

Why Green Warehousing Is the Way Forward

The journey to “green warehousing” in India has begun. Responsibility and commitment towards this paradigm shift are an absolute must for all stakeholders.

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ESG adoption and implementation globally and in India is in full swing. Countries, corporates and individuals are increasingly cognizant of their responsibilities. As per IEA 2020 review report, the Indian transport sector is responsible for 13.5% of CO2 emissions.

The discussions and investments in the electrification of the freight movement, be it EVs, or alternative fuels such as biofuels, Hydrogen, etc., are witnessing substantial traction both in public and private domains. However, if we wish to implement a ‘Green Supply Chain’, then warehousing needs to be focused upon both by manufacturers as well as warehouse services providers.

Historically, warehousing in India has been highly fragmented, with non-standardized design and construction norms, low cost, and a lack of a local ecosystem. The last five years have seen a definite shift in the trends. Newer construction materials and designs have seen an upheaval, primarily focusing on safety and green practices.

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Green and sustainable warehousing involves integrating and executing eco-friendly practices to reduce a warehouse’s power consumption, electricity costs, carbon footprint, and greenhouse gases. In addition, it also consists of the implementation of systems, tools, and devices along with technological integrations, viz.

- Usage of green materials for the development of modern warehouses, a pollution-free environment



- Use of LED lighting & HVLS fans to regulate temperature
- Cool roofing of warehouses (light-coloured reflective materials) & Solar Power Panels
- Good drainage system (waste-water treatment plants & rainwater harvesting)
- Energy efficient windows, Aluminium weather Resistant Insulated Access Panel. Aluminium panels help regulate indoor temperature and prevent moisture and pests from entering.
- Recycling & landscaping.

With warehousing on the periphery of growing more prominent in India, government and industry bodies too are collectively taking measures towards achieving India's net zero targets by 2070; therefore, certification of 'green warehouses' is the need of the hour.

ASSOCHAM, through its GEM program, the Green and Eco-Friendly Movement, is a certified sustainability rating programme for new and existing prestigious Government and Private projects, including residential,

commercial, healthcare, warehouses, smart campuses, universities, schools, airports, and railway station buildings. It focuses on the built environment and has been successfully running for five years with more than hundreds of registered projects in India. It is supported by many architects, architects, planners, MEP designers, green building and environment consultants, educationists, and professionals from India.

The programme has also trained more than 1500+ certified green building auditors and professionals. GEM has active chapters in 11 states in India. GEM has signed 14+ MoUs with leading organizations in the building industry, such as NAREDCO, CSIR-NEERI, TERRE, IIA, ISHRAE, FSAI, ISLE, IAQA, ASHRAE, GACS, SHF, SESI etc., 100+ MoUs with Educational Institutes. It has been recognized by five states for availing state incentives.

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