

**Azmia Riaz** finds out how Rajagiri College of Social Sciences has managed to walk the talk when it comes to promoting sustainability on campus

# ENGINEERING A GREEN CAMPUS

If you see a student of **Rajagiri College of Social Sciences** on the first metro train of the day, it's not because they missed their college bus, it's because they

don't have one! The first autonomous college in Kerala to be fully powered by solar energy, the institute is on its way to set a number of records when it comes to walking the talk on sustainability. The best part is that their campaign was launched before educational institutes got the memo that climate change needed to be taken seriously.

Dr Binoy Joseph, the Principal of the college says, "All our power requirements are met through solar energy. More than 7 lakh litres of the college's drinking water requirement is sourced through natural rainfall. We also have in-house sewage treatment where we reuse the water for flushing toilets and the rest is for gardening purposes." Through their latest programme, the institute has brought into action a number of green initiatives through student groups.

While the average carbon footprint is 120 per cent, the in-

“

Wherever it is possible, our motto is to reuse, recycle and reduce waste  
**Dr Binoy Joseph,**  
Principal

stitute has been able to bring their down to 38 per cent. They regularly conduct green audits overseen by government-authorised bodies. They also have glass crushers and plastic shredders which recycle the waste into tar and cement which help build the roads for the campus.

Thomas MT, Executive Director of Renq, an organisation that supports sustainable engineering says, "When the institute approached us with the work, the question was about how we would be able to redesign and reset the campus with minimal disruption to student life. We have basically created a futuristic model of sustainability with minimal structural changes. One thing we kept in mind were probabilities and changes that might come up in the future. It has been set up to accommodate any future additions to their architecture."

## Partnering with 5 villages in Ernakulam

- Young Indian: Newspaper collection and recycling
- ENCON Club
- Rajagiri outREACH
- Awareness sessions to local communities and schools
- Suchitwa Bodhana Vajnam

## Lab to Land Initiatives

- Biotech Research Lab
- Training to Kudumbashrees
- Hands-on Training
- Mushroom farming and cake making
- Environmental awareness trips to Mangalavanam



Reach Out: [rajagiri.edu](http://rajagiri.edu)

