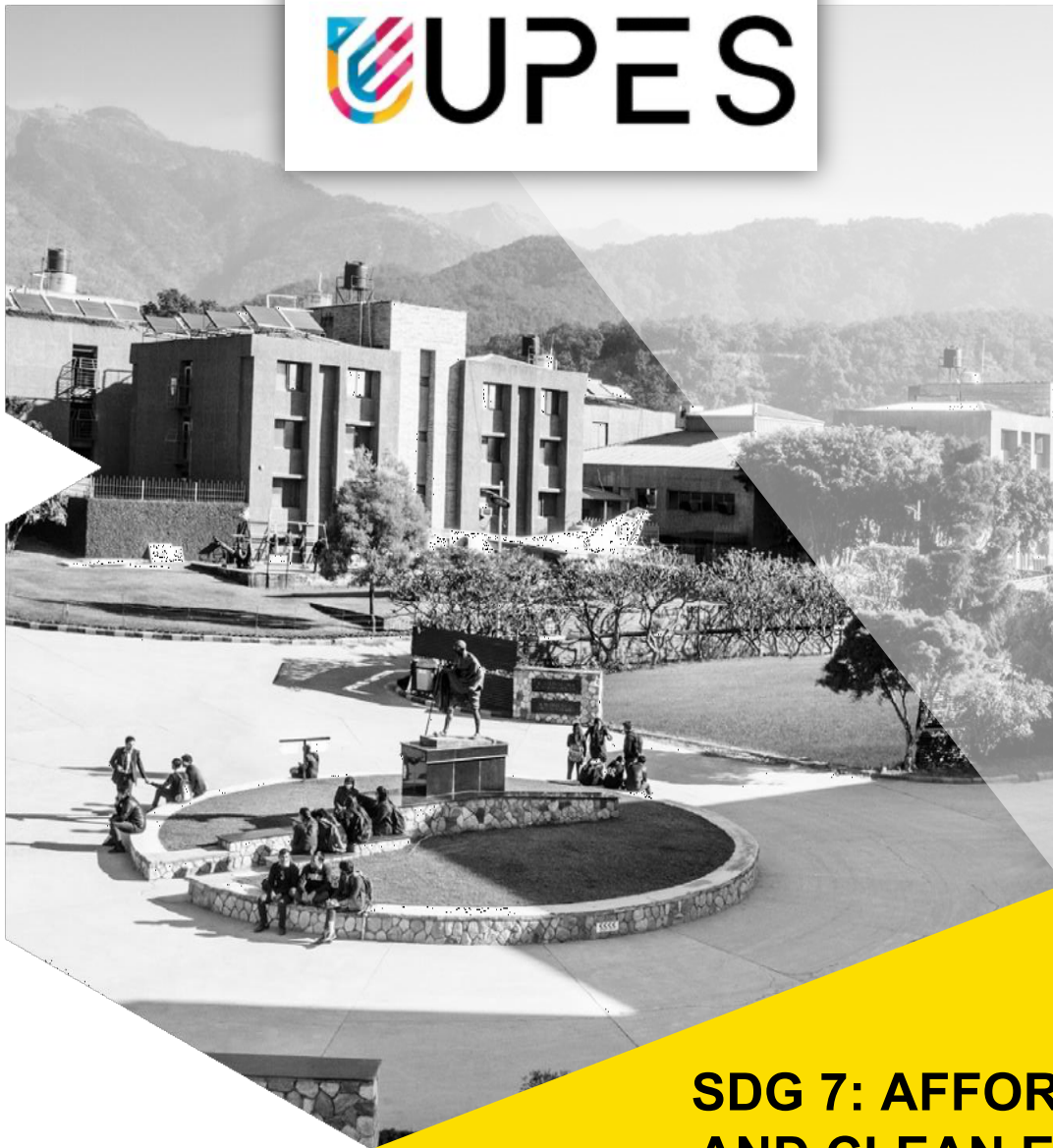




# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

2025

## Table of Contents

UPES: Fossil Fuel Divestment Policies and Sustainability Initiatives .....	3
<b>Sustainable Investment Policy and ESG Commitments</b> .....	3
<b>Alignment with Renewable Energy and Green Finance</b> .....	3
<b>Participation in Divestment Campaigns or Climate Networks</b> .....	4
<b>Campus Sustainability Initiatives and Advocacy</b> .....	5
<b>Administrative Stance and Climate Commitments</b> .....	6

## UPES: Fossil Fuel Divestment Policies and Sustainability Initiatives

### **Sustainable Investment Policy and ESG Commitments**

The University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) has articulated a **Sustainable Investment Policy** that integrates environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria into its financial decisions. This policy signals UPES's commitment to aligning its investments with sustainability goals. It explicitly prioritizes funding in **low-carbon and clean energy sectors** – for example, it favors companies/projects in renewable energy, clean technology, energy efficiency, and climate resilience, while aiming to minimize the carbon intensity of its portfolio [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). In practice, this means UPES seeks to **steer its investments away from carbon-intensive industries** in favor of greener alternatives. The policy does not outright ban investments in fossil fuel companies by name, but its emphasis on reducing environmental footprint and **considering carbon intensity** implies a shift **away from coal, oil, and other high-emission assets** [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). It also embeds social equity and ethical governance standards, ensuring that funded entities uphold human rights, community development, and transparent, accountable management [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in).

Under this ESG-oriented framework, UPES manages financial risk by accounting for climate and sustainability factors. The university recognizes that ESG issues can materially impact investment performance and risk exposure, so it **integrates ESG considerations into risk management processes** [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). Due diligence for new investments includes assessing the sustainability and resilience of companies – effectively scrutinizing their environmental impact and long-term viability in a low-carbon future [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). UPES also commits to **ongoing portfolio reviews** to ensure its holdings remain aligned with its sustainability values [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). If an investment no longer meets UPES's ESG criteria (for instance, if a company's operations become too carbon-intensive or socially irresponsible), the policy would guide re-evaluation or potential divestment of that asset. Implementation steps outlined by the university include establishing clear ESG evaluation guidelines, engaging with fund managers to apply these criteria, and reporting regularly on sustainable investment outcomes [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in) [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). This policy, highlighted on UPES's website as a “**divestment policy**” under its Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 7 initiatives, demonstrates a formal commitment to responsible investment and can be seen as the university's roadmap for gradually **divesting from unsustainable, high-carbon industries in favor of ethical, climate-friendly investments** [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in) [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in).

### **Alignment with Renewable Energy and Green Finance**

Beyond its investment portfolio, UPES actively aligns its academic programs, research, and partnerships with the renewable energy transition and green finance principles. As an energy-focused institution, it has diversified from its petroleum roots into **renewable energy education and research**. The university offers dedicated programs in clean energy and sustainability – for example, degrees like *MBA (Power Management – Green Energy & Transition to Sustainability)*, *M.Tech in Renewable Energy*, *B.Tech in Clean Energy Technologies*, and *BBA in Green Energy and Sustainability* [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). These curricula prepare students to work in solar, wind, hydroelectric, and other sustainable sectors, reflecting UPES's

commitment to fueling the renewable energy workforce rather than the fossil fuel industry. In parallel, UPES hosts research centers such as the Centre for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability Studies (CEESS), which conducts multidisciplinary research on energy economics, climate change policy, and sustainable development. CEESS works on policy proposals aligned with India's environmental goals, indicating faculty engagement in advancing clean-energy solutions and advising on reducing reliance on fossil fuels at the policy level [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in) [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in).

UPES has also forged **strategic partnerships** to promote sustainability and green innovation:

- **Policy Collaboration:** The university signed an MoU with the Government of India's *NITI Aayog* to jointly develop energy efficiency strategies and study the integration of renewables into the power grid [newsvoir.com](https://newsvoir.com) [newsvoir.com](https://newsvoir.com). Through this partnership, UPES provides research input on clean coal technology implications and high renewable-energy penetration – work that directly supports national efforts to curb reliance on conventional coal/oil power [newsvoir.com](https://newsvoir.com) [newsvoir.com](https://newsvoir.com). This suggests an institutional alignment with broader climate finance and policy frameworks, even if not a divestment campaign per se.
- **Industry Collaboration:** In 2024, UPES entered a *green technology* partnership with **Organic Recycling Systems**, focusing on joint research in material science, sustainability, and renewable energy engineering [jmfinancialservices.in](https://jmfinancialservices.in). Such collaborations indicate UPES's investment in the **circular economy and clean energy innovations**, potentially steering research funding and attention toward sustainable industries instead of fossil-fuel technologies.
- **Campus Infrastructure:** The university has made tangible investments in renewable infrastructure on campus. UPES installed a **100 kW solar power plant**, which now supplies roughly 8% of the campus's electricity demand, reducing dependence on grid power from non-renewable sources [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in). This not only lowers the university's carbon footprint but also serves as a training and R&D platform for students. Projects like a student-built electric campus vehicle ("U-BAHN" electric cart) and a **solar tree** prototype on campus further exemplify UPES's orientation toward cleaner alternatives over oil-powered mobility [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in) [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in). In essence, the university is partnering, investing, and innovating in ways that dovetail with a renewable energy future, indirectly supporting the logic of divestment by putting resources into sustainable avenues.

Moreover, UPES's parent network (Global University Systems) and affiliated initiatives emphasize sustainability and green finance. For instance, UPES recently helped launch an **ESG and Impact Finance education program** in collaboration with Mahindra University and Aspire Impact, aimed at training executives to lead organizations toward net-zero and circular economy goals [outlookbusiness.com](https://outlookbusiness.com) [outlookbusiness.com](https://outlookbusiness.com). By engaging in such initiatives, UPES aligns itself with the emerging climate finance ecosystem – focusing on responsible investment and leadership for decarbonization – even though it has not publicized any *activist* stance like pledging against specific fossil-fuel holdings.

## Participation in Divestment Campaigns or Climate Networks

While UPES clearly incorporates sustainability into its strategy, we found **no evidence that it is formally part of any global fossil fuel divestment campaign or pledge** (such as those seen in some Western universities' endowment movements). The university has not announced joining initiatives like Fossil Free or climate-specific finance networks targeting divestment from coal and oil companies. Its approach appears to be internally driven through ESG policy and educational commitments, rather than through external activist coalitions.

That said, UPES does engage with broader climate and sustainability networks in other ways. The institution is **deeply involved in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** framework – as seen by its detailed SDG reports and on-campus SDG programs – and it collaborates with entities like the UN Development Programme and India's Department of Science & Technology on community resilience and climate innovation forums [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in). UPES's **RISE Center** (Research on Impact, Sustainability, and ESG) further connects it to global conversations on sustainability. The RISE Center's mission is to develop solutions for challenges like climate change and carbon neutrality, and it sets targets such as achieving a *Net Zero Carbon Campus by 2030* [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in). While not an activist network, this center acts as a hub linking UPES to international best practices in climate action and responsible investment research.

In summary, **UPES has not publicly joined any international “fossil-free” divestment consortium**, nor issued a specific statement renouncing investments in coal and oil companies beyond its own ESG policy. Its participation in climate finance tends to be through academic and policy collaborations (e.g. advising government on energy transition) rather than campaign-oriented divestment pledges. This could represent a gap in outward commitment – compared to some universities that have made headline promises to purge fossil fuel stocks – but UPES instead shows its commitment via internal policy shifts and partnerships that inherently favor sustainable energy progress.

## Campus Sustainability Initiatives and Advocacy

On campus, **student and faculty-led initiatives at UPES promote sustainability**, though they have not explicitly taken the form of protests demanding fossil fuel divestment. UPES's culture of environmental consciousness is evident through student clubs and projects. Notably, the *Green Up Club* – a student-driven environmental club – engages the campus community in eco-awareness campaigns and activities. The Green Up Club regularly hosts events and social media campaigns highlighting issues like air pollution, climate change, and renewable energy solutions [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in). For instance, the club has shared information on the health effects of air pollution and advocated for reducing emissions (e.g. via posts tagged with **#RenewableEnergy** as the future) to sensitize peers about moving away from fossil-fuel dependency [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in). These grassroots efforts indicate that students are voicing support for cleaner energy and could indirectly pressure the institution to align investments accordingly, even if they aren't framing it explicitly as a divestment demand.

Faculty and researchers at UPES likewise contribute to climate action advocacy through academic avenues. The CEESS research center (mentioned earlier) produces studies on sustainable development and climate policy, effectively giving faculty a platform to advocate for reduced reliance on carbon-intensive energy at policy forums [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in). Additionally, the university's School of Engineering hosted a **“Sustainability Fair 2022”** – a four-day event focusing on safe and sustainable cities, which involved workshops, panel discussions, and exhibitions of green innovations [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in). Such events often feature student and faculty



projects that champion renewable energy and energy efficiency (for example, showcasing the electric vehicle and solar tech developed by students). While these are not overt protests, they represent a form of **campus activism through innovation**, aligning the university's community with climate solutions rather than fossil industry promotion.

It's important to note that no record was found of UPES students petitioning the administration specifically to divest the university's funds from coal or oil companies (a form of activism seen on some campuses abroad). The absence of a known student divestment campaign might be due to UPES's industry-specific context (as a university historically tied to the petroleum and energy sector). However, the **student body has demonstrated concern for sustainability in other ways**, working on practical solutions and awareness rather than confrontation. If anything, their projects – from solar installations to research on energy efficiency – echo the spirit of divestment by actively focusing on alternatives to fossil fuels. This collaborative, project-based approach complements the formal policies, creating a campus ethos that supports the transition to clean energy.

## Administrative Stance and Climate Commitments

UPES's leadership has publicly affirmed the importance of sustainability and ethical considerations, though without explicitly using the term "divestment" in statements. The administration's stance is reflected in both policy and proclamations of future goals. For example, the Vice Chancellor, Dr. Ram Sharma, highlighted UPES's commitment to sustainability and impact in an interview, noting the university's role in launching programs to **train the next generation of leaders in achieving Net Zero transitions and carbon neutrality** [theearthuniverse.com](https://theearthuniverse.com). In 2024, UPES announced an executive education program on ESG and sustainability (in partnership with Aspire Impact and Mahindra University) to equip professionals with skills for guiding organizations toward net-zero emissions and circular economy practices [outlookbusiness.com](https://outlookbusiness.com). These moves, endorsed by the administration, underscore an ethical investment in human capital for a post-fossil-fuel era. They signal that university leaders view climate change and sustainability as strategic priorities, effectively aligning institutional values away from traditional fossil fuel paradigms.

Moreover, UPES has made a **public climate commitment for its own operations**: it aims to become a *carbon-neutral university by 2030*. This goal is prominently featured in the university's climate action plan and RISE Center initiatives [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in). Achieving carbon neutrality on campus involves reducing and offsetting greenhouse gas emissions – implying shifts to 100% renewable energy, improving energy efficiency, and likely eliminating on-campus use of coal or diesel generators. Such a target demonstrates the governing body's resolve to reduce reliance on fossil fuels within university facilities and energy procurement. While this is an operational commitment (not directly an investment policy), it complements the divestment discussion by showing UPES's willingness to lead by example in cutting carbon out of its footprint.

In terms of **governance and ethical investment oversight**, UPES's trustees/management have not issued separate press releases solely about divesting from fossil industries. However, by instituting the Sustainable Investment Policy, they have made a de facto statement. The conclusion of that policy explicitly "reaffirms [UPES's] commitment to responsible investing and sustainability leadership," asserting that integrating ESG not only yields financial benefits but also "contributes to positive social and environmental outcomes" [upes.ac.in](https://upes.ac.in). This reflects an ethical stance: that the university's money should work towards societal good (e.g. clean

energy, community development) and not just profit. Indirectly, this positions the university against investments that cause harm, which would include the most carbon-intensive fossil fuel enterprises if they fail to meet sustainability criteria.

Finally, the absence of a direct, public fossil divestment declaration can itself be noteworthy. UPES was founded as a petroleum university, so a formal renouncement of fossil fuel investments might be sensitive. Instead, the administration appears to be **transitioning pragmatically** – emphasizing renewables, embedding ESG in finance, and joining climate-friendly initiatives – without overtly castigating the fossil fuel industry. They have frequently spoken about climate change as a pressing challenge and the need for innovation in energy. For instance, through their collaborations and statements, UPES leaders acknowledge that **the future of energy lies in sustainability rather than in coal and oil**, aligning the university with India's and the world's climate objectives [newsvoir.com](https://newsvoir.com) [theCSRUniverse.com](https://theCSRUniverse.com). In summary, while UPES hasn't formally announced "we are divesting from fossil fuels," its policies, partnerships, and public commitments all trend toward **reducing dependence on carbon-intensive industries and championing a clean-energy transition**, fulfilling many of the goals that a fossil fuel divestment policy would seek to achieve.