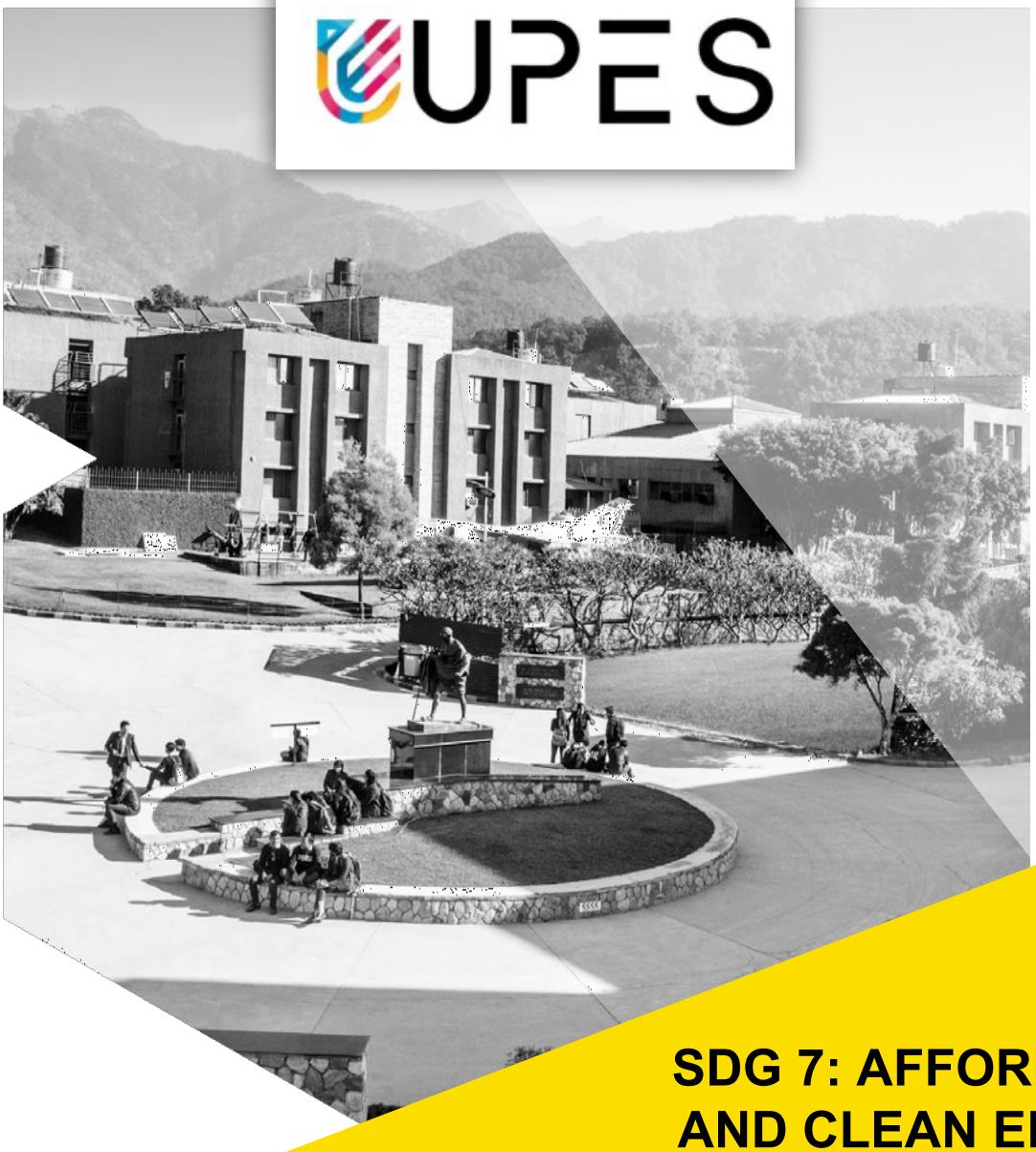
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UPES



SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

2025

Table of Contents

UPES University's Support for Low-Carbon and Clean-Tech Startups

Sustainability-Focused Incubation Programs at UPES

UPES Dehradun (University of Petroleum and Energy Studies) actively fosters entrepreneurship in sustainability and clean technologies through its on-campus incubator and innovation programs. The flagship **Runway Incubator** (launched in 2021) has already supported over 250 startups and attracted significant funding from agencies like DST (Department of Science & Technology), MeitY, and NITI Aayog globaluniversitysystems.com. Runway operates under the UPES Council for Innovation & Entrepreneurship (UCIE) and focuses on technology-driven ventures across diverse domains – including energy, transportation, biotechnology, and more upes.ac.in. A core mandate of UCIE is to spur new businesses in **renewable energy and green technology**, aligning with UPES's strength in energy and environment disciplines upes.ac.in. In practice, the incubator welcomes student, faculty, alumni, and even external entrepreneurs with ideas that can be commercialized for economic and social impact upes.ac.in. This provides a formal accelerator-like program for early-stage companies working on sustainable solutions or low-carbon innovations.

Comprehensive Support: Funding, Mentorship and Facilities for Green Start-ups

UPES provides a comprehensive support ecosystem for incubated startups, especially those in green tech domains. The Runway incubation program offers structured mentorship, funding opportunities, legal support, and a collaborative workspace to help ventures scale upes.ac.in. Each selected startup enters an 8–10 week program with training in business basics, market research, and prototype development. Critically, **mentorship** is a cornerstone: every startup is matched with a dedicated mentor who guides the team through challenges, refines their strategy, and opens networks for growth upes.ac.in. These mentors (often seasoned entrepreneurs or industry experts) continue to provide strategic advice even beyond the formal program duration, ensuring long-term support upes.ac.in.

In terms of **resources and infrastructure**, UPES-backed startups have access to university facilities such as laboratories and co-working spaces on campus. The incubator assists with company incorporation and compliance, and makes R&D labs and a startup workspace available to teams during incubation upes.ac.in. Even after graduating from the program, the ventures can continue using campus lab facilities and co-working offices, maintaining access to UPES's technical equipment and expertise upes.ac.in. Funding support is also provided at multiple levels. All incubated startups receive investment-readiness coaching and a chance to pitch on **Demo Day**, where top ventures can win seed grants – for example, exceptional teams are awarded the **Runway Ignition Grant** of ₹1 lakh as initial funding upes.ac.in. UPES also connects start-ups with external funding opportunities; notably, the incubator has secured a ₹4 crore grant from the Government of India's DST to specifically support startups in *"sustainability and clean-tech domains,"* boosting their innovation capacity upes.ac.in. Additionally, corporate and government partners contribute specialized funds for impactful projects – for instance, HDFC Bank's Parivartan initiative granted ₹60 lakh to back incubated startups focusing on sustainable, socially impactful solutions upes.ac.in. Through this blend of

internal grants, corporate CSR funds, and government schemes, green technology startups at UPES can obtain both early-stage financing and ongoing financial assistance as they grow.

UPES's "The Pitch" startup competition in 2025 brought together ventures from India and abroad in fields like renewable energy, health tech, and education. Several teams – including a solar-energy infrastructure startup – secured seed funding at the event globaluniversitysystems.com. Such initiatives demonstrate the university's commitment to nurturing sustainable entrepreneurship and a low-carbon innovation ecosystem.

Research Collaborations and Spin-Off Support for Low-Carbon Innovation

UPES leverages academic and industry collaborations to support spin-offs and early-stage companies working on low-carbon solutions. The university's incubator is closely integrated with its research expertise and faculty talent. In fact, the incubator's mandate explicitly includes helping **UPES faculty and researchers** commercialize their innovations alongside students and alumni upes.ac.in. This has led to faculty-led innovations (for example, improved clean-energy devices and processes developed on campus) being nurtured into startup ventures. The incubation center provides access to UPES's **R&D infrastructure and academic experts** to these teams, so that lab discoveries can be translated into viable products upes.ac.in. Regular workshops and networking events involve university researchers and industry professionals, exposing startups to the latest insights in energy technology and sustainability trends upes.ac.in upes.ac.in. By embedding entrepreneurship in the academic culture, UPES ensures that research on renewable energy, emissions reduction, and other sustainability topics can lead to real-world business solutions.

In addition, UPES has forged partnerships with government agencies and other institutions to amplify support for clean-tech entrepreneurship. The university hosts an Inclusive Technology Business Incubator (**DST-iTBI**) sponsored by India's Department of Science & Technology, which *"leverages UPES's academic expertise and industry partnerships"* to nurture deep-tech startups upes.ac.in. Through this collaboration, startups working on advanced technologies (including climate tech and sustainability) gain access to state-of-the-art facilities, structured mentorship, and additional funding channels. UPES is also establishing an **Atal Community Innovation Center (ACIC)** in partnership with NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission, aimed at fostering grassroots innovation in the Uttarakhand region. This center focuses on community-oriented solutions for regional challenges – from improving agriculture and water management to **promoting clean energy** adoption – thereby supporting low-carbon innovations that benefit local communities upes.ac.in. Furthermore, UPES engages in co-incubation arrangements with other academic institutions: for example, a tie-up with **IIT Ropar** provides incubated startups joint access to IIT's research grants and technical facilities, helping "foster advanced technological innovation" for the selected ventures upes.ac.in. Such academic collaborations ensure that early-stage companies at UPES can tap into a broader knowledge network and specialized expertise in clean-energy, carbon capture, and sustainable engineering. The university's incubation ecosystem is also connected to national startup networks (e.g. being a recognized incubator under **Startup Uttarakhand** and a member of UBI Global), which further opens up mentorship and funding opportunities for spin-offs addressing climate and sustainability challenges upes.ac.in upes.ac.in.

Notable Clean-Tech Startups Incubated by UPES

Several successful startups focusing on carbon reduction and clean energy have emerged from UPES's incubation programs, underscoring its contribution to a low-carbon economy:

- **Envinova Smartech** – A UPES-incubated startup that builds sustainable, solar-powered infrastructure for public spaces (such as "Smart Solar Huts"). Envinova's solar huts provide clean energy for lighting and device charging in community areas, reducing reliance on grid power. The venture has scaled to 30+ installations at high-profile locations and secured over ₹43 lakh in funding, earning recognition among India's top solar-tech startups upes.ac.in. This exemplifies how UPES supports renewable energy solutions from concept to deployment.
- **UGreen Technology** – Founded by a UPES alumnus, UGreen develops carbon-capture and CO_2 utilization solutions aimed at decarbonizing hard-to-abate industries. With support from the Runway incubator, UGreen has raised about ₹92.5 lakh in funding and pioneered **India's first carbon capture pilot in the oil & gas (E&P) sector** upes.ac.in. The startup's pilot project (conducted in collaboration with Oil India Ltd.) demonstrates a scalable technology to capture industrial CO_2 emissions, directly contributing to climate change mitigation. UGreen's success highlights the role of UPES in incubating breakthrough low-carbon technologies and connecting them with industry opportunities.

These examples illustrate the impact of UPES's entrepreneurship ecosystem in advancing Sustainable Development Goals related to clean energy and climate action. By providing incubation, funding, and research support, UPES is **empowering a new generation of green technology start-ups** – from solar energy infrastructure to carbon capture ventures – that drive a low-carbon economy and sustainable innovation globaluniversitysystems.com.