

13 CLIMATE
ACTION



UPRs Annual Report on SDG 13: Climate Action

The University of Poonch (UPR) Rawalakot, located at Latitude 33°51'32.18"N and Longitude 73° 45'34.93"E with an Elevation of 5374 feet, and has a subtropical highland climate. Rawalakot's weather has significant variability and has four seasons i.e., spring, summer, autumn, and winter. Spring and autumn have warm temperatures, summers are humid, while winters range from cold to snowy. Temperatures can go up to 38 °C (100 °F) in mid-summer and below –1 °C (30 °F) in winter. Snowfall usually 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 actively monitors total energy use while also takes steps in energy conservation and behavior change initiatives to reduce energy consumption across its campus. In the period from January to December 2023, UPR consumed a total of 817 gigajoules of electric power. Out of all this energy consumption UPR major source is hydroelectricity. Hydroelectricity significantly reduces carbon emissions. Hydropower is known for its minimal carbon footprint, emitting approximately 24 grams of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per kilowatt-hour (kWh) produced throughout its life cycle.

Empowering Change: UPR's Sustainable Energy and Community Involvement Initiatives

The university is dedicated to local educational programs and campaigns that are vital for promoting climate change awareness at the grassroots level. These initiatives, whether formal or informal, target diverse age groups and communities. Their primary objective is to educate individuals about the risks and impacts of climate change, including effects on ecosystems, human health, agriculture, food production, and the economy as a whole. Additionally, these awareness programs provide information on mitigation strategies aimed at reducing carbon emissions and

adaptation measures to help communities cope with the effects of climate change. Events such as Soil Day, biodiversity conservation campaigns, international climate conferences, and plantation drives are part of these initiatives.

UPR also engages in cooperative planning for climate change-related disasters, collaborating with various stakeholders to develop effective mitigation and response strategies. Acknowledging the urgent nature of climate change, the university shares its climate action plan with government and non-government institutions and organizations. UPR actively participates in cooperative planning efforts at local, regional, and international levels. The university has communicated its scientific findings and recommendations to the government to help shape climate change policies. Additionally, dedicated focal persons maintain communication with environmental protection agencies to provide updates on climate matters.

Collaboration with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on climate adaptation represents a crucial strategy employed by UPR to tackle the challenges posed by climate change. NGOs play a significant role in building community resilience and offer valuable expertise and networks necessary for the development and implementation of effective adaptation strategies.

UPR's Path to Carbon Neutrality: Initiatives and Milestones

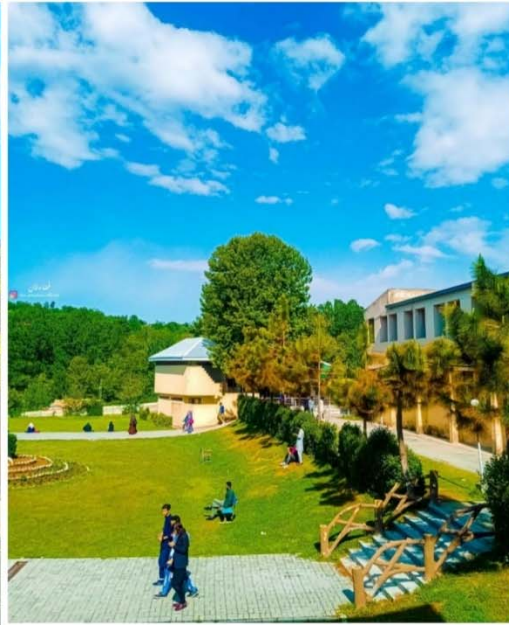
Achieving a carbon-neutral university requires a collective commitment from all members of the university community, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators. The UPR has initiated various Carbon Emission Reduction initiatives as part of its ambition to attain carbon neutrality. Impressively, 96.5% of the university grounds are now populated with thriving plant life, underscoring the institution's dedication to environmental stewardship. Furthermore, the university has established targets within its Climate Action Plan that address Scope 1, Scope 2, and Scope 3 emissions, along with a designated target date.



Provision of high-quality trees to community from UPR agriculture farm



Walk on international Soil Day on December 5, 2023



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, provision of trees to local community, solid waste management 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 collaborate 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.