



LDCE campus houses over 6,600 people. A budget of Rs 98 lakh has already been sanctioned for the green and sustainable initiatives project

LD Engg draws on green energy to make campus 'aatmanirbhar'

The sprawling campus of LD College of Engineering will soon have 10 recharge wells, solar panels for power generation, an STP to reuse water for the gardens and an organic waste converter to make manure

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Did you know that LD College of Engineering — one of the oldest and finest educational institutions in Gujarat — uses ground water to fulfil the requirements of its hostel buildings and academic blocks. According to an estimate, it has been using up to

1.5 lakh litre of water every day since its inception. Since the consumption of this precious commodity over the years may have drained out the water tables, LDCE is readying to set up 10 groundwater recharge wells on its campus. It will harvest approximately 2 crore litre of water to meet the requirements of its growing community. The water harvesting project

is just one of the many measures the government engineering college is taking to make its 59.25 acre campus a 'green and sustainable' one in 2021.

It is all set to have a rooftop solar power plant in around 16,000 sq feet space on the premises to generate 160 KW more of solar energy apart from its existing solar power genera-

tion of 181KW.

Besides, the college authorities have started work to set up a sewage treatment plant to reuse approximately 459 cubic metre of water per day to irrigate 40% of green cover on its campus. It is also setting up an organic waste converter that can make manure from nearly 165 kg

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LD Engg to go green, set up STP, solar power plant

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dry and kitchen waste generated every day on the campus.

Approximately, 6,600 people including students, teachers and staff are part of the LDCE community. Chaitanya Sanghvi, a faculty member who is also handling the project, said that they have received the approval to put their plan into action with a Rs 98 lakh budget sanctioned from various agencies like Gujarat Energy Development Agency (GEDA).

"We have been using the groundwater for many years now, but we need to have a mechanism in place to recharge the groundwater wells. With majority of areas paved with concrete, these proposed recharge wells will help us sustain the groundwater level. While the institute has three recharge wells, we have got permission to have more two recharge wells from the plan and have a total of 10 on the campus," he said.

College Principal Rajul Gajjar said the college is working on the project under its sustainable development goals. "So there is a debate going on about use of technology versus sustainability. As an engineering institute, we have been doing a lot of research about green energy and this is an attempt to start the green initiative on our campus," she said.

Apart from this, LDCE has also roped in its builder-alumni to transform their existing buildings into 'green buildings'. Samir Sinha, LD alumnus and chairman of Indian Green Building Council, Gujarat chapter, and the MD of Savvy Group, said they have commenced the audit



LDCE has roped in builders who are part of the alumni



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-Rajul Gajjar, Principal LDCE



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-Sameer Sinha, MD, Savvy Group, and LD alumnus

of the buildings and green features of the campus. "LDCE has several green features already but they need to upgrade it. As part of the audit, we have checked measures that need to be taken for the college to be eligible for a

green building certification from Indian Green Building Council. What is interesting is that the majority of the buildings comply with the green-building criteria and may just need an upgrade," he said.