

Report on SDG17

Partnerships For The
Goals

GUST
2022



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**Gulf University for
Science and Technology
2022**

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Introduction

Internationally it has been discussed that it is necessary that there are changes to ensure a future for all people, therefore a global action plan was made with the purpose of improving the conditions of people and the planet seeking the prosperity of the entire world population, thus the 2030 agenda that proposes for all governments of the world 17 objectives with which to improve food, humanitarian, social and environmental conditions in the world, all this to reach a sustainable society in a period of time of 15 years.

The agenda aims to create a safe and adequate world for future generations, universal food coverage, education, equality, and a clean and prosperous environment, this long-term goal was determined by 193 countries in September 2015, the interconnections and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the 2030 Agenda is respected. If we achieve it, everyone's lives will be profoundly improved and our world will change for the better.

In adopting it, states committed to mobilize the means necessary for its implementation through partnerships with a special focus on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. The 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda were developed during more than two years of public consultations, interaction with civil society and negotiations between countries. The Agenda implies a common and universal commitment, however, as each country faces specific challenges in its pursuit of sustainable development, states have full sovereignty over their wealth, resources and economic activity, and each will set their own national targets in line with the Agenda.

Goal 10 is directly related to reducing inequalities and ensuring equal opportunities irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status among countries to achieve social welfare worldwide.

Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) thrives towards achieving goal 10 as a part of the Kuwait Society by applying anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies for staff and students, treating its students, staff and faculty equally and that includes the Bedoon (without nationality) who are stateless people that are found in several Middle Eastern countries, particularly in Kuwait to ensure there is no gender inequality nor income gap, and providing accessible facilities, support services, and access schemes for people with disabilities.

SDG17: Partnerships For The Goals

The high ambition of the SDGs revolves around strong global cooperation and partnerships.

Inclusive partnerships are necessary for a successful sustainability agenda. These partnerships built on principles and values, a shared vision and common goals that put people and planet at the center are needed at global, regional, national and local levels.

Many countries need official development assistance to support their growth and trade. However, aid flows are declining and many donor countries are not meeting their development funding commitments.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the global economy is expected to experience a sharp contraction of 3% in 2020, its worst recession since the Great Depression.

Strong international cooperation is needed more than ever to ensure that all countries have the means to recover from the pandemic, build back better and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Publish progress against SDG13: Climate Action

GUST is committed to implementing climate-friendly land use, conservation and agriculture policies. The goal of the 30X30 Forest, Food and Land Challenge is to achieve 30% of climate solutions by 2030 through better agricultural and land use practices.

SEED Hosts First Seminar "Are we heading toward changes in water and electricity prices in Kuwait"

The Center for Sustainable Energy and Economic Development (SEED) at Gulf University for Science and Technology (GUST) hosted its first seminar of the 2021/22 academic year titled "Are we heading toward changes in water and electricity prices in Kuwait?". The two key speakers of the seminar were Instructor of Economics and Finance, Dr. Osama Al-Falah and Senior Analyst at Al-Khafji Joint Operations, Mr. Mohammad Ramadhan, who tackled a various questions regarding Kuwait's economic future with water and electricity [1].

Both speakers tackled topics such as why should Kuwait increase its water and electricity prices and how does it compare geographically in the region? This seminar was organized in coordination with the Economics Club, as a part of their "Sustainability Week" shedding light on energy and sustainability.



GUST Students Praised for taking Silver Award for The Green Visioners

Associate Professor of Business Administration at GUST, Dr. Michel Zaitouni and the Dean of the College of Business Administration, Dr. Jean-Paul Arnaout, awarded four students who placed second in "The Universities Entrepreneurship Competition", organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs, with an award ceremony which took place on GUST's campus [2].

This marked the first edition of "Universities Entrepreneurship Competition", which was held on MS teams in March. Teams that participated were asked to provide innovative sustainable solutions to modern day challenges, and were judged for their innovation, financial sustainability, expansion, and social impact. Other universities that participated included Kuwait University, The American University of the Middle East, The Australian College of Kuwait, The Arab Open University, Kuwait Technical College, and The Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

The four students from GUST were Zahraa Aljuraidan, Zeinab Talal Baydoun, Sarah Alkhabbaz, and Sarah AlSmael competing under the team's name, "The Green Visioners", and were led by Associate Professor of Business Administration, Dr. Michel Zaitouni. Their proposal is to grant every individual with the ability to grow their own food in the simplest way possible while contributing to help the environment by adopting a complete sustainable & eco-friendly approach. Their project, titled El Jardín, which means "the garden" in Spanish, provides consumers with a simple, fun, and organic gardening experience in their own homes. Whether they are beginners or have a general knowledge about gardening, consumers of all

experiences can enjoy this practice. It aims to tackle different environmental issues by granting the consumer the ability to grow their own fresh food and further simplifying the process with a tutorial embedded in a QR code, with optional SMS updates.



The Green Visioners were celebrated and commended for their success in an award ceremony, with each member presented with a “certificate of achievement” by the Dean himself, while Dr. Michel Zaitouni presented the second-place trophy to the Dean of the College of Business Administration.

Dean of the College of Business Administration, Dr. Jean-Paul Arnaout, said, “This is a great achievement for GUST and for the students involved. As a first edition to the competition, it is impressive the team showed up so well prepared in such a short period of time. I am proud to call them students of the College of Business Administration but more importantly students of GUST. I hope we can go back again next year and achieve the same success.”

The achievement of the “The Green Visioners” in the “The Universities Entrepreneurship Competition” is a testament to the outstanding quality and dedication of the students from the College of Business Administration. Recently another group of students also achieved second place in the local CFA challenge in Kuwait, showcasing great academic mastery as young students.

GUST for SDGs specific researches on sustainability

- Davis, Lloyd S., et al. "Transformation of the media landscape: Infotainment versus expository narrations for communicating science in online videos." *Public Understanding of Science* 29.7 (2020): 688-701 [3].
- León, Bienvenido, et al. "Strategies for climate change communication through social media: Objectives, approach, and interaction." *Media International Australia* (2021): 1329878X211038004 [4].
- Davis, Lloyd S., et al. "Infotainment May Increase Engagement with Science but It Can Decrease Perceptions of Seriousness." *Sustainability* 14.17 (2022): 10659 [5].
- Peter, Stephan, et al. "Performance Analysis of a Solar-Powered Multi-Purpose Supply Container." *Sustainability* 14.9 (2022): 5525 [6].

Education for SDGs specific courses on sustainability

Have dedicated courses (full degrees, or electives) that address sustainability and the SDGs.

Courses Related To SDGs

CAS = Collage of Arts and Sciences, CBA = Collage of Business Administration [7]

Collage	Course
CAS	POLI 190 Universal Human Rights: Ideals & Realities 3.00 Prerequisite: GEPT / TOEFL Score / ENGL 110 Aims to defend the position that human rights are universal rights by unpacking the concept of universal human rights: it is historical beginnings, its possible religious and cultural influences and conflicts, and the ongoing contentions that surround it. Addresses ongoing local, regional, and global rights issues and violations and discusses the transformative power of education for human rights. This course equips students with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to contribute to the worldwide human rights dialogue.

References

- [1] [Online] Are we heading toward changes in water and electricity prices in Kuwait
https://www.gust.edu.kw/event/seed_hosts_first_seminar_202122_academic_year
- [2] [Online] GUST Students Praised for taking Silver
https://www.gust.edu.kw/content/gust_students_praised_taking_silver
- [3] [Online] Davis, Lloyd S., et al. "Transformation of the media landscape: Infotainment versus expository narrations for communicating science in online videos." *Public Understanding of Science* 29.7 (2020): 688-701 <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0963662520945136>
- [4] [Online] León, Bienvenido, et al. "Strategies for climate change communication through social media: Objectives, approach, and interaction." *Media International Australia* (2021): 1329878X211038004 <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1329878X211038004>
- [5] [Online] Davis, Lloyd S., et al. "Infotainment May Increase Engagement with Science but It Can Decrease Perceptions of Seriousness." *Sustainability* 14.17 (2022): 10659 <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/17/10659>
- [6] [Online] Peter, Stephan, et al. "Performance Analysis of a Solar-Powered Multi-Purpose Supply Container." *Sustainability* 14.9 (2022): 5525 <https://www.mdpi.com/2071-1050/14/9/5525>
- [7] [Online] GUST Courses https://www.gust.edu.kw/prospective_student/undergraduate_programs