

**US *Chronicle of Higher Education* features AUB's pioneering green role in the region  
Wednesday, September 8, 2010**

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* recently featured the American University of Beirut (AUB) in two articles promoting sustainable concepts pioneered by the University in Lebanon.

An August 10 article entitled "A Green Project in Lebanon: AUB's Environmental Efforts Mark a Rare Example of

Sustainability in the Region" highlighted AUB's determination for keeping its campus green, environmentally-friendly, and sustainable, despite increasing demand for developing prime real-estate such as that of the campus.

The *Chronicle* quotes Mohammad Tassi, a project manager at the University, saying: "We're sending a big message. [AUB] land that's worth hundreds of millions of dollars, we're not allowed to touch."

Moreover the article described how one of the latest additions to campus, the Charles Hostler Student Center, was designed in such a way as to optimize light and heat transfer solutions that create well-lit spaces that are also energy-efficient.

The *Chronicle* also quoted AUB Professor Jala Makhzoumi on how a green and sustainable campus could set an example for all students and staffers to adopt environmentally-friendly practices in their own lives. "We want this to be a living campus. You become more sensitive to nature and the environment when you're living in a surrounding like this—it becomes a culture," Makhzoumi told the *Chronicle*.

"Amid Beirut's urban sprawl, the American University of Beirut has the largest green space in the city and is a model for the country's environmental activists and even some building developers," said the article. It added: "The University is starting to see returns on that investment on its campus as well. More students are pursuing projects in environmental sustainability than in previous years, local developers regularly visit to get ideas for their own projects, and, of course, the university is also saving money on energy costs. The institution estimates it will save \$350,000 on water and energy costs."



AUB offers several degree programs in environmental and sustainability topics. They include the Interfaculty Graduate Environmental Science program which combines various disciplines and other programs in eco-system management, environmental health, and civil and environmental engineering.

Two days earlier on August 8, 2010, the *Chronicle* also featured an interview with AUB Professor Rami Zurayk on slow food, which involves promoting local, traditional, and healthy cuisine while promoting fair trade.

Entitled "In Beirut, a Professor of Agriculture Advocates 'Slow Food'," the article highlighted the growing slow food movement in Lebanon, noting that AUB promotes sustainability and healthy eating on campus and in the classroom.