

GREEN AUDIT REPORT

2021-22



Uttarakhand Open University

**Behind Transport Nagar, University Road,
Haldwani 263139, Nainital, Uttarakhand**



Uttarakhand Open University

A Report on Green Audit/Energy Audit/Environmental Audit

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1. Introduction

The rapid environmental degradation at local, regional and global level is leading us to global “Environmental poverty”. Stabilization of human population, adoption of environmentally sound and sustainable technologies, reforestation and ecological restoration are crucial elements in creating an equitable and sustainable future for all humans in harmony with nature and natural resources. The main objective to carry out green audit is to check green practices followed by university and to conduct a well formulated audit report to understand where we stand on a scale of environmental soundness. Green audit is the procedure of systematically identifying, quantifying, recordings, reporting and analyzing the environmental diversity components of any organization. It aims to analyze the environmental practices inside and outside of the relevant place, which will have an impact on the environment. Focus was given to assess the consumption of energy, electricity, water as well as disposal of liquid waste, solid waste, hazardous waste, e-waste and an inventory of trees on campus is also prepared to check how much CO₂ is sequestered and O₂ is released. It is an important tool for universities to determine their consumption of energy, water, or other resources; and then consider and planned to implement changes and make savings. It can create health awareness and promote environmental awareness and ethics. It allows faculty, students and other staff to better understand the impacts of green activities on the premises.

Self-inquiry is a natural and expected development of quality education. Therefore, the institute must evaluate its contribution towards a sustainable future. An environmental sustainability has become an increasingly crucial issue for the every nation; the role of higher education institutions in environmental sustainability has become more important. The rapid urbanization and economic development at the regional and global levels have led to several environmental and ecological problems. In this context, it is necessary to adopt a green campus system for the institute, which will lead to sustainable development while reducing the large amount of atmospheric carbon emissions in the environment.

Government of India through its National Environment Policy (2006) has made mandatory for every organization to have green audit / environmental audit in their organization. The process of environmental audit was formalized by Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) according to the guidelines given in Manual of Standard Orders (MSO) issued by Authority of the Controller and Auditor General of India 2002. University Grants Commission has mentioned “Green Campus, Clean Campus” mission mandatory for all higher educational institutes. As

environmental sustainability is becoming an increasingly important issue for the nation, the role of higher educational institutions in relation to environmental sustainability is more prevalent. Accordingly, realizing the need of being responsible towards environment, NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council), an autonomous body under UGC has also added the concept of Environmental Audit in accreditation methodologies of State and Central Universities as well as colleges. Accordingly, Uttarakhand Open University has also initiated a Green/Environmental Audit/Energy Audit of its campus at Haldwani (Nainital).

2. About the University and Vision

Uttarakhand Open University (UOU) was established in the year 2005 by an Act of State Legislature. It is mandated to promote the dissemination of learning and knowledge through the medium of Open and Distance Learning (ODL). In this process extensive use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) shall be made to provide opportunities of higher education to a large segment of the population of the state. The university is mandated to impart education through diversity of means of communication such as broadcasting, telecasting, courses

Vision of University

To make higher education the potent medium of growth by creating knowledge and to provide easily accessible and convenient opportunities for value-based quality higher education to the people of Uttarakhand especially to youth, educationally deprived, and employed persons so that they are motivated for life-long-learning thereby ensuring their proficiency in different skills, securing self-employment, and employment with the motto of appropriate service to the state, nation and entire humanity.”

under ODL, seminars, contact programmes or combination of any two or more of such tools. The university is further mandated to impart education through a network of Regional Centers to be established and maintained by the university for the purpose of coordination and supervision of the functioning of Study Centers. These Study Centers are also to be established, maintained or recognized by the university for the purpose of advising, counseling or for rendering any other assistance required by the learners. Following the philosophy of ODL the university is also maintaining the policy of Openness and flexibility in terms of relaxed entry, duration, for completing a programme and place of study. Continuous efforts are made to widen the access by offering high quality innovative and need based programmes at different levels especially for the disadvantaged and marginalized segments of society at affordable cost by using a variety of media and technology.

The university develops its academic programmes through the Schools of Studies. The Schools of Studies are academic bodies responsible for all academic and related administrative activities of the university. Each School has different departments which are the basic academic units responsible for the conceptualization, design, development and maintenance of the academic and professional programmes. The existing Schools of Studies at present are as follows:

1. School of Agriculture and Development Studies (SOADS)
2. School of Education (SOE)
3. School of Computer Sciences and IT (SOCIT)
4. School of Health Sciences (SOHS)
5. School of Journalism & Media Studies (SOJMC)
6. School of Law (SOL)
7. School of Management Studies & Commerce (SOMSC)
8. School of Sciences (SOS)
9. School of Humanities (SOH)
10. School of Social Sciences (SOSS)
11. School of Tourism, Hospitality and Hotel Management (SOTHH)
12. School of Vocational Studies (SOVS)
13. School of Library & Information Science (SLIS)
14. School of Earth and Environmental Science (SoEES)

3. Objectives

The main objectives of Environmental Audit in Academic Institution are:

- to understand the awareness of employees and learners towards environmental conservation
- to recognize the initiative taken by organization towards environmental conservation
- to understand and recognize the effects of an organization on the environment and *vice versa*
- to ensure that the natural resources are utilized properly as per national policy of environment
- to study waste minimization and safe disposal of waste particularly hazardous wastes
- initiatives for water and energy conservation

- contribution and participation by various stakeholders in the environmental conservation and management
- to diagnose and find out solutions for the environmental problems
- to facilitate the stakeholders with different aspects of disaster management

4. Scope and Goal of Environmental Auditing

Government of India through its National Environment Policy in 2006 has made mandatory for every organization to conduct green audit / environmental audit in order to ensure a clean and healthy environment within and outside the organization. Further, it also helps in effective learning and provides a conducive learning environment. Efforts are taking place around the world in order to address various environmental issues. Green auditing or environmental auditing is one among them for educational institutions. Green auditing helps organization to understand various environmental issues of the organization and identify existing lacuna or gap towards meeting the objective of National Environmental Policy and thus, to plan accordingly.

5. Methodology

An environmental audit has three phases - pre-audit stage, audit stage and post-audit stage, accordingly the environmental audit was conducted.

❖ Pre-Audit Stage

Pre-audit stage involved the identification of target areas for environmental auditing. Accordingly following target areas were identified:

- Land Use System
- Biodiversity Status
- Climatic Conditions
- Air Quality
- Noise Pollution
- Water Resources and Management
- Energy Consumption
- Waste disposal and management
- Environmental Awareness
- Mitigation and Management practices

❖ **Audit Stage**

(A). Collection of data, observation and interaction: This stage of the Audit involved the activities relating to collection of data, observation, interactions and discussion with the concerned stakeholders i.e., faculty, administration and staff members from different departments and sections of the university. A mixture of open ended and closed ended questionnaires were developed and used for data collection. Meetings with specific stakeholders of different target groups identified in the pre-audit stage were conducted for getting the desired information. Detailed discussions on some specific topic were also held.

(B). Review of previous records and policies: This was carried out in order to understand the various initiatives taken by the university towards sustainable environmental conservation and amelioration. For the purpose, office registers, visitor's book, purchase registers, office communications, policy level documents of AC/ EC were also examined. Further, the published material such as prospectus, university annual reports, bulletins, and other magazines were also studied by the audit team for getting information / data on the target aspects.

(C). Inspection of departments/sections/various sites: The audit team also visited the various departments, sections, offices and its premises in order to have an idea of various activities carried. Campus greenery and gaps were identified. Team also had a visit to play ground, canteen, library, office rooms and parking area.

(D). The stakeholders: The stakeholders included were teaching staff from different schools, people from administration, water supply and maintenance, electricity department and ICT. The committee set up for the purpose discussed the issues related with key target areas. Questionnaires were prepared for getting information and accordingly meeting with concerned stakeholders were conducted. Data on water and energy use was collected from maintenance department.

❖ **Post-Audit Stage**

The Post-Audit Stage includes the production of the final report, prepare action plan to overcome the flaws and to keep a watch on the action plan.

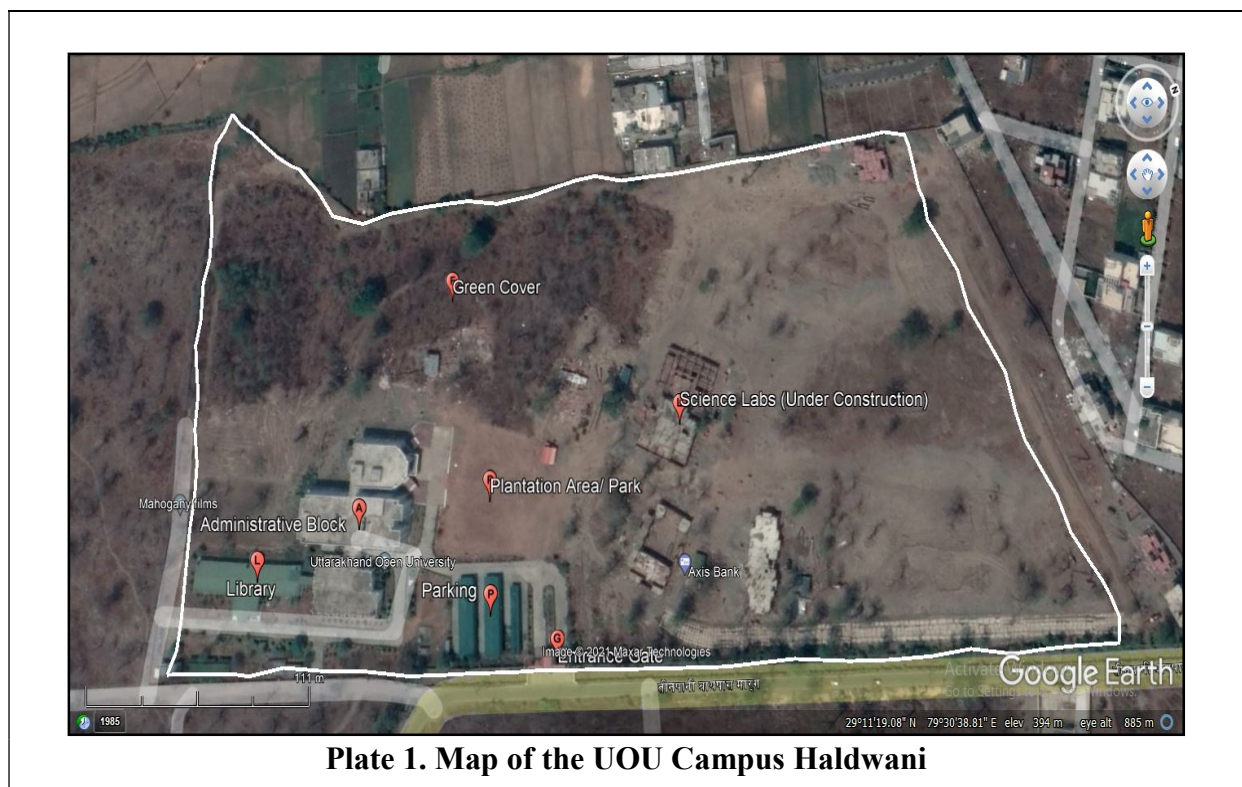
6. Audit Report

(A) Land Use System

The Uttarakhand Open University, located behind Transport Nagar, Haldwani, District-Nainital, Uttarakhand, geographically lies between 29°11'07" N and 79°30'43" E. The university has a total of ten hectares of land which was transferred from Department of Forests, Government of Uttarakhand for the purpose of creating infrastructure required for the development of various Offices/ Departments of the university. The total buildup area of the university is 0.50 hectare which includes Academic/ Administrative building, computer lab, toilets, classroom, common room, canteen, roads, and also the area under construction for Science Building, Vice Chancellor' Residence, Multipurpose Community Hall and parking area. The remaining 9.50 hectare area includes the park/garden, plantation area and forest green cover etc (Table 1).

Table 1. Land Use Data

S. No.	Categories	Area (hectare)
1.	Build up Area (Include Roads)	0.50
2.	Green Cover Area (forest patch, Park, Plantations Area)	9.50
Total Area		10.00



(B) Climatic Parameters

i. Climate: The Uttarakhand Open University is located in subtropical zone at the foot hills of Central Himalayan Region of India. The basic climatic pattern is mainly based on presiding monsoon condition. There are three main seasons, the winter which is usually very cold with slight rainfall (December to March), the summer season, during which the temperature increases, thus, making the climatic conditions very warm and dry (April to mid June), and a rainy season with warm and humid conditions (mid June to mid September). The period between winter and summer can be recognized as autumn (October to November) and spring (February to March), respectively.

ii. Rainfall: The rainfall occurs during the monsoon (mid of June to mid of September, however, sometimes even at the end of September). The maximum rainfall occurs during July and August. Sometimes occasional rainfall occurs in the odd months also. The average annual rainfall is 166 cm.

iii. Temperature: Temperature varies according to climatic conditions which tend to change drastically in the area. January and February are the coldest months while May and June are the hottest months. Generally, temperature remains high between March and June when it reaches close to mean maximum of 42^oC. In rainy season it is hot and humid.

(C) Biodiversity Status

The campus of the university is located at sub tropical climatic conditions. The campus has a patch of natural forest having a major tree species like *Tectona grandis*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Mallotus phillipinensis*, *Acacia catechu*, *Shorea robusta* etc. Plantation activities are usually undertaken during rainy season and National Festivals like 15th August, World Environment Day etc. Accordingly many new species of economic and medicinal importance such as Amla, Harar, Bahera, Ashoka, Jacrenda, Neem, Ficus etc, have been introduced. Some herbs and shrubs were also planted in the campus. There are some faunal species are also found in the area. Table 2, 3, 4 and 5 shows the status of the Floral and Faunal diversity of the campus.

Table 2. List of Tree/Shrubs/Herbs species found in the campus

S. No.	Botanical Name	Common Name
Trees		
1.	<i>Tectona grandis</i> ,	Sagon/Teak
2.	<i>Dalbergia sissoo</i> ,	Sheesham
3.	<i>Mallotus phillipinensis</i> ,	Rohini
4.	<i>Acacia catechu</i> ,	Khair

5.	<i>Shorea robusta</i>	Sal
6.	<i>Haldina cardifolia</i>	Haldu
7.	<i>Ficus bengalensis,</i>	Pepal
8.	<i>Terminalia chebula</i>	Harad
9.	<i>Terminalia bellerica,</i>	Baheda
10.	<i>Eucllyptus spp.</i>	Gum tree
11.	<i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i>	Jacaranda
12.	<i>Emblica officinalis</i>	Amla
13.	<i>Azadirachta indica</i>	Neem
14.	<i>Saraca asoca</i>	Ashok
15.	<i>Aegle marmelos</i>	Bel
16.	<i>Ficus roxburghii</i>	Timla
Shrubs		
17.	<i>Lantana camara</i>	Kuri
18.	<i>Calotropis procera</i>	Ankh
19.	<i>Cestrum nocturnum</i>	Rat ki rani
20.	<i>Murraya koenigii</i>	Kari Patta
21.	<i>Ricinus cummunis</i>	Arandi
Grasses/Herbs		
22.	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>	Durba
23.	<i>Desmostachya bipinnata</i>	Kus
24.	<i>Cymbopogon martini</i>	Lemmon Grass



Plate 2. Green Cover of the University Campus.

Table 3. List of Birds found in and around the Campus

S. No.	Zoological Name	Common Name
1.	<i>Myophonus caeruleus</i>	Blue Whistling Thrush
2.	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	House Sparrow
3.	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	House Crow
4.	<i>Pycnonotus leucogenys.</i>	Himalayan Bulbul
5.	<i>Pycnonotus cafer</i>	Red Vented Bulbul
6.	<i>Psilopogon asiaticus</i>	Blue throated Barbet
7.	<i>Psilopogon haemacephalus</i>	Coppersmith Barbet
8.	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>	Common Myna
9.	<i>Lanius schach</i>	Long Tailed Shrike
10.	<i>Psittacula cyanocephala</i>	Plum Headed Parakeet
11.	<i>Psittacula krameri</i>	Rose Ringed Parakeet
12.	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black Kite
13.	<i>Aquila nipalensis</i>	Steppe Eagle
14.	<i>Cinnyris asiaticus</i>	Purple Sunbird
15.	<i>Aethopygasiparaja</i>	Crimson Sunbird
16.	<i>Cercomela fusca</i>	Brown Rock Chat
17.	<i>Saxicola ferreus</i>	Grey Bush Chat
18.	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Oriental Magpie Robin

Table 4. List of Butterflies found in and around the campus

S. No.	Zoological Name	Common Name
1.	<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>	Common Rose
3.	<i>Papilio polytes</i>	Common Mormon
4.	<i>Graphium doson</i>	Common Jay
5.	<i>Delias cularis</i>	Common Jezebel
6.	<i>Catopsilia crocale</i>	Common Emigrant
7.	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>	Common Grass Yellow
8.	<i>Pieris canidia</i>	Indian Cabbage White
9.	<i>Pareronia hippia</i>	Indian Wanderer
10.	<i>Danaus chrysippus</i>	Plain Tiger
11.	<i>Danaus genutia</i>	Striped Tiger
12.	<i>Euploea core</i>	Common Crow
13.	<i>Cupha erymanthis</i>	Rustic
14.	<i>Freyeria trochilus</i>	Grass Jewel

15.	<i>Jamides celeno</i>	Common Cerulean
16.	<i>Melanitis leda</i>	Common Evening Brown
17.	<i>Mycalesis perseus</i>	Common Bush brown
18.	<i>Spialia galba</i>	Indian Skipper

Table 5. List of Reptiles found in and around the campus

S. No.	Zoological Name	Common Name
1.	<i>Kachuga tentoria</i>	Indian Tent Turtle
2.	<i>Varanus spp.</i>	Monitor Lizard
3.	<i>Calotes spp.</i>	Garden Lizard
4.	<i>Hemidactylis spp.</i>	Common House Gecko
5.	<i>Ptyas mucosus</i>	Rat Snake
6.	<i>Python molurus</i>	Indian Python
7.	<i>Bangaru caeruleus</i>	Common Kraits
8.	<i>Naja Hannah</i>	King Cobra
9.	<i>Gloydius himalayanus</i>	Himalayan Pit Viper
10.	<i>Naja naja</i>	Cobra

(D) Pollution

i. Sources of air pollution: It was observed and revealed from data that the only possible sources of pollution in the university campus are as use of diesel / petrol vehicles, air-conditioners, power generator, kitchen waste and other biodegradable waste from canteen, use of electronic appliances and other. There are five (05) office vehicles (Cars), 52 personal cars, 60

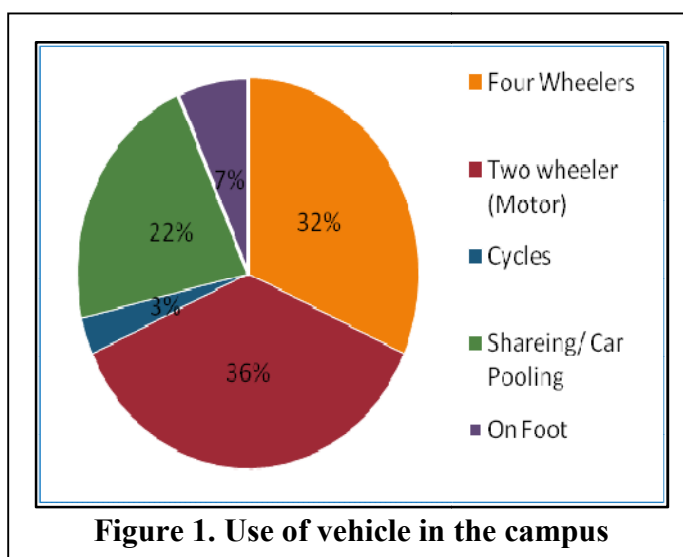


Figure 1. Use of vehicle in the campus

personal two-wheelers and 05 cycles are being used by the employees of the organization. Thirty (36) people are using pooled vehicle/ share auto taxi or shared two wheeler for commuting to university. There are also people who are using environment friendly vehicle i.e., cycle, but the percentage is very low nearly 7%. Further, people commuting through walking are also only 3%. There is very low chances of air pollution from outside as there are

no commercial as well as the industrial activities are running near the campus, as the campus is rich in greenery.

ii. Sources of noise pollution: It was observed that there is no industrial as well as the sound generating activities near the university campus and it was revealed from that due to limited number of vehicles the chances of noise pollution seems to be quite below of standard limit. Moreover the two generators of the university are also sound proof. There is no other source of noise pollution in the campus.

(E) Water Resource and Management

University has its own tube-well for meeting its water requirements for various purposes such as drinking, use in washrooms, canteen and gardening. Since the university does not have staff quarters at present in the university premises, thus, no household domestic water demand, water consumed in the university premises is for drinking, canteen, sanitary and gardening purposes. There are 03 water coolers maintained by the organization for meeting drinking water demand of the employee. The audit team did not find any leakage in the taps of washrooms and in other areas. The water from tube-well is lifted to overhead tanks through an electric motor. There are ten (10) tanks with Total 06 tanks of 1000 liter capacity are placed in the roof tops of the university which are filled up daily.

(F) Energy Consumption and Management

Electricity is mainly needed for lighting the rooms, cooling the rooms in summer and heating the rooms in winter and running computer systems. University has a server room which needs electricity all the day and night. Apart from this university also has a community radio station which also demands electricity. Apart from this, university has its own tube well connected with electric motor of 2 hp. Water from the tube well is lifted to overhead tanks placed in the roof top daily and for the purpose machine runs for 2 hours daily. University has a sanctioned load of 125 KW from Uttarakhand Power Corporation (UPCL). The average electricity consumption of the university per month is approximately 12940.38 units and the average amount Rs. 99677.00 per month is paid by the university for Electricity. In addition to this, there are two sound free diesel generators installed for meeting energy requirement during power cut off. On an average one to two hours a day, electricity is generated from these generators.

(G) Waste Disposal and Management

Both biodegradable as well as non-biodegradable wastes are generated from various departments/sections of the university.

The principal waste includes paper, grasses, electronic wastes, canteen waste and other solid wastes. Since, university operates on ODL mode therefore number of students visiting the campus are comparatively less compared to regular universities.

Therefore, the waste generated through



Plate 3. Organic Composting

classroom activity and student's activities is negligible. Whereas, plastic wastes is completely or strictly banned in the university campus. However, following provisions have been made:

i. Biodegradable: There are two kinds of dustbins (Red and Blue) placed at different places/department/sections to collect the waste separately (blue for biodegradable and red for non-biodegradable). Thereafter, the biodegradable waste produced from various departments, sports ground or other areas is put into compost pits for making compost to use in manuring garden plants and seedling planted during planting season.

ii. Non-Biodegradable: There is very low quantity of non-degradable waste in the campus as the university does not have staff quarters at present in the university premises, therefore, no household domestic waste is generated. Since university operates its Science programmes through its study centers, therefore, at present science departments do not have in-house labs thus, no such waste is generated through the laboratories. However, rest of the non-degradable waste generated from places/department/sections of the university is collected in red dustbin and sent for the disposal through waste collection vehicle of Nagar Nigam Haldwani.

iii. E-Waste: Besides the above wastes there are another category of waste is E-waste which includes computers, laptops, pen drives, printers, hard discs, CD's and other solid waste, electrical & electronics equipments generated through different department/sections is disposed and managed by the ICT, maintenance and store department of the university and the details are properly maintain in the stocks register. Thereafter in every five year the concerned departments categorize the useless items in to the wastes and disposed through auction and buyback from the authorized buyers as per the Uttarakhand Government Rules.

(H) Environmental Awareness

The university staff is aware of the various environmental issues and the various green measures to be adopted in office as well as in their houses. A course on Environmental Studies is compulsory for all under graduate students. Further, university conducts plantation drives in the campus during Environment Day, 15 August and during other important events in the university.



Plate 4. Plantation by students

Further, university has also adopted nearby villages for environmental awareness activities, health camps and other community programmes being conducted through their participation.

(I) Mitigation and Management Practices

At present following practices for environmental protection are also being adopted by the university:

i. Maintenance of Lush Green Campus: University has ten hectares of land which was transferred to it from Forest Department for the purpose of creating infrastructure required for the development of various Offices/ Departments of the university. Further felling of trees for development of various infrastructures will be done with least disturbance following government rules.

ii. Plantation Drives: Plantation drives are regular activities in the campus, and usually in all important occasions, plantation activity is taken up. University has maintained a garden in which different ornamental plants have been raised.

iii. Organic Composting: The activity of making organic compost has been initiated in the campus where all the biodegradable waste



Plate 5. Plantation Drive in University campus

materials are filled up in the compost pit. In the course of time, organic compost is prepared. This organic compost is utilized for manuring in flowerbeds and plantations.

iv. Energy Conservation efforts: University is using star rated Electrical & Electronics equipment which saves energy. LED Bulbs/ Tube-light, 4-5 star Rated Air Conditioners.

University has always been effortful in making use of renewable energy resources. The average electricity consumption of the university per month is approximately 12940.38units. For the purpose, university has applied for 10 KV Solar Power plant. The application has been forwarded and soon university will have in captive power generation through Solar Power



Plate 6. Solar Panel Plant

Plant. This is the step forward for energy conservation and will definitely reduce the electricity consumption of the university and save the money for university.

v. Water Conservation Measures through Water Harvesting Tank: Globally, our water resources are depleting each year. Additionally, we cannot generate artificial water and must depend on water sources available on our planet earth. In this context, to reduce dependency of water from tube-well and also to recharge underground water resources, the university adopted one of the simplest and best measures for conserving water. The university had created a water harvesting tank in the back side of the campus. It is a

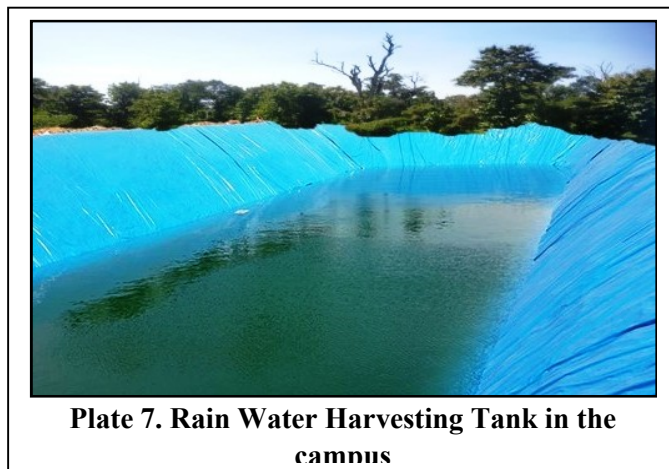


Plate 7. Rain Water Harvesting Tank in the campus

simple strategy by which rainfall is stored for future usage. The process involves collection and storage of rainwater with help of artificially designed systems, that runs off natural or man-made catchment areas e.g. rooftop, compounds, rocky surface, artificially repaired impervious/semi-pervious land surface. The collected rainwater from surfaces on which rain falls may be filtered, stored and utilized in different ways or directly used for recharge purposes. The use of a rainwater harvesting system provides excellent merits. This simple water conservation method can be a boost to an incredible solution for water conservation in the campus. It provides the most sustainable and efficient means of water management.

7. Recommendations

A green audit of any academic institution reveals, ways by which institute can reduce energy consumption, water use and reduction in emission of carbon dioxide in the environment. It is a process to look into and ask ourselves whether we are also contributing to the degradation of the environment and if so, in what manner and how we can minimize this contribution and bring down to zero and preserve our environment for future generation. This process of green audit enables us to assess our life style, action and assess its impact on the environment. Green auditing is the process of identifying and determining whether institutional practices are eco-friendly and sustainable. Traditionally, we are good and efficient users of natural resources. But over the period of time excess use of resources, viz., energy, water, chemicals are become habitual for everyone especially, in common areas. Now, it is necessary to check whether our activities are consuming more than required resources? Whether we are handling waste carefully? Green audit regulates all such practices and gives an efficient way of natural resource utilization. In the era of climate change and resource depletion it is necessary to verify the processes and convert it in to green and clean one.

- As an outcome efforts will be made to reduce carbon foot prints by using electrical vehicles in the campus, and green computing in the administration and examination.
- Focus to assess the consumption of energy, electricity, water as well as disposal of liquid waste, solid waste, hazardous waste, e-waste and an inventory of trees in the campus is also prepared to check how much CO₂ is sequestered and O₂ is released.
- University will follow No Vehicle Day on first Saturday of every month to saved fuel consumption.
- Various awareness programmes will be helpful to motivate all the staff members for optimized sustainable use of available resources.
- The long term goal of the environmental audit program is to collect baseline data of environmental parameters and resolve environmental issue.
- To prepare an Environmental Statement Report on green practices followed by different departments, support services and administration.
- The Green Audit Report on environment must reach the public so that it would succeed in reducing the environmental issues and its popularization among stakeholders.
- If possible an environmental audit report must be published annually by the university.

- Government can play significant role for environmental legislation and quality adoption of cleaner and environmentally benign technologies in Government organizations like Universities.

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