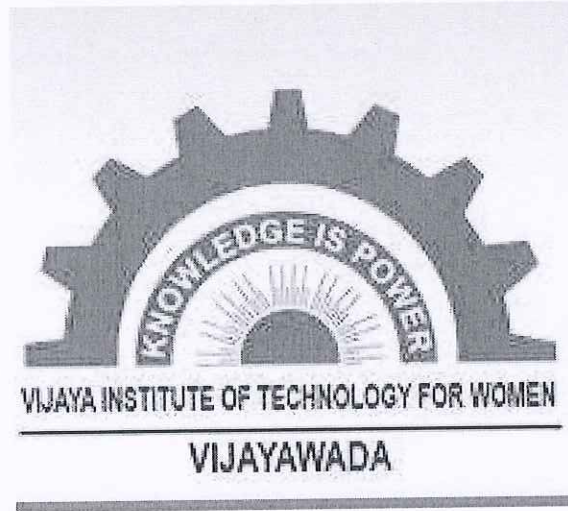


# Sustainable Living Inc



## Green Landscape Audit

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PRINCIPAL  
VIJAYA INSTITUTE OF  
TECHNOLOGY FOR WOMEN  
ENIKEPADU, VIJAYAWADA-521, 103

# Acknowledgment

Sustainable Living Inc

**Hiran Prashanth**  
Environmental Sustainability Auditor

17 June 2022

## Green Landscape Audit

The Sustainable Living Inc acknowledges with thanks the cooperation extended to our team for completing the study at Vijaya Institute of Technology for Women (VITW).

The interactions and deliberations with VITW team were exemplary and the whole exercise was thoroughly a rewarding experience for us. We deeply appreciate the interest, enthusiasm, and commitment of VITW team towards environmental sustainability.

We are sure that the recommendations presented in this report will be implemented and the VITW team will further improve their environmental performance.

*Kind regards,*

Yours sincerely,  
*Hiran Prashanth*

**Hiran Prashanth**  
Environmental Sustainability Auditor  
Sustainable Living In

  
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## About Auditor

Hiran Prashanth is a sustainability consultant based in London. He has over 13 years of experience in climate change and environmental sustainability. He was working with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) before moving to London to pursue a master's degree at King's College, London.

Hiran Prashanth was awarded the 'Best Sustainability Assessor' by the Honorable Minister for HRD, Mr. Prakash Javadekar. Hiran Prashanth is a CII certified carbon footprint expert and a resource efficiency expert. He has trained more than 1000 industry personnel across the world on climate change and sustainability. He is a guest faculty at IIM Lucknow and SIBM, Pune. His credentials can be found on [Hiran Prashanth | LinkedIn](#). Sustainable Living Inc provides services on carbon footprint, energy audit, resource management and embodied carbon.

# Executive Summary

The growth of countries across the world is leading to increased consumption of natural resources. There is an urgent need to establish environmental sustainability in every activity we do. In a modern economy, environmental sustainability will play a critical role in the very existence of an organization.

An educational institution is no different. Built environment, especially an educational institution, has a considerable footprint on the environment. Impact on the environment due to energy consumption, water usage and waste generation in an educational institute is prominent. Therefore, there is an imminent need to reduce the overall environmental footprint of the institution.

As an Institution of higher learning, Vijaya Institute of Technology for Women (VITW) firmly believes that there is an urgent need to address the environmental challenges and improve their environmental footprint.

True to its belief, VITW maintains an excellent landscaping in its campus. The whole campus is lush green, and trees are seen everywhere around the campus. Sustainable Living Inc congratulates the VITW team for their wonderful efforts to create a truly green campus.

Based on the data submitted by VITW team, following improvement opportunities have been identified in the campus in terms of landscaping:

- Implement ecosystem restoration by development of theme gardens in unused areas of the campus
- Develop green corridors between existing areas in the campus
- Develop natural areas to encourage bird roosting and nesting in built-up areas
- Increase tree density and canopy cover in the built-up areas by planting more fruit yielding tree



- Conduct regular flora surveys for improving the existing data
- Develop strategies for regular monitoring & prevention of invasive plant species

**By addressing the improvement opportunities, the campus would be able to achieve the following benefits:**

- Identifying & implementation of proper measure for conservation of endangered floral species in the campus
- Reduce the microclimate temperature of the campus by 1-2 degrees which is quite significant
- As many of the species have the capability to absorb contaminants in the air and therefore this would lead to better air quality in the campus
- This can evolve as an excellent educational campus for spreading awareness on biodiversity and benefit the nation at large

# Introduction

## **Urbanisation and its effect on loss of biodiversity**

Urbanization causes biodiversity to decline. As cities grow vital habitat is destroyed or fragmented into patches not big enough to support complex ecological communities. In the city, species may become endangered or even locally extinct as natural areas are swallowed up by the urban jungle.

Ironically, it is urban growth that is often responsible for the introduction of non-native species, either accidentally or deliberately, for food, pets or for aesthetic reasons.

## **Documentation of Flora**

Knowledge on biodiversity of any geographical region is of paramount importance for sustainable management and conservation plans. The foremost task in the conservation process is to prepare an inventory of species. It is necessary to have full knowledge regarding the habit, habitat, distribution and phenology of various plants for their proper conservation.

The documentation of flora will help in identifying, documenting and promoting the conservation of native flora in India. This in turn will help in promoting native species for landscapes as they suit the growing interest in "low-maintenance" gardening and landscaping.

Many species are vigorous & hard and can survive winter, cold and summer heat. These species, once established, can flourish without irrigation or fertilization and are resistant to most pests & diseases.

### **Need for Documentation of Flora**

The knowledge building on significance and importance of various flora existing around us is the need of the hour. Loss of the biodiversity is likely to result in loss of various other taxonomic groups.

### **Serve as a ready reckoner:**

Most of the campuses have huge landscape with diverse floral species. Nevertheless, the availability of information on these species is minimal. Hence, the documentation of the species would serve as an educational material on the details of species existing within the campus

### **Public Visibility:**

Despite having various Biodiversity initiatives in place within the campus most of the campuses lack the visibility of the measures taken in conservation. The study will create awareness & visibility of the campus on various conservation measures implemented to the occupants as well as to the visitors.

Also, the organization will gain visibility globally amongst its shareholders for the positive steps taken towards protecting biodiversity.

### **Conservation of species:**

Due to urbanization most of the floral species are under tremendous pressure. The need of the hour is to conserve and protect these species. The study would help in identifying such species in the campus which need to be conserved.