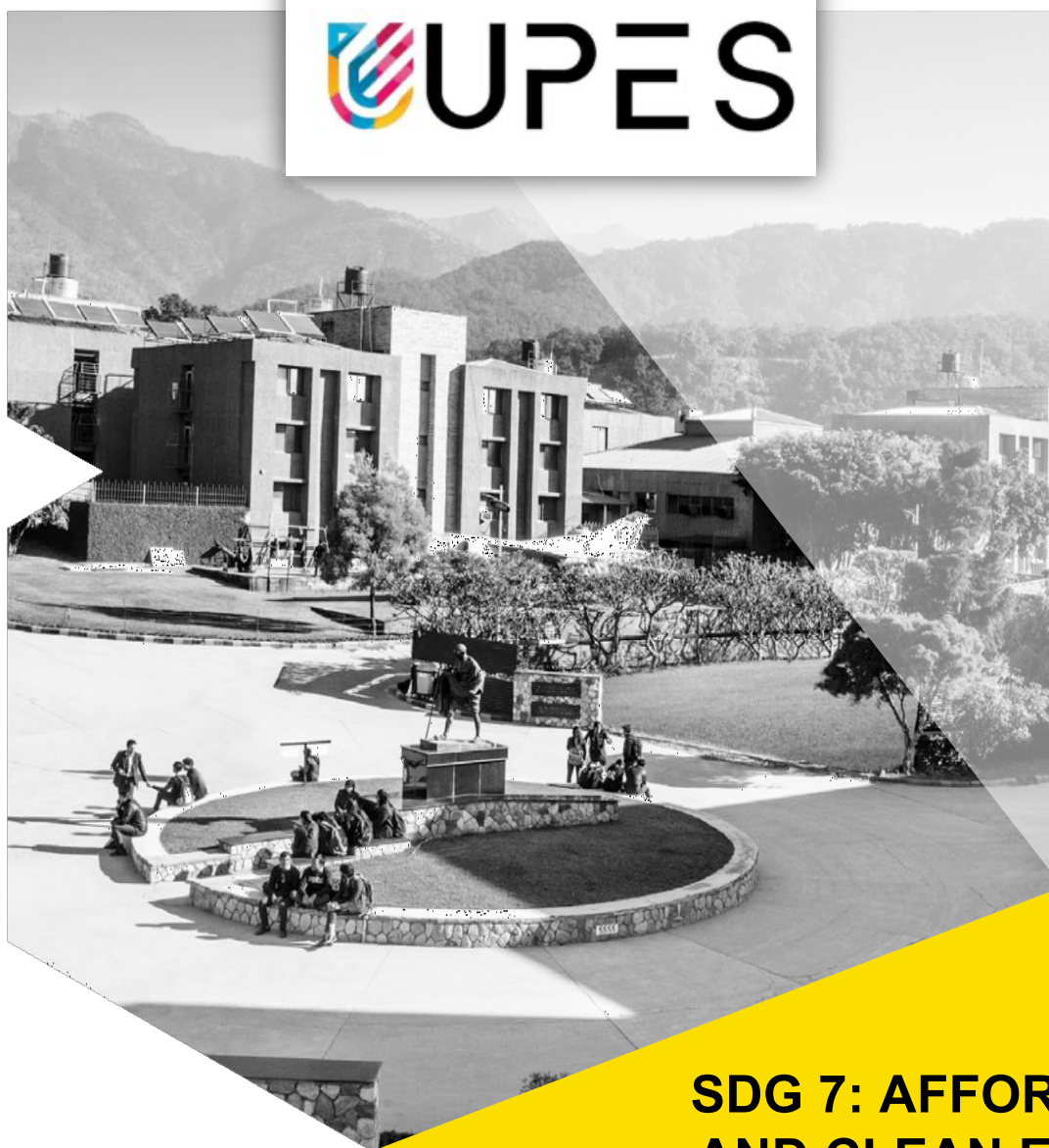




SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**SDG 7: AFFORDABLE
AND CLEAN ENERGY**

2025

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UPES and the 100% Renewable Energy Pledge

University Commitments to 100% Renewable Energy

UPES (University of Petroleum and Energy Studies) has signaled its commitment to transitioning towards 100% renewable energy in recent years. On its official Sustainable Development Goals portal, UPES explicitly lists a **“100% renewable energy pledge”** (SDG 7.4.2) as one of its initiatives [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). While details of the pledge are not fully visible on the public site, UPES’s broader strategy provides insight into its goals. Notably, the university has launched a Research on Impact, Sustainability, and ESG (RISE) Center that is driving a **Net Zero Campus plan**, aiming for the campus to become **carbon neutral by 2030** [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). This implies a shift to renewable energy sources and other sustainability measures on campus. In practice, UPES has already installed a **100 kW solar power plant** on campus, which over the last five years has supplied roughly 8% of the university’s total electricity demand [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). This solar installation not only reduces reliance on grid power but also serves as a training and research facility for students. These steps underscore an official policy direction to increase renewable energy use, aligned with India’s national clean energy targets and the UN SDGs. In fact, UPES’s documented commitment is to keep expanding on-campus renewable integration and **set targets that align with government initiatives**, contributing to a more sustainable regional energy landscape [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in).

Beyond campus operations, UPES demonstrates advocacy for renewables in the wider community. The university’s SDG report highlights **community outreach programs** that educate the public on the benefits of clean energy and promote its adoption in local households and businesses [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). This suggests that UPES sees its role as a *social leader* in pushing for 100% renewable energy beyond just its own usage. Indeed, UPES researchers have contributed expertise to **clean energy projects with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and conducted capacity-building programs in the energy field [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in) – an indication of external partnerships aimed at advancing renewable energy solutions. All these efforts point to a university-wide ethos of championing renewable energy and inching toward a 100% renewable future, even if a specific target year for 100% renewable campus energy has not been publicly fixed.

Student and Faculty Initiatives for Renewable Transition

Within UPES, students and faculty have been active in initiatives that support the transition to renewable energy. The **Center for Energy, Environment, and Sustainability Studies (CEESS)** at UPES is a dedicated research hub focusing on sustainable energy and related fields [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). Through CEESS and various academic programs, the university promotes multidisciplinary research in renewable energy technologies, economics, and policy. In fact, UPES has introduced specialized degree programs to train the next generation of clean energy leaders – for example, **M.Tech. in Renewable Energy** and **MBA concentrations in Green Energy and Sustainability** [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). By embedding renewable energy in the curriculum, UPES faculty are fostering expertise and awareness among students, effectively creating champions for the 100% renewable vision.

Students themselves have led by example through project work and campus innovation. A standout project was the design and building of **“U-BAHN,” an electric campus vehicle**, by

a team of UPES mechanical engineering students [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). Powered by batteries and enhanced with IoT technology, this eco-friendly cart demonstrates the viability of clean electric mobility on campus. In another student-driven effort, researchers developed a **“Solar Tree” installation on campus**, harnessing solar panels in a tree-like structure to generate power [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). They even prototyped an electric-assist bicycle for sustainable transport. These hands-on projects, guided by faculty, are more than just experiments – they serve as public demonstrations of renewable energy in action, inspiring the campus community to embrace clean energy. While these are not “pledges” in a formal sense, they reflect a grassroots commitment by students and educators to the renewable transition and complement the university’s broader renewable energy pledge.

Importantly, we did not find evidence (in the sources reviewed) of any student-organized petition specifically demanding a 100% renewable campus pledge. However, the presence of active sustainability-focused student clubs (for example, a “Green UPES” club noted on social media) suggests that the student body is engaged in advocating for greener practices. These groups often run awareness campaigns – e.g. urging peers to pledge small lifestyle changes to reduce carbon footprints – thereby cultivating a culture that supports larger renewable energy goals. In summary, through dedicated research centers, academic programs, and student-led innovations, the UPES community is actively furthering the cause of 100% renewable energy from the ground up.

Events and Outreach Promoting Renewable Energy

Over the past five years, UPES has hosted and participated in numerous events that promote renewable energy and public pledges for sustainability. One notable example is the **Sustainability Fair 2022** organized by the School of Engineering’s Sustainability Cluster at UPES [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). This multi-day event (11–14 October 2022) brought together students, researchers, industry experts, and even government officials to engage in dialogue and exhibitions on sustainable development. Inaugurated by the Governor of Uttarakhand, the fair showcased research on clean energy and sustainability, aiming to devise cost-effective green solutions and encourage **industry-academia collaboration** in renewable technologies [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). Such high-profile events serve as public pledges in action – the university is visibly aligning itself with the goal of 100% clean energy by raising awareness and sharing knowledge on renewable innovations.

UPES also convened an **International Conference on Environmental Sustainability and Energy Laws** in September 2024, underlining its advocacy role in the energy transition. The two-day conference assembled global experts to discuss challenges and opportunities in climate change mitigation, renewable energy policy, and sustainable development [edinbox.com](https://www.edinbox.com). Crucially, the discussions were framed around the **UN SDGs and the Paris Agreement**, emphasizing pathways for India’s energy transition. The Vice Chancellor of UPES, Dr. Sunil Rai, used the platform to reaffirm the institution’s commitment to sustainability, stating that the conference’s goal was to inspire collaborative solutions aligned with India’s vision for a sustainable future [edinbox.com](https://www.edinbox.com). The event culminated in a collective *call to action* – essentially a pledge by participants – urging stakeholders to address environmental concerns and accelerate sustainable development efforts [edinbox.com](https://www.edinbox.com). By hosting such conferences, UPES is actively promoting public dialogue on achieving 100% renewable energy and encouraging policymakers, academia, and industry to pledge support for clean energy initiatives.

In addition to major conferences, UPES frequently engages the public through workshops and outreach programs. As noted earlier, the university conducts **renewable energy workshops for local communities** to demonstrate clean energy solutions [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). These grassroots events often involve pledges or commitments by attendees – for instance, families pledging to adopt solar lighting or improve energy efficiency at home. While these individual pledges may be informal, UPES’s role in organizing such community engagement shows it is *promoting the broader pledge* toward 100% renewable energy in society. Moreover, UPES faculty and students contribute to policy discussions and research publications that advocate for renewable energy adoption beyond the campus. Collaboration with bodies like UNDP and participation in national forums amplify the message.

Finally, it’s worth noting that UPES’s efforts are in harmony with global movements in higher education to combat climate change. By **aligning with SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)** and publicizing its renewable energy projects, UPES positions itself alongside universities worldwide that have declared climate action plans. The university’s own climate action strategy emphasizes reducing greenhouse emissions, increasing energy efficiency, and transitioning to renewables [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in) [upes.ac.in](https://www.upes.ac.in). This comprehensive approach – from official carbon-neutral targets, to student innovations, to public advocacy events – indicates that UPES has indeed been **promoting a pledge toward 100% renewable energy** on multiple fronts over the past five years. The evidence ranges from formal policies and partnerships to the less formal (but no less important) campaigns, discussions, and educational events that encourage everyone – on campus and beyond – to commit to a renewable energy future.