

## **Policy on Climate Control and Energy Optimization in Academic, Admin, and Residential Blocks**

### **1. Purpose**

The University is committed to providing a safe, comfortable, and sustainable living and learning environment that promotes student well-being, environmental responsibility, and the long-term preservation of institutional infrastructure.

Technical assessments conducted by HVAC and building environment experts have established that unrestricted cooling below 22°C in tropical climatic conditions results in excessive moisture condensation. This manifests as mould growth, peeling paint, and deterioration of woodwork, and may lead to safety concerns such as slippery flooring, compromised indoor air quality, and increased health risks.

To address these concerns and ensure the efficient utilization of the University's Centralized HVAC Management System, the Competent Authority has approved the Policy on **Climate Control and Energy Optimization** in Academic, Admin, and Residential Blocks.

### **2. Scope**

This policy is applicable to all campuses of GITAM University and shall extend to:

- ) Students, faculty, staff, service providers, and visitors
- ) Academic buildings, administrative offices, hostels, sports facilities, cafeterias, transport facilities, and all common areas

### **3. Policy Guidelines and Implementation**

Effective from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026, the following regulations shall be implemented across all Classrooms, Administrative Offices, and Residential Facilities:

#### **3.1 Temperature Regulation**

- ) A standardized **minimum cooling temperature of 22°C** shall be enforced across all centralized air-conditioning systems.
- ) Cooling settings below 22°C will be restricted through system controls to protect building health and optimize energy efficiency.

#### **3.2 User Comfort and Personalization**

- ) Users may adjust the temperature **upwards from 22°C** to suit individual comfort preferences.
- ) This approach ensures thermal comfort while maintaining operational efficiency and infrastructure safety.

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### **3.3 Building Integrity and HVAC Efficiency**

- )] Windows in newly constructed and renovated buildings are designed to remain sealed to ensure optimal HVAC performance.
- )] Unauthorized opening, tampering, or alteration of window seals is strictly prohibited, as it leads to energy loss, moisture ingress, and system inefficiencies.

### **3.4 Health, Safety, and Hygiene**

- )] Maintaining indoor temperatures at or above 22°C aligns with internationally recognized health and occupational safety standards.
- )] The policy aims to prevent risks such as thermal shock, respiratory discomfort, damp-related illnesses, and poor indoor air quality associated with excessive cooling.

### **3.5 Monitoring and Compliance**

- )] The Centralized HVAC Management System will be monitored periodically to ensure compliance with the policy.
- )] Any misuse, tampering, or repeated non-compliance may be addressed as per University regulations.

### **3.6 Exceptions (if applicable)**

- )] Special-purpose areas such as laboratories, server rooms, medical facilities, or research spaces may be exempted, subject to technical requirements and approval by the competent authority.

## **4. Authority and Responsibility**

The Directorate of Hospitality is authorized to:

- )] Implement and manage the climate control settings across all applicable facilities
- )] Conduct awareness and sensitization programs for students and staff, highlighting the environmental, health, and energy conservation benefits of this policy
- )] Coordinate with relevant departments for smooth execution and grievance redressal

## **5. Conclusion**

The University seeks the cooperation and support of all stakeholders in implementing this policy, which reflects our collective commitment to sustainability, energy conservation, and a healthy campus environment.

Together, we move forward in strengthening the University's mission of building a green, responsible, and future-ready campus.