



THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT



SDG 11 — SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES

2025 / 2026



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1. Overview — SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Gulf University shows strong, multi-centre commitment to SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) during AY 2025–2026, anchored by SDM-C's flagship environmental programming and reinforced by CECEC's broad community-cohesion activities across 6 of its 7 pillars. SDM-C's contribution is the most substantial: SDG 11 was the 3rd most-addressed goal of GUSW2025, represented in 12 of 35 analysed activities (34.3%), and is explicitly mapped to three flagship initiatives — the Daily Tree-Planting Campaign, the Carbon-free Campus Initiative, and the Sustainable Family Initiative (GU-SFI).

GU Green Campus performance — approximately 60% open space ratio and 11.59% planted vegetation and 12.27% for water absorption area — giving this goal a measurable infrastructure baseline beyond the previously open-ended “ongoing” framing. CECEC complements this with community-cohesion programming across 6 of 7 pillars (all but Pillar 1). ICSDI 2025 research reinforced the theme modestly, with SDG 11 in 2.6% of accepted papers. DTC's Sustainable Family Award Platform also plausibly supports this goal, though this remains inferred rather than explicitly tagged by DTC itself.

2. Key Highlights for Academic Year 2025–2026

- GUSW2025: SDG 11 was the 3rd most-addressed goal — 12 of 35 activities (34.3%); ICSDI 2025: 2.6% of papers.
- Daily Tree-Planting Campaign (Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture; stc Bahrain): explicitly mapped to SDG 11.
- Carbon-free Campus Initiative (Ministry of Transportation & Telecommunications): sustainable urban mobility, explicitly mapped to SDG 11.
- Sustainable Family Initiative (GU-SFI): SDG 11 embedded as a direct assessment domain within the household sustainability framework.
- GU Green Campus / 360° Campus Project: approximately 60% open space ratio, 11.59% planted vegetation and 12.27% for water absorption area.
- CECEC's SDG Contribution Chart records SDG 11 across 10 pillar/event instances, spanning 6 of 7 pillars — all but Pillar 1.
- GU Sustainability Club (GUSC): SDG 11 is a primary contribution goal.

3. Community Engagement and Urban Sustainability Activities

Initiative	Date	Partners	Result
Daily Tree-Planting Campaign	16–20 Nov 2025 (GUSW2025)	Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Agriculture; stc Bahrain	Explicitly mapped to SDG 11; greener, more resilient urban environments
‘Reducing Inequality through Inclusive Architecture & Urban Planning’ (Panel)	18 Nov 2025 (GUSW2025, Day 3)	Capital Governorate; NJ Engineering; Design Studio Architect; AURAK-UAE; GU College of Engineering	SDG 11/10 content delivered to GUSW2025 delegates
‘Eco-Friendly Infrastructure & Innovations for Smart Cities’ (Presentation & Panel)	18 Nov 2025 (GUSW2025, Day 3)	iGA — Benayat.bh; Capital Governorate; Bahrain Smart City Society; Eureka Smart Living	Smart-city and green-infrastructure knowledge shared with delegates



Initiative	Date	Partners	Result
Community Service Workshop — Healthy Communities, Assistive & Passive Technologies	18 Nov 2025 (GUSW2025, Day 3)	iGA-MyGov; Bahrain Polytechnic	Residential geothermal cooling sensitivity study presented
Carbon-free Campus Initiative (‘Zero Car in the Parking’)	Pilot Feb 2026; expansion tied to World Sustainable Transport Day, Nov 2026	Ministry of Transportation & Telecommunications	Sustainable urban mobility; reduced transport-related campus impact
Sustainable Family Initiative (GU-SFI)	Jan–Jun 2026	GU student families; Bahraini community households	SDG 11 embedded as a direct assessment domain
GU Green Campus / 360° Campus Project	Ongoing since 2021	Internal Facilities (SDM-C)	Continuous campus greening — façades, landscaped areas, green roofs

4. Training, Innovation, and Collaborative Programs

Program	Objective	Key Outcome
IoT Smart Weather Station (CECEC, Pillar 5/6)	Build a functioning environmental-monitoring innovation bridging engineering and urban sustainability	Functioning, publicly-accessible IoT station (temperature, humidity, air quality, noise) with potential smart-city scaling
Sustainability Curriculum Integration (SDM-C)	Map SDGs — including urban sustainability themes — into academic programmes via curriculum mapping and PBL	≥2 trainings targeted; 30% complete
Sustainability Ambassadors Bootcamp 2026 (SDM-C)	Train students to integrate research, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration into sustainability solutions	40% complete; aligned with GUSW2026's SDG Target 9.5 theme

5. Green Campus Infrastructure — Quantified Performance

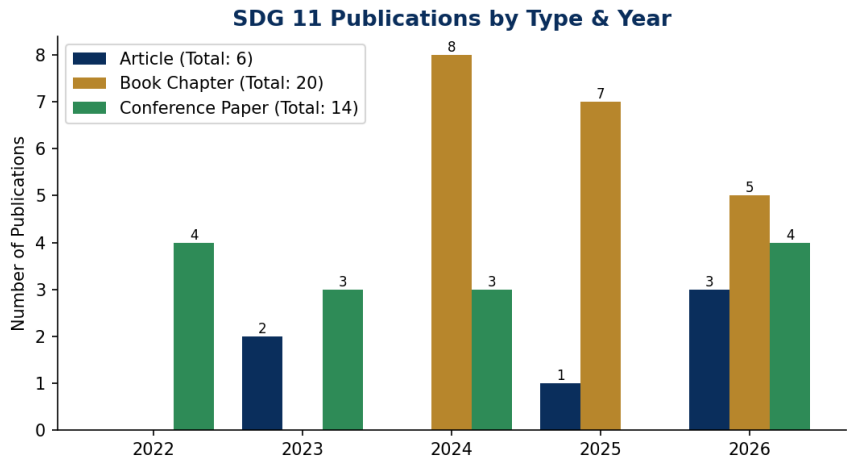
Gulf University's Impact of Setting and Infrastructure programs in supporting the SDGs provides quantified metrics for the Green Campus / 360° Campus Project, moving this from an open-ended “ongoing” status to a measurable baseline:

Metric	Value
Open space ratio	~60%
Planted vegetation	11.59% of campus
Sustainability budget allocation	28.73% of total university budget (2022–2024 average)
Annual maintenance coverage	81% (2024–2025 baseline)
Overall Setting & Infrastructure (SI) GreenMetric rating	Option 5 — Very High Impact (supports 14–17 SDGs)



The SDG 11 is listed among 14 SDGs directly supported by Gulf University's Setting & Infrastructure programming (alongside SDG 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17), reflecting a mature sustainability management system linking operations, technology, and social inclusion.

6. GU Research & Publications Related to SDG 11



Publication Type	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Total
Article	0	2	0	1	3	6
Book Chapter	0	0	8	7	5	20
Conference Paper	4	3	3	0	4	14

Gulf University's SDG 11-linked research base totals 40 publications (6 articles, 20 book chapters, 14 conference papers).

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

KPI	Indicator Description	2025–2026 Result	Status
KPI 1	CECEC pillar coverage of SDG 11	6 of 7 pillars	Achieved
KPI 2	Activities addressing SDG 11 within GUSW2025	12 of 35 activities (34.3%) — 3rd most-addressed goal	Exceeded
KPI 3	Flagship SDM-C initiatives explicitly mapped to SDG 11	3 — Tree-Planting Campaign, Carbon-free Campus Initiative, GU-SFI	Achieved
KPI 4	ICSDI 2025 research papers addressing SDG 11	2.6% of accepted papers	On Track
KPI 5	Green Campus / 360° Campus Project infrastructure	~60% open space ratio; 11.59% planted vegetation; 28.73% sustainability budget allocation	On Track — now quantified
KPI 6	DTC contribution to SDG 11	1 platform (Sustainable Family Award Platform) — inferred, not explicitly tagged by DTC	Needs confirmation
KPI 7	SDG 11-linked publications	40 publications (6 articles, 20 book chapters, 14 conference papers)	Achieved





8. Conclusion and Future Directions

SDG 11 is one of Gulf University's clearest examples of a goal built around a genuine flagship trio — Tree-Planting, the Carbon-free Campus, and the Sustainable Family Initiative — rather than a single event, reinforced by CECEC's broad community-cohesion contributions across 6 of 7 pillars and now underpinned by quantified Green Campus infrastructure. The main gap is that DTC's contribution remains unconfirmed, and CECEC's SDG 11 activity is often a secondary tag on events designed primarily for other purposes.

Future directions:

- Confirm and formalise DTC's Sustainable Family Award Platform as an explicit SDG 11 contribution.
- Set annual targets for the Green Campus / 360° Campus Project (e.g., year-over-year change in planted vegetation or open space ratio) building on the now-available 60% / 11.59% baseline, rather than an open-ended “ongoing” status.
- Deepen Pillar 1's currently-absent SDG 11 contribution — of all CECEC pillars, only Pillar 1 has no SDG 11 tag; a community-facilities or urban-sustainability-themed workshop track could close this gap.
- Track Tree-Planting and Carbon-free Campus outcomes with hard metrics (trees planted, measured emissions reduction) rather than descriptive narrative alone.
- Commission a dedicated SDG 11 research/publications tracker to capture ICSDI 2025's 2.6% share and related research more systematically.
- Set a combined annual target (e.g., $\geq 6/7$ CECEC pillar coverage sustained + at least one new Green Campus infrastructure milestone).

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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