



## Green Audit – a Step Towards Environmental Sustainability

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Chetna Shelke

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# **Green Audit – A Step towards Environmental Sustainability**

Chetna P. Shelke ,

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Civil Engineering, Guru Nanak Institute of Technology, Nagpur  
Maharashtra, India

## **Abstract**

Several environmental and ecological crises have emerged from fast urbanisation and economic development on a local, regional, and global scale. In light of this, it is vital that the institute adopt the Green Campus concept, which will promote to long-term development. The audit's goal is to ensure that the institution's activities are in line with its environmental policy. Preparation and completion of a questionnaire, physical examination of the campus, observation and review of documentation, key person interviews, data analysis, measurements, and suggestions are all part of the technique. Water conservation, tree planting, waste management, paperless work, alternative energy, and biodiversity mapping are some of the aspects of 'Green Campus' that it works on. Keeping this in mind, the audit's specific objectives are to assess the adequacy of the environmental management control system, as well as the degree to which the Departments are in conformity with applicable rules, policies, and standards. It has the potential to have a significant impact on student health, learning, and the environment in college. The audit's criteria, procedures, and recommendations are all dependent on the risks that have been discovered.

Keywords: Green Audit, Green Campus, environmental policy, biodiversity, environmental management control system.

## **Introduction:**

Green auditing began in the early 1970s with the goal of inspecting the work done within organisations whose activities could endanger the health of residents and the environment. It disproves the veracity of statements made by multinational corporations, armies, and national governments about the dangers of environmental contamination on human health. It is the responsibility of organisations to conduct Green Audits of their ongoing processes for a variety of reasons, including ensuring that they are performing in accordance with relevant rules and

regulations, improving procedures and material capability, analysing potential duties, and determining a way to reduce costs and increase revenue. Green Audit provides instructions on how to improve the state of the environment, and there are several elements that have influenced the rise of Green Audit. Some incidents, such as the Bhopal Gas Tragedy (Bhopal;1984), the Chernobyl Catastrophe (Ukraine;1986), and the Exxon-Valdez Oil Spill (Alaska;1989), have served as a warning to the industries that developing corporate strategies for environmental security elements is meaningless unless they are implemented.

Green Audit is allocated to NAAC's Criteria 7, which is a self-governing Indian organisation that grades institutions as Grade A, Grade B, or Grade C based on the scores assigned at the time of accreditation.

Green Audit's goal is to improve the environment in and around institutes, colleges, businesses, and other organisations. To become a more environmentally friendly institute, it is carried out by executing duties such as trash management, energy conservation, and others.

### **Objective:**

- The goal of doing a Green Audit is to protect the environment and reduce the risks to human health.
- To ensure that laws and regulations are followed.
- To avoid environmental disruptions, which are more difficult to handle and demand a large cost of rectification.
- To recommend the finest practises for contributing to long-term growth

### **Methodology of Green Audit:**

#### **Pre-Audit**

- Plan the audit
- Select the audit team
- Schedule the audit facility
- Acquire the background information
- Visit the site

#### **On-site**

- Understand the scope of audit
- Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of the internal controls
- Conduct the audit
- Evaluate the observations of audit program
- Prepare a report of the observations side by side

### **Post-Audit**

- Produce a draft report of the data collected
- Produce a final report of the observations and the inference with accuracy
- Distribute the final report to the management
- Prepare an action plan to overcome the flaws
- Keep a watch on the action plan

### **Steps under Green Audit:**

- **Water Audit:** Evaluating the raw water intake facilities and determining the water treatment facilities. Water harvesting is one of the most effective strategies for storing water and utilising it when there is a shortage. The concerned auditor researches and implements the most appropriate strategy for balancing water demand and supply.
- **Waste Disposal Audit:** The waste disposal procedures for hazardous materials and recycling are examined. The auditor diagnoses the current waste disposal regulations and recommends the best course of action for resolving the issues.
- **Energy Audit:** It is concerned with energy conservation and ways for reducing energy use and pollution. The auditor looks at the energy-consuming procedures used and determines whether or not they are conserving energy.
- **Environmental Quality Audit:** It examines the air quality, noise levels, and plantation activities performed by the institute. The Green Belt should be preserved in order to minimise pollution by lowering carbon dioxide levels.
- **Health Audit:** It examines workplace illnesses and safety measures implemented by the institutes. Encourage students to appreciate the environment and conserve it via plantations by supporting the college programme. Excessive plantation also aids in the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

- **Using Renewable Energy:** Rain, sunlight, wind, tides, and other replenishable resources should be exploited. These resources are more beneficial because they produce less pollution. The Audit team explains the significance of these resources.
- **Carbon accounting:** It takes on the task of calculating the total amount of carbon dioxide equivalents inhaled by the organisation doing the carbon accounting. It's crucial to understand how much the company contributes to long-term development. The auditor examines the institute's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere and make the campus more environmentally friendly.

### **Benefits of Green Audit:**

- It would aid in environmental protection.
- Recognize cost-cutting strategies such as waste minimization and management.
- Point out the prevailing and forthcoming complications
- Authenticate conformity with the implemented laws
- Empower the organizations to frame a better environmental performance
- It portrays a good image of a company which helps building better relationships with the group of stakeholders Enhance the alertness for environmental guidelines and duties
- There are numerous benefits that may be derived from Green Audit if it is implemented well.

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