

IIM-A Chaos gets green tag, earns carbon credits

Vasundhara Vyas Mehta / TNN

Ahmedabad: There is another reason to cheer about Chaos, recently-concluded annual cultural festival of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A). The event reduced its carbon footprint as compared to its earlier editions and earned carbon credits for the institution.

GreenTech Club, a special interest group of students at the IIM-A, took up the project to make the four-day cultural fiesta, a green event.

They calculated the carbon emissions based on modes of travel used by participants and students, electricity, water and fuel consumed while on campus and concluded that close to 50 tonne of carbon was emitted during the four-day festival.

These were traded for 50 voluntary carbon units (VCU), thus neutralising the emissions with the help of General Carbon, advisor and investor across the carbon value chain, based in Mumbai.

Professor Amit Garg said that the VCU certificates that neutralised carbon emissions of IIM-A are of Bundled Wind Power Project in Tamil Nadu. This essentially means that the possessor of these certificates, erases their carbon footprint by supporting the green initiative by this TN firm.

Nitin Sharma, the student co-ordinator of GreenTech Club said, "When we decided to take up the initiative to turn Chaos green, we had four things in mind; counting, minimising and compensating carbon foot prints and finally spreading awareness to the gathering of thousands of youth."

The carbon emission was calculated not only of the student participants but also of the guest performer who were invited for the cultural performance like Pandit Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, singers Sonu Niigaam, Kavita Sheth and other.

Ram Babu, chief executive officer of General Carbon, said, "Keeping with India's commitment communicated to UNFCCC recently to reduce GDP intensity by 25 per cent by 2020 from 2005, all responsible institutions may take steps to reduce footprint of their activities such as the one done by IIM-A."

The initiative of the students was also supported by the Gujarat state forest department and Geer foundation. Also youth organisation 'No2CO2', which helped the calculation of carbon foot prints, also conducted workshops for participants making them pledge that they would control the carbon emissions when they enter the corporate world, which tends to increase many folds.



File photo of students at Chaos

