

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



UPRs Annual Report on SDG 13: Climate Action

The University of Poonch (UPR) Rawalakot, positioned at Latitude 33°51'32.18"N and Longitude 73° 45'34.93"E with an Elevation of 5374 feet, experiences a subtropical highland climate due to its elevated location. Rawalakot's weather exhibits significant variability, yet it distinctly presents four seasons—spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Spring and autumn boast mild to warm temperatures, summers are humid, while winters range from cold to snowy. Temperatures can soar up to 38 °C (100 °F) in mid-summer and plummet below -1 °C (30 °F) in winter. Snowfall typically occurs in December and January, while most of the rainfall happens during the monsoon season from July to September.

Energy Sustainability at the University of Poonch (UPR)

The University of Poonch actively monitors low-carbon energy use while also engaging in energy conservation and behavior change initiatives to reduce energy consumption across its campus. In the period from January to December 2022, the University of Poonch Rawalakot consumed a total of 763 gigajoules of electric power. UPR primarily utilizes hydroelectricity, significantly reducing carbon emissions. Hydropower is acknowledged for its minimal carbon footprint, emitting approximately 24 grams of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per kilowatt-hour (kWh) produced throughout its life cycle.

Empowering Change: University of Poonch Rawalakot's Sustainable Energy and Community Engagement Initiatives

The institution focuses on local educational programs and campaigns crucial for fostering climate change awareness at the grassroots level. These programs, either formal or informal, target diverse age groups and communities. They primarily aim to educate people about climate change risks and impacts, including effects on ecosystems, human health, and the economy. Additionally, they provide information about mitigation strategies to reduce carbon emissions and adaptation measures for communities to cope with climate change impacts. These programs include events such as environment day celebrations, soil day observations, biodiversity conservation drives, international conferences on climate, and plantation initiatives.

UPR engages in cooperative planning for climate change disasters, collaborating with various stakeholders to develop effective mitigation and response strategies. Recognizing the complexity of climate change issues, the institution shares its climate action plan with other entities. It actively participates in cooperative planning efforts at local, regional, and international levels.

The university plays a vital role in offering scientific and technical expertise to inform government decision-making on climate change matters. This involvement includes research on local or regional climate change impacts, providing information on potential adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on climate adaptation is a crucial approach adopted by the University of Poonch Rawalakot to tackle climate change challenges. NGOs contribute significantly to building community resilience and possess valuable expertise and networks for developing and implementing adaptation strategies.

UPR's Collective Path to Carbon Neutrality: Initiatives and Milestones

Efforts to achieve a carbon-neutral university demand a collective commitment from all university members, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators. The UPR has implemented various Carbon Emission Reduction Initiatives as part of its goal to become carbon neutral. An amazing 96.5% of the university grounds are now filled with thriving plants, showing just how dedicated the institution is to protect the environment. The institution has established targets outlined in its Climate Action Plan, encompassing Scope 1, Scope 2 emissions, and Scope 3 alongside a target date.



Tree Planting Initiative Flourishing at UPR



7th International Conference on Climate-Smart Agriculture: Innovations and Adaptations | June 15-17, 2022



UPR: Abundant Greenery Driving Towards Carbon Neutrality

Table 1: A Summary of UPRs initiatives related to SDG 13 (Climate Action)

Indicator no.	Indicator Name	Action taken
13.2.1	Low carbon energy tracking	Primary source of low carbon energy is identified.
13.2.2	Low carbon energy use	Total energy used by UPR from January 2023 to December 2023 measured in Gigajoule. Low- carbon source of energy is identified.
13.3.1	Local education programs on climate	The University of Poonch Rawalakot organized a series of educational programs encompassing Soil Day, Environment Day, plantation drives, international conferences, and various events addressing climate change risks and mitigation measures.
13.3.2	Climate Action Plan, shared	The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) has developed its climate action plan, which it actively shares with pertinent institutions and stakeholders.
13.3.3	Co-operative planning for climate change disasters	The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) actively engages in cooperative planning initiatives both at the local and international levels.
13.3.4	Inform and support government	The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) plays a pivotal role by providing essential scientific and technical expertise, which informs and influences government decision-making concerning climate change issues.
13.3.5	Environmental education collaborates with NGO	The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) collaborates closely with NGOs to offer training and capacity-building programs for local communities. Together, they develop and implement impactful climate education and awareness initiatives.
13.4.1	Commitment to carbon neutral university	The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) has implemented various practices aimed at reducing carbon emissions. These efforts involve the entire university community, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators, working collectively towards this goal.
13.4.2	Achieve by date	The University of Poonch Rawalakot (UPR) has set clear carbon neutrality targets as outlined in its Climate Action Plan. These targets comprehensively cover Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 emissions.