

Green infrastructures and development in the frame of sustainability

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Abstract

The term "Green" is used to describe something that is ecological and environment friendly, thus it can easily be connected to infrastructures, both social and economic, even to construction. Every country and every citizen, who is an active member of the society, must encourage "Green Infrastructures" and "Green Business" in order to promote development, reduce social inequality, reduce the impact of climate change and the degradation environment, better manage the problems of expanded scarcity of raw materials to secure funding that will yield long-term gains and meet the continuous pressure caused by the population growth that has led to the rise of consumerism.

Infrastructure could be green if the main purpose were sustainability, rather than the satisfaction of needs in any means (and many times against environment). Clearly, a green infrastructure appears to be more expensive but if one takes into account the environmental impact of conventional infrastructure costs, rehabilitation and other adverse conditions; they are cheaper in the long run.

Actions for the protection of environmental assets have been always held, but in the last two decades significant steps have been made in the field of industry, such as studies on solid waste management, which are generated during the process of production and their utilization. This results in the reuse of certain materials and the production of a quantity of energy that can be reused in the production. With this method, an industry saves an undisclosed amount of money from its own waste.

During the last decade, research and technology concerning the protection of the environment and its proper use showed rapid development globally and hence in our country. Apart from private companies, which aim to create products and services, educational institutions are working on new methods and techniques on financial and eco-"Green" environmental management. Alexander Technological Institute of Thessaloniki has established the Environment Committee, which deals with the use of proper techniques and know-how for the appropriate environmental study and the provision of the appropriate information to students and the state in general in the frame of "Green University".

Key words: green infrastructures, sustainability, green universities

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