As an important part of the services offered by The Engineering Groupe, [industrial engineering](http://www.enggroupe.com/projects_industrial.htm) is an area that requires us to stay on top of recent trends. Industrial engineers incorporate a wide range of knowledge as they analyze existing systems in order to create optimized versions that make the best use of resources without affecting the service delivered or product created.

**Today’s Trends**

Three current trends in this engineering specialty include lowering energy consumption, minimizing environmental impact, and a greater focus on automation.

1. **Lowering energy consumption:** Energy consumption is important to every type of business and almost every individual as the costs of energy continue to rise. Industrial engineers look for ways to allow systems to reduce the energy wasted by operating at certain times of the day and smarter building design.
2. **Minimizing environmental impact:** While reducing energy can also be considered a way of reducing environmental impact, this is such an important trend that it deserves attention in its own right. Facilities that incorporate natural ventilation and are designed to be more inviting to those who walk or bike and keep the energy use as low as possible.
3. **Focus on automation:** Finally, improved technology is bringing automation into almost every industrial engineering project in some way, as it helps to lower costs without affecting quality.

These trends toward “greener” living and reducing our environmental footprint can be seen in many areas of our lives today, and industrial engineering is no different.  However, one thing we know for sure is that the future will continue to usher in changes and engineers will seek better ways to adapt.