



THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



SDG 9 — INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

2025 / 2026



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1. Overview — SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Gulf University's contribution to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) during AY 2025–2026 is anchored most strongly by the Digital Transformation Center (DTC), whose entire institutional mandate — driving digital innovation and infrastructure modernisation under Theme #7 of the Gulf University Strategic Plan 2023–2027 — makes it the University's primary engine for this goal. DTC delivered a secure, ISO 27001-track infrastructure built on Microsoft 365 A5 and Azure, migrated the University's website stack from WordPress to Angular, implemented a Cloud-to-On-Prem backup solution, and is rolling out Project G — a Green Campus Management System powered by Generative AI — in five phases through 2026. This innovation work was independently recognised at the Bahrain Digital Content Awards 2025 (1st Place Best Website, Best AI Project for “Maryam”).

CECEC and SDM-C complement this with genuine, verifiable contributions. Within CECEC, SDG 9 is addressed across 3 of 7 pillars, including 54 of 124 Pillar 1 workshops in technology, media, and engineering, plus a student-built IoT Smart Weather Station and a GARMCO graduation-project presentation. SDM-C's contribution centres on research and strategic direction: SDG 9 was addressed in 7 of 35 GUSW2025 activities (20.0%) and 10.0% of ICSDI 2025 papers, and — most significantly — GUSW2026 has been explicitly designed around SDG Target 9.5. The Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (IEC) additionally documents 11 registered sustainability-related startups and two SDG 9-tagged patents. Altogether, SDG 9 is one of Gulf University's most substantively delivered goals.

2. Key Highlights for Academic Year 2025–2026

- DTC: 9 major ICT projects delivered/in-progress (Infrastructure Security, Website migration, Data Control & Privacy, Cloud Backup, Sustainable Family Award Platform, Alumni Portal, Internship Platform, Digital Transformation Restructuring, Project G).
- Bahrain Digital Content Awards 2025: 1st Place Best Website (Private Sector); Best AI Project (“Maryam”); Top 3 Best Integrated eServices; Top 3 Best eParticipation.
- CECEC Pillar 1: 54 of 124 workshops (22 Technology + 20 Media/Communication + 12 Engineering) explicitly tagged SDG 4 & SDG 9.
- CECEC Pillar 5: IoT Smart Weather Station (students Hassan Ahmed & Ghaith Younis, supervised by Dr. Walid El Fezzani), GARMCO graduation-project presentation, Patents Lecture with the Ministry of Industry & Commerce, Mulhamoon Youth Authority coordination meeting.
- GUSW2025: SDG 9 addressed through 7 of 35 activities (20.0%); ICSDI 2025: 10.0% of accepted papers.
- GUSW2026 (3rd Edition) is explicitly designed around SDG Target 9.5 (‘enhance scientific research and upgrade technological capabilities of industrial sectors’) — the University's entire 2026 flagship theme.
- IEC: 11 registered sustainability-related startups; two patents (Automated Irrigation System; Autonomous Agricultural Field Robot) explicitly SDG 9-tagged, alongside a UK-registered Solar Powered Cyber Car patent (SDG 9, 11).
- Sustainability Laboratory (SDM-C Hub): 20% complete — planning/feasibility stage.

3. DTC — Digital Infrastructure & Innovation Portfolio

Project	Description
Infrastructure Security & Compliance	Microsoft 365 A5-based secure/scalable infrastructure; cloud security enhancement with ZainTECH; external cloud assessment; ISO 27001 certification pathway



Project	Description
Website Tech Stack Migration	WordPress → Angular: faster (1–2s vs 3–5s load times), more secure, removes 30,000+ third-party-plugin dependency
Cloud to On-Prem Backup	Vembu BDR Suite backs up Azure VMs, hosted websites, and Microsoft 365 (Exchange/SharePoint) for improved compliance and disaster recovery
Project G (Green Campus Management System)	Generative-AI-powered platform replacing legacy systems (Excel → GUS → ARMS → CREATIX → CAMPUS); 5-phase rollout April–September 2026 covering HR, Admissions, Registration, Finance, QMS, AI Student Portal, Exam Management

A Year of Excellence 2025 (Bahrain Digital Content Awards): 1st Place — Best Website Award (Private Sector); Best AI Project for AI Assistant ‘Maryam’; Top 3 — Best Integrated eServices (Student Portal); Top 3 — Best eParticipation (AI-Powered Electronic Survey).

4. CECEC — Training, Industry Partnerships & Student Innovation

Activity	Partner / Beneficiary	Impact
Technology, Media & Engineering Training Workshops (Pillar 1)	GU students, staff, community organizations	54 of 124 workshops (22 Technology + 20 Media & Communication + 12 Engineering) explicitly tagged SDG 4 & SDG 9
Mulhamoon Youth Authority Strategic Coordination Meeting (Pillar 5)	Mulhamoon Youth Authority	Discussed joint innovation, applied research, and youth entrepreneurship cooperation; SDGs 4, 8, 9, 10, 16, 17
Patents Lecture (Pillar 5)	Ministry of Industry and Commerce	Delivered patent/IP systems training supporting innovation protection and Bahrain's knowledge economy
IoT Smart Weather Station (Pillar 5/6)	Students Hassan Ahmed & Ghaith Younis; supervisor Dr. Walid El Fezzani	Functioning, publicly-accessible IoT environmental-monitoring station (temperature, humidity, air quality, noise); potential kingdom-wide smart-city scaling
Industry Visit & Student Research Presentation (Pillar 5)	GARMCO	Student Ali Al-Ghazzal presented his graduation project, ‘The Impact of Green Human Resource Practices on Achieving Competitive Advantage at GARMCO,’ to GARMCO's Executive Director
Marai 2025 (Pillar 4/5)	Ministry of Agriculture Affairs & Animal Wealth	Ministerial recognition for GU student volunteers' media coverage and documentation



5. SDM-C — GUSW2025/2026, ICSDI 2025 & Sustainability Laboratory

SDG 9 was addressed in 7 of 35 analysed GUSW2025 activities (20.0%) and represented in 10.0% of accepted ICSDI 2025 papers, tied with SDG 8 and SDG 17. Most significantly, GUSW2026 (3rd Edition, ‘From Success to Sustainable Transformation’) has been explicitly designed around SDG Target 9.5 — anchoring the University’s entire 2026 flagship sustainability theme — with a dedicated Sustainability Ambassadors Bootcamp 2026 (40% complete) cultivating student leaders integrating research, digital technology, entrepreneurship, and interdisciplinary innovation.

A Sustainability Laboratory (SDM-C Hub) is planned as dedicated research and innovation infrastructure, currently at 20% completion (planning/feasibility stage only) — the one area where SDM-C’s physical infrastructure lags its digital and research achievements.

6. Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (IEC) — Startups & Patents

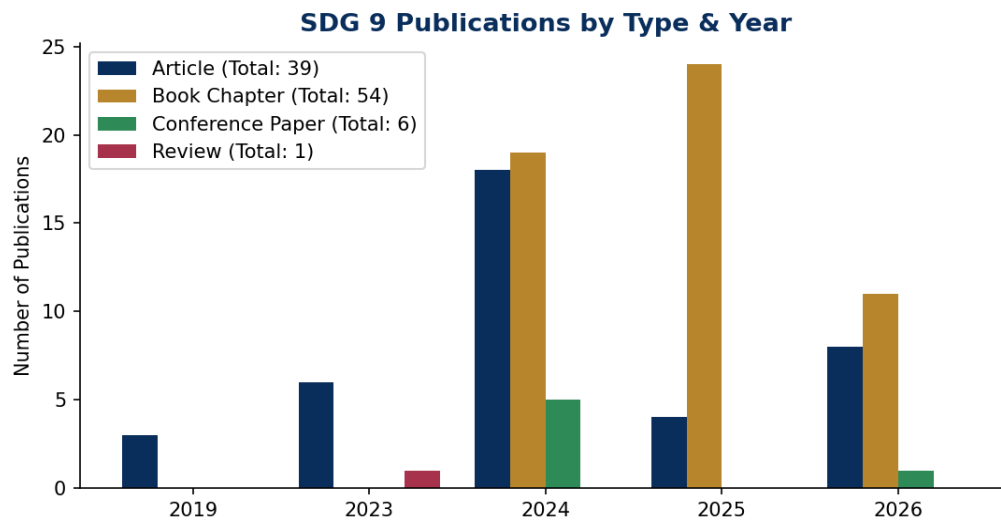
The IEC serves as Gulf University’s institutional anchor for entrepreneurship, working with students, graduates, and the wider community to develop innovative business ideas into viable projects. 11 sustainability-related startups founded by GU-affiliated entrepreneurs are currently registered:

Company Name	Issuing Date	Registration No.	Product Type
Ahmed Solar Panels	2025	Applied for	Energy
Khalid Style	2024	68141-6	Mobile Accessories
Coffee Letcia	2021	68141-4	Snacks
Suk Al-Sajjad	2019	67569-9	Carpet Sales
Flare Media	2018	88404-1	Application (App); Artistic Production and Photography
Dagous Restaurant	2016	38253-2	Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner
Jimmy Burger	2023	161904-1	Fast Food
UniFind	2023	Applied for	Application (App)
NSGI	2023	Applied for	Investing
Bayan Caffè	2023	Applied for	Coffee Shop

Two patents registered via the University’s research arm are explicitly SDG 9-tagged: “An Automated Irrigation System for Sustainable Farming” (Bahrain AGIP 205/2025, 13 July 2025; SDG 1, 2, 9, 11) and “Autonomous Agricultural Field Robot” (Germany DPMA 20 2026 100 862, 25 February 2026; SDG 1, 2, 9, 11, 12), alongside a UK-registered “Solar Powered Cyber Car” patent (SDG 9, 11).



7. GU Research & Publications Related to SDG 9



Publication Type	2019	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Article	3	6	18	4	8	39
Book Chapter	0	0	19	24	11	54
Conference Paper	0	0	5	0	1	6
Review	0	1	0	0	0	1

Gulf University's SDG 9-linked research base totals 100 publications (39 articles, 54 book chapters, 6 conference papers, 1 review) — the second-largest publication base of any SDG reviewed to date, consistent with ICSDI 2025's 10.0% share for this goal.

8. Summary of Impact and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

KPI	Indicator Description	2025–2026 Result	Status
KPI 1	Digital infrastructure/innovation projects delivered by DTC	9 major ICT projects	Achieved
KPI 2	National recognition for digital innovation	2 awards — 1st Place Best Website; Best AI Project (“Maryam”), Bahrain Digital Content Awards 2025	Exceeded
KPI 3	Technology/media/engineering training workshops (CECEC, Pillar 1)	54 of 124 workshops	Achieved
KPI 4	Industry-innovation partnership activities (CECEC, Pillar 5)	5 activities — IoT Weather Station, Patents Lecture, GARMCO visit, Mulhamoon meeting, Marai 2025	Achieved
KPI 5	Activities addressing SDG 9 within GUSW2025	7 of 35 activities (20.0%)	Achieved
KPI 6	ICSDI 2025 research papers addressing SDG 9	10.0% of accepted papers	Achieved



KPI	Indicator Description	2025–2026 Result	Status
KPI 7	Sustainability Laboratory / Green Innovation Incubator (SDM-C)	20% complete — planning stage only	Early stage
KPI 8	SDG 9-linked publications	100 publications (39 articles, 54 book chapters, 6 conference papers, 1 review)	Achieved
KPI 9	Sustainability-related startups (IEC) and SDG 9-tagged patents	11 startups; 2 SDG 9-tagged patents + 1 additional patent (Solar Cyber Car)	Achieved

9. Conclusion and Future Directions

SDG 9 is one of Gulf University's most operationally delivered goals across the centres reviewed. DTC has shipped and externally validated real infrastructure (award-winning website, AI assistant, a phased platform in Project G), CECEC has embedded innovation training into nearly half its Pillar 1 workshops and produced tangible student-led applied research, and SDM-C has made SDG Target 9.5 the organizing theme of its entire 2026 flagship event. The IEC's registered startups and patents add a further, independently-documented layer of evidence. The one soft spot remains SDM-C's Sustainability Laboratory, at just 20% completion.

Future directions:

- Move the Sustainability Laboratory (SDM-C Hub) from planning into funded, phased construction.
- Formalise the GARMCO and Mulhamoon Youth Authority relationships into signed MOUs.
- Scale the IoT Smart Weather Station from a single student project into a kingdom-wide network of environmental monitoring stations, as identified as its long-term potential.
- Track DTC's Project G rollout against its own phase milestones (April–September 2026) as a standing KPI.
- Commission a dedicated SDG 9 research/publications tracker to properly capture the 10% ICSDI 2025 research share alongside DTC's applied innovation output.
- Set a cross-centre annual target (e.g., ≥ 3 industry/innovation partnerships formalised into MOUs, plus completion of at least one Sustainability Laboratory phase).

Compiled from:

Innovation & Entrepreneurship Center (IEC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/innovation-entrepreneurship-center/annual-report/IEC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>

Sustainability Development Makers- Center -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/sustainability-and-development-makers-center/SDM-C-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>

Community Engagement & Continuing Education Center (CECEC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/community-engagement-and-continuing-education-center/annual-reports/CECEC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>

Digital Transformation Center (DTC) -Annual Report for the year 2025-26

<https://www.gulfuniversity.edu.bh/images/centers/digital-transformation-center/annual-report/DTC-Annual-Report-2025-2026.pdf>



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