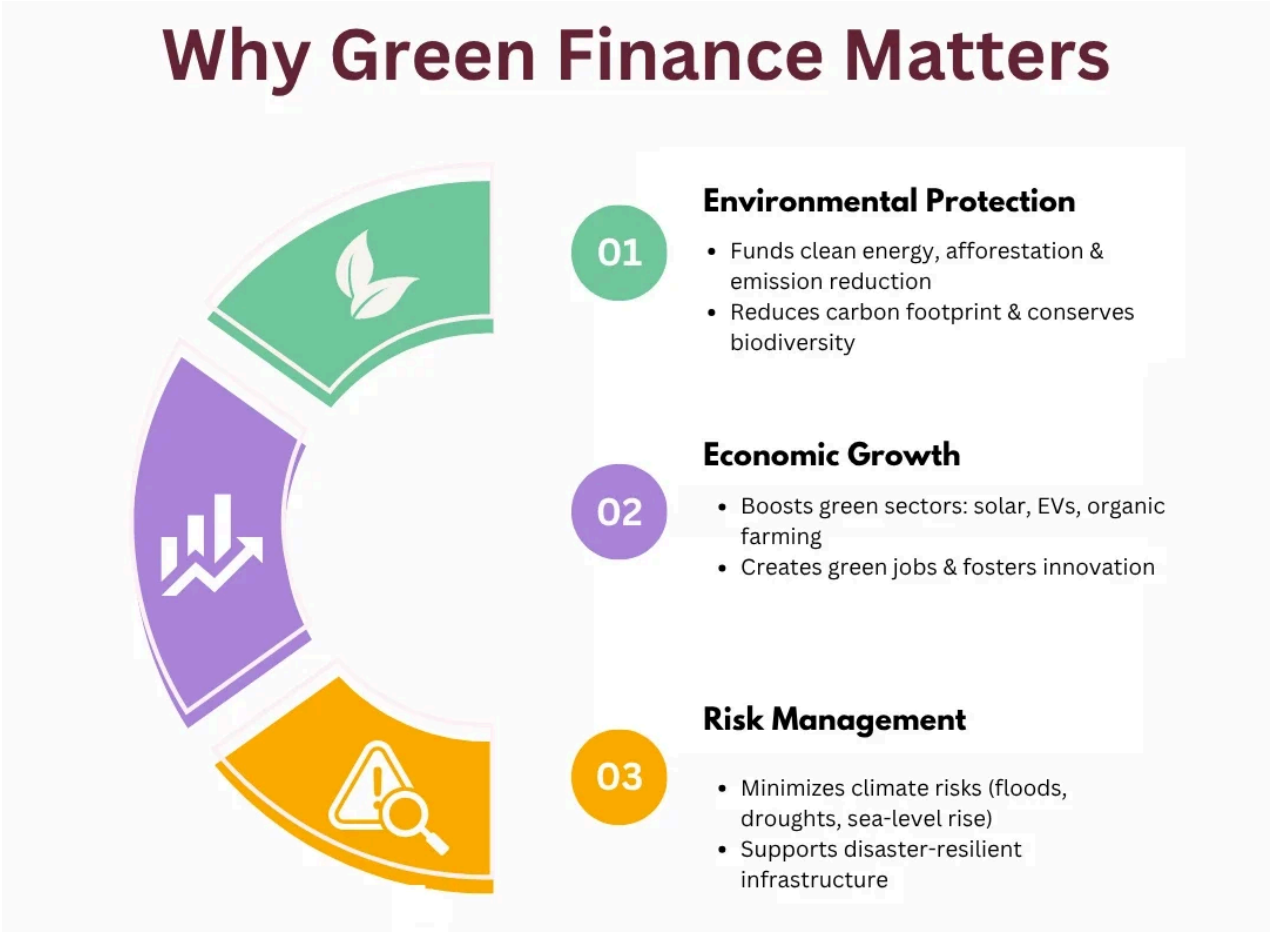
MiQasa: Pioneer in home automation with low-carbon technology solutions

- "The Emerging Tech Startup of the Year 2017" by Entrepreneur Magazine India
- Top 42 Fundable Startups in India (India Fund Fest 2017)
- Acquired by Smartron (backed by Sachin Tendulkar)

Blinc Smart Homes: Designs smart switches and plugs prioritizing low-carbon innovation for sustainable infrastructure

Link: https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg-25/sdg7/assistance-to-low-carbon/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

Harnessing Research to Achieve Carbon Neutrality (2023 Progress)



Infographic explaining why green finance matters, highlighting environmental protection, economic growth, and risk management benefits.

A. Advancing Rural Electrification through Smart Grids and Renewable Energy

Progress in 2023:[1]

As of 2023, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham has made significant progress in its mission to provide sustainable energy solutions to rural India:

- **40 active projects across 13 villages**
- Continues to lead in rural electrification using smart grids and renewable energy technologies
- **AmritaSphuranam project**: Successfully implemented multiple smart grid systems providing reliable, renewable energy to villages with focus on integrating solar power

Mothakara Village, Wayanad, Kerala (Since 2014):

- Solar-powered microgrid electrified the village of 260 people
- Continued training to local community in 2023 for management and maintenance
- Can be monitored remotely from Amritapuri campus

Komalakudi, Kerala:

- Micro-hydro generator fully operational for over two years (as of 2023)
- Provides 24/7 electricity to eight homes, streetlights, and community centers
- Access to reliable electricity allows over 50 students to pursue studies without interruption

Munnar:

- New micro-hydro plant installed providing power to 60 homes, streetlights, and learning center
- Solar rooftop systems ensure electricity availability even when hydro generator is offline

2023 Expansion:

- Water distribution systems implemented in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra

Link:
https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

B. Amrita's Patent-Winning Solar Electric Car (Patent Awarded: July 4, 2023)

Amrita University developed a groundbreaking, patent-winning solar electric car:[1]

Technical Specifications:

- **500W solar panels** generating enough energy for **25-30 km daily range**
- Annual range: **7,500 km** on renewable energy
- **14 kWh/30 kWh battery pack** offering **250-400 km range** on single charge
- Average cruising speed: **50 km/h**

- Top speed: **100 km/h**
- Full charge time: **5-6 hours** using standard household wall socket
- Accommodates up to **four passengers** including driver
- **10 kW electric motor** with **15 kW peak power output**

The project involved retrofitting a Maruti car with new motor, motor controller, batteries, battery management system (BMS), and solar panels, making this solar electric vehicle both cost-effective and accessible.[1]

Link:
https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

C. Hybrid Charging Station: Sustainable EV Infrastructure Project (2023)

In 2023, Amrita University developed and launched its innovative **Hybrid Charging Station (HCS)**:[1]

Key Features:

- Integrates sustainable energy sources with electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure
- Primarily utilizes solar energy with additional renewable sources
- Components include solar panels, wind turbine, four DC/DC converters, energy storage system, and fuel cell with boost converter
- Supports **DC load of 40 kW**

Advanced Technology:

- Machine learning weather prediction models (Neural Prophet) forecast variations in renewable energy generation
- Optimizes energy distribution by predicting temperature and wind speed
- Minimizes reliance on non-renewable sources
- Improves system efficiency and reduces carbon emissions

Link: https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

Global Leadership and Policy Advocacy

Fossil fuel free pledge badge representing commitment to divest from fossil fuels in Amrita University.

Civil 20 India 2023 – Global Partnerships with CSOs

The Civil 20 India working group on **Sustainable and Resilient Communities – Climate, Environment and Net Zero Targets** held extensive policy dialogues and consultations with **4000+ CSOs** to develop policy recommendations submitted to G20.[1]

Key Events in 2023:[1]

Event Name	Date
C20 Dialogues – Technology Integration, Finance and Adoption Strategies for Addressing Net Zero Emissions Management	08/02/2023
Online Webinar – Net Zero Emission Targets – Energy Storage Systems in Battery Electric Vehicles	25/02/2023
International Symposium on R&D of Autonomous Mobility and Electric Vehicle Technology	10/03/2023, 11/03/2023
C20 Policy Dialogues – Transitioning to Renewable Electricity and Renewable-Integrated Grids	17/03/2023
C20 Policy Dialogues – Decarbonising Infrastructure towards Net Zero Emissions	23/03/2023
Decoding Results Based Climate Finance (RBCF): Strategies for Success	07/04/2023
Financing a Just Energy Transition Through Fossil Fuel Subsidy Reform	20/06/2023

Participating Organizations Included:[1]

- 350.org, USA

- ActionAid International, UK
- Alternative Futures, India
- Climate Action Network, Belgium
- Greenpeace International, Netherlands
- Oxfam, UK
- WWF Australia, Australia
- World Wildlife Fund (WWF), USA
- And 30+ other global NGOs

Link: https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

Amrita's 2 UNESCO Chairs Participate in COP 28

Amrita University's **Prof. Maneesha V Ramesh** (UNESCO Chair on Experiential Learning for Sustainable Innovation and Development) and **Prof. Bhavani Rao** (UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment) were guest speakers during **COP28** in Dubai, UAE.[1]

This demonstrates Amrita's commitment to including divestment from fossil fuels and advancing sustainable, inclusive solutions to climate change.[1]

Link: https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

Policy Recommendations to G20 on Climate Finance (2023)

Infographic illustrating key aspects of sustainable finance and ESG principles.

Avoiding Financial Risk

Amrita University led the global working group for **C20 India 2023 on Sustainable and Resilient Communities – Climate, Environment and Net Zero Targets** by inspiring over **7,000 NGOs** to prioritize divestment from carbon-intensive energy sources and adopt sustainable energy practices.[1]

Special policy recommendations submitted to G20 for climate finance to reduce their financial risk from disinvestment from carbon intensive energy industries.[1]

Climate Finance for Inclusive and Effective Climate Action:[1]

- G20 should establish national policies that promote collaboration between public, private, and nonprofit sectors in climate finance
- Governments should increase emergency funding mechanisms for most vulnerable communities affected by climate-related disasters
- Member countries should upscale specific financing for mitigation and adaptation for climate change
- G20 must consider measures to integrate climate risk assessments into funding and project implementation
- G20 must develop country-specific climate adaptation metrics and standards to guide investment decisions

Link: https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/ (Published: December 23, 2024)

Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Milestones (2023-2024 Data)

In 2023, the institution undertook substantial sustainable investments to achieve energy efficiency goals:[3]

Key Achievements:[3]

- **Real-Time Energy Management**: Energy management system ensures continuous monitoring and control
- **Energy-Efficient Upgrades**: Inefficient appliances replaced with high-efficiency alternatives
- **Sensor-Based Automation**: Automated systems utilize real-time occupancy and environmental data
- **Temperature Control**: Indoor temperature maintained at 24°C (BEE recommendations)
- **Heat Recovery Integration**: Heat from AC systems repurposed for hot water circulation
- **Clean Energy Surplus**: Campus produces **5.24% more clean energy** than total energy demand
- **100% BEE Standards Compliance**: All buildings comply with BEE standards
- **90% Energy Efficiency Rating**: Achieved in latest energy audit

- **Green Building Accreditations**: IGBC Platinum certification and LEED Gold certification

Links:

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Recognition and Impact

The university's divestment commitment and sustainable practices have earned recognition through prestigious certifications and rankings, demonstrating leadership in addressing climate change through responsible investment practices while inspiring broader societal transformation toward a low-carbon economy.

Through this comprehensive divestment policy integrated in 2023, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham demonstrates institutional leadership by achieving **0% funding from carbon-intensive energy industries** and redirecting capital toward renewable energy, low-carbon innovation, and sustainable development initiatives that serve as a model for educational institutions worldwide.

⁂

1. https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg/sdg6/policy-divestment-from-carbon-intensive-energy-industries-policy/
2. https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg-sustainable-campus-policy2023/
3. https://www.amrita.edu/unsdg-25/sdg7/plan-to-reduce-energy/
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18. https://www.amrita.edu/school/sustainable-futures/afforadable-and-clean-energy/