



Angeles Torrejón / Imagenlatina.

*UNAM has undertaken a series of measures to contribute to cleaning up the Valley of Mexico.*

### **Environmental measures implemented at UNAM**

The National University of Mexico began to implement part of its Ecological Improvement program in April, as a means of bettering the quality of life for university students. This program, the result of a year's planning, aims to recover the campus' green areas, recycle sewage water, save energy, and improve sanitary and road services. A description of the different phases is given below:

*Energy saving and end-use efficiency.* Energy consumption will be reduced 60% through the use of time switches and artificial lighting systems.

*Solid waste management.* Deposit stations will be set up for waste separation, collection, selection and transportation. Biodegradable waste will be converted into fertilizer for the green areas by a composting plant that will also handle the sludge generated from the treatment of sewage water and organic garden waste.

*Continuous improvement of green areas.* This will contribute to environmental recovery through the control of 75% of the eucalyptuses and their gradual substitution by more appropriate species, since these trees consume 130 gallons of water per month, displacing local species and killing 90% of the insects. They will be replaced by Mexican ash, jacaranda, pine and plants that thrive on stony ground, such as caucaseas.

*Water management.* Water consumption will be reduced and leakages avoided, while the surplus from treated waters will be filtered and stored and rainwater channelled into crevices and absorption wells to feed the subsoil.

*Improvement of road services and pedestrian safety.* This will include the BICI-UNAM program, involving 450 bicycles that will be rented to students for campus use, an increase in the number of road and pedestrian signs, construction of bus-stop bays for minibuses and the launching of an electric car in October.

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