



Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT), Formerly Tehran Polytechnic, is known as Iran's pioneer university in sustainability and sustainable development. AUT moved to become a "Green University" in 2003 with the introduction of the Environmental Engineering degree at the masters' level and remodeling the Civil Engineering department as Civil and Environmental Engineering department. Then, an initiative Office of Sustainability was established at in 2011.

Although funding for the office of sustainability is limited, some students choose to work at the office of sustainability as part of social duties. Other incentives include opportunities to study abroad and build a research background. The university has been trying to adopt measures such as consistent composting and recycling to expose students to steps they can take in leading greener lives as well as introduce safety measures and proper waste management habits in laboratories. They also conduct sustainability conferences and training sessions for future professionals from various fields such as waste management, RIO+20, Green building, HSE (Health, safety and Environment) for engineers. A short list of some research projects undertaken by AUT office of sustainability:

I. Construction is one of the most energy intensive industries in Iran using a great deal of fossil based energy. AUT established a Green Building Council under Sustainable Committee to implement green building criteria in any new construction at Amirkabir University of technology. Furthermore, based on these concepts, sustainable construction group have focused on a set of target issues:

1. Dissemination of knowledge in related academic, technical and social contexts.
2. Developing national environmental rating system for Green buildings.
3. Providing consulting services in new construction projects.

II. The stream waste at a university is different from hazardous waste in laboratories to waste generation from the restaurants at campus. So, sustainable waste management committee established to reduce, reuse and recycle waste at AUT's campus. Printing thesis on double sides, Vermicomposting and using biodegradable food box instead of plastic are some of their projects.

II. With the promise of droughts in the region due to climate change, Iran faces an imminent water crisis. AUT has established a Water and Sustainable Development group with the following goals:

1. Encouraging new ways of thinking about the water sector
2. Idea generation in the water governance and development fields, in order to present conditions in the water sector
3. Develop a communication network with water sector professionals.
4. Provide and circulate Information about Innovative management methods from water supply and demand management.
5. Help academic community provide applicable thesis topics.

III. Lake Uremia is the largest salt water lake in the Middle East and has been consistently losing surface area in the past decades, with many social, economic and political implications that make it a matter of global concern. AUT conducts various research projects and publishes news articles about the current conditions of this lake and mitigation steps taken.

To find comprehensive lists of environmental projects conducted by AUT as well as recent and upcoming events involving the university go to [AUT's Office of Sustainability website](#).

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