

A Climate Action Plan by the RISE Center at UPES

Our Commitment to Climate Action

The **RISE (Research, Impact, Sustainability, and ESG) Center** at UPES is a premier hub dedicated to advancing solutions for today's most pressing challenges. As a university in the ecologically vital Himalayan region, we have a profound responsibility to lead the charge against climate change. This Climate Action Plan (CAP) is our commitment in action—a core initiative of our **Sustainability Projects** pillar.

Grounded in a meticulous analysis of our university's carbon footprint (a baseline of **8,271 tCO₂e**), this roadmap outlines a clear, data-driven path forward. It is our blueprint for transforming the UPES campus into a **Sustainability Living Lab**, where we will develop, test, and scale solutions for a low-carbon future.

Our core objectives are both ambitious and achievable:

- **2030 Horizon:** Achieve a **20-25% reduction in total GHG emissions** from our FY 2024-25 baseline.
- **Ultimate Goal:** **Attain Net-Zero emissions by 2060**, positioning UPES a full decade ahead of India's national target.

Aligning with India's Vision, Leading from the Himalayas

This plan is proudly aligned with India's national climate commitments, including the "Panchamrit" goals and the 2070 Net-Zero target. We see ourselves not just as followers of this national agenda, but as contributors and innovators, developing regional solutions that support India's journey towards a sustainable future.

Our Starting Point: Data-Driven Targets

Effective action begins with accurate measurement. Our strategy is built upon a detailed understanding of our emissions profile.

Emissions Baseline (FY 2024-25):

- **Total Emissions:** 8,271 tCO₂e
- **Primary Sources:**
 - Scope 2 (Purchased Electricity): 55.3%
 - Scope 3 (Commutes, Procurement, etc.): 40.7%
 - Scope 1 (Direct Fuel Use, etc.): 4.0%

Our Strategic Targets:

- **2030 GHG Reduction:** 20-25% decrease in absolute emissions.
- **2060 Net-Zero:** Achieve carbon neutrality.
- **2030 Renewable Energy:** Source 30-40% of our electricity from clean, renewable sources.

Our Blueprint for Action: A Phased Approach to Net-Zero

The following initiatives are derived from the quantified reduction potentials identified in our GHG Emissions Report.

Phase 1: Foundational Actions (2025-2027)

Our immediate focus is on high-impact, readily implementable solutions that build momentum.

Action ID	Initiative Description	Primary Scope	Estimated Reduction (tCO ₂ e/year)
S1-A	Replace LPG with biogenic fuels (biogas, bio-CNG).	Scope 1	96
S1-B	Electrify campus-owned service and utility vehicles.	Scope 1	8.52
S1-C	Implement anaerobic digestion for organic waste to displace LPG use.	Scope 1, 3	2.8
S1-D	Replace remaining HFC-based fire suppression systems with clean agents (FK-5-1-12).	Scope 1	2.68
S2-A	Upgrade lighting & HVAC systems with smart controls and higher efficiency units.	Scope 2	180 - 275
G-A	Institutionalize annual GHG reporting and establish an internal carbon pricing pilot program.	Foundational	-

Phase 2: Scaling Up Solutions (2027-2030)

In the medium term, we will scale up our investments in renewable technology and sustainable systems.

Action ID	Initiative Description	Primary Scope	Estimated Reduction (tCO ₂ e/year)
S2-B	Expand rooftop solar PV capacity from 100kW to 300-400kW.	Scope 2	700 - 930
S3-A	Implement a sustainable procurement policy with vendor sustainability scorecards.	Scope 3	85 - 130
G-B	Strengthen Scope 3 data tracking for leased assets, cloud computing, and other sources.	Foundational	-

Phase 3: Achieving Net-Zero (2030 Onwards)

Our long-term strategy focuses on systemic changes and neutralizing the final portion of our emissions.

Action ID	Initiative Description	Primary Scope	Estimated Reduction (tCO ₂ e/year)
S3-B	Develop and promote greener commute programs (enhanced public transport, telework policies).	Scope 3	145 - 180
S2-C	Procure off-site renewable energy through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) or Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).	Scope 2	85+ (Scalable)
G-C	Invest in verified nature-based offsets (e.g., regional afforestation) to neutralize residual, hard-to-abate emissions and achieve the Net-Zero target.	All Scopes	Scalable

Driving Accountability: The RISE Center's Role

A permanent **Climate Action Task Force**, comprising members from senior leadership, academic departments, operations, and the student body, will guide this plan. The RISE Center is central to this mission, providing technical expertise and driving progress through our three pillars:

- **Sustainability Projects:** We lead the annual GHG reporting, manage the implementation of this CAP, and are developing a live **Green Dashboard** to track our progress transparently.
- **Environment Education:** We integrate the goals of this plan into our university courses and executive programs, training the next generation of Chief Impact Officers and sustainability leaders.
- **Aspire Circle Fellowship:** We nurture visionary leaders who will champion and expand upon this climate action work within their future industries and communities.

Join the Movement: Engage with RISE

This plan is a call to action for our entire community. The RISE Center is your hub for getting involved:

- **Students:** Join a sustainability project, participate in an innovation challenge, or apply for the Aspire Circle Fellowship to become a leader in the field.
- **Faculty:** Partner with us on cutting-edge climate research, from agentic AI for sustainability to SDG mapping, and integrate this CAP into your curriculum.
- **Partners:** Collaborate with us to pilot new technologies on our campus and develop scalable solutions in our Sustainability Living Lab.