Green Campus Initiative: Sustainable development orientation at Nam Can Tho University

In 2023, Nam Can Tho University implemented a sustainable learning and practical model through the Green Campus Initiative (GCI). This innovative model integrates education and environmental practice to promote environmental awareness and skills among students, particularly those studying in fields related to Architecture, Construction, Environment, and Tourism. The university's Youth Union and Student Association play a vital role in organizing and participating in volunteer activities and sustainable environmental protection projects.

GCI – Learning and environmental protection

GCI is a widely recognized educational model that is implemented in numerous universities around the world. This model integrates theoretical learning with hands-on experience, allowing students to apply their knowledge and skills to real-world environmental protection projects. Through this approach, instructors guide students in utilizing their expertise in their respective fields to contribute to environmental



Nam Can Tho University is collaborating with "Phong Dien District Youth Union" and "Youth Union in the party cell of the district's civil affairs offices to launch the Youth Month campaign "Planting green trees and cleaning the environment"

conservation efforts. This not only enhances students' understanding

of their specialized subjects, but also fosters the development of soft skills, as well as a sense of environmental consciousness and personal growth. For example, students majoring in Resource and Environmental Management actively engage in waste reduction and recycling initiatives, while those majoring in Tourism can develop sustainable ecotourism projects in the Mekong Delta region.

Implementing the GCI at Nam Can Tho University

Nam Can Tho University is a leading institution in promoting the GCI among its students. Through a combination of theoretical classroom instruction and hands-on project work with community partners such as non-governmental organizations, social enterprises, and local communities, the GCI program has yielded numerous benefits for students, lecturers, and the community at Nam Can Tho University.

GCI in practice

Nam Can Tho University has implemented various learning and research models to protect the environment. Some notable projects include:



DNC Solar Electric Vehicle – Research and innovation by lecturers and students of DNC Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

- Creative Space: This project focuses on researching and developing eco-friendly, solar-powered electric vehicles. It allows students to apply their technical knowledge in practical settings, contributing to the reduction of environmental pollution and energy conservation.

- Vehicles for collecting garbage and fine dust: Our top priority in designing these vehicles is to incorporate advanced techniques and technology. This project not only helps maintain a clean environment, but also raises community awareness about environmental protection through the action slogan "For a Green, Clean, and Beautiful Environment" displayed on the vehicles.
- The "Green Lung" model: Our students regularly organize tree-planting activities within DOÀN THANH NIÊN HỘI SINH VIÊN TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC NAM CẦN THƠ



"Summary of the Green Summer Campaign 2023 - Tree Planting Activities for a greener Earth"

the campus and across provinces in the Mekong Delta region through various volunteer campaigns, including the Green Summer volunteering campaign and Youth Month. These activities not only contribute to creating a greener landscape, but also improve air quality and raise awareness about the role of greenery in environmental protection.

As part of an environmental awareness program, students actively visited elementary, middle, and high schools in rural areas to promote environmental conservation among children and residents. Nam Can Tho University demonstrates its commitment to training students as responsible citizens with environmental consciousness through specific models and activities such as waste management, conservation, and sustainable practices. These models and activities not only demonstrate the university's dedication, but also offer students opportunities to practice and develop essential skills in environmental protection.

Benefits from GCI

By addressing real environmental issues, instructors have the unique opportunity to apply the theories taught in the classroom to practical situations. This not only allows them to update their knowledge with new theoretical concepts from textbooks, but also enables them to gain hands-on experience. As a result, students who participate in such programs not only enhance their skills, but also develop a sense of social awareness and responsibility as citizens. Through undertaking projects, students are required to independently research the locations they will be visiting, plan assistance efforts, and collaborate with local communities. These community activities may include tasks such as tree planting, developing waste management models, and organizing environmental awareness campaigns that are tailored to local themes and specific contexts.

Vision and Future of GCI

Over the past year, Nam Can Tho University has implemented the GCI, which has involved various environmental project groups and has provided positive value to the community through a range of activities. These activities have included scientific research, waste management, tree planting, and raising awareness about environmental protection.

Nguyen Truc Phuong, a student from the Faculty of Architecture, Construction, and Environment at Nam Can Tho University, recently shared her experience after participating in the GCI program. She stated, "I completed coursework focused on environmental projects and gained valuable practical experience through field trips. These opportunities have greatly expanded my knowledge and empathy for the world around me. As a senior student, I am eager to engage in meaningful activities that will further enrich my life experience. Through this program, I have gained a deeper understanding of responsibility, capability, and the importance of spreading green messages to others."

After every program, both the lecturers and students eagerly anticipate future opportunities to further contribute and expand the practical impact of the Green Campus Initiative on society.