


# PITT SUSTAINABILITY PLAN AMENDMENT 2025

First published in 2018, these amended 2025 Pitt Sustainability Plan goals reflect University of Pittsburgh achievements, set new goals, and provide clear guidance for tracking progress.

## EXPLORATION

Catalyzing multidisciplinary curriculum, groundbreaking research, and social engagement, Pitt will educate every member of our community, support our leaders, and promote innovation.

 TEACHING & LEARNING
<b>CURRICULUM:</b> Create faculty tools and incentives to encourage the incorporation of sustainability components into existing and new courses.
<b>ACADEMICS:</b> Ensure every student’s academic journey includes sustainability-focused curriculum, including in every degree program, general education requirements, & via a broad array of courses.
<b>ADVISORS:</b> Engage all undergraduate advisors and give them the tools necessary to connect interested students to sustainability-themed courses, majors, minors, internships, and community activities.
<b>CREDENTIAL:</b> Increase number of students graduating with sustainability credentials including the Undergraduate Certificate in Sustainability and Sustainability Distinction (compared to FY18 baseline).
<b>SERVICE LEARNING:</b> Advance environmental progress through community-based sustainability research and service-learning projects that amplify community voices.

 GLOBAL OUTREACH
<b>ELEVATE:</b> Promote Pitt’s sustainability-related research, academics, & initiatives at industry and academic conferences to inform greater audiences about our stories of impact.
<b>EXPERIENCES:</b> Provide students with insight into the global sustainability challenges facing our world via opportunities on-campus and abroad.
<b>ENGAGE:</b> Increase student engagement with sustainability-related international programs, experiences, and events.
<b>ALUMNI:</b> Engage Pitt Sustainability alumni engaged in sustainability regionally, nationally, and internationally to connect them with University faculty and students.

January 2025


 RESEARCH
<b>HIGHLIGHT:</b> Raise the visibility of faculty research in sustainability.
<b>COLLABORATE:</b> Provide more opportunities and incentives for interdisciplinary research as well as the bridging of academics and operations – promoting an environment of informing and working together.
<b>LIVING LAB:</b> Use the Pitt campus as a living laboratory for faculty and students to implement new ideas and study outcomes over time.


 PARTNERSHIPS
<b>EXPERTISE:</b> Connect with industry and community collaborators to support applied sustainability research and education.
<b>LOCAL:</b> Establish local and regional partnerships to accelerate the transfer of sustainability ideas from Pitt classrooms and laboratories through implementation.
<b>K-12 SCHOOLS:</b> In partnership with existing Pitt and external programs, provide K-12 sustainability educational instruction and hands-on experiences within and outside of the classroom to rural and urban districts.
<b>COMMUNITY:</b> Co-create sustainability opportunities within Pitt’s neighborhood commitments that contribute positive benefits to our local communities.
<b>PHILANTHROPY:</b> Verify sustainability as a philanthropic priority across the University, with focus on raising funds that increase sustainability prominence, research, education, campus implementation, and service opportunities for the Pitt community.

 INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP
<b>INNOVATION:</b> Collaborate with Pitt’s Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship to embed sustainability principles throughout its offerings.
<b>ADVANCE:</b> Work across sustainability impact areas to define innovations and create new opportunities for students, faculty, and staff to advance ideas for impact.
<b>IDEAS:</b> Guide and incentivize the University’s innovation ecosystem to help increase the number of sustainability-related invention disclosures, patents, licenses, and startups (both for profit and nonprofit).

## STEWARDSHIP

Pitt will care for the built and the natural environment to ensure responsible and efficient resource management, continually striving to minimize the environmental impact of our operations.


 ENERGY & EMISSIONS
<b>CARBON:</b> Reach carbon neutrality by 2037, while reducing greenhouse emissions 50% by 2030 (from 2008 baseline).
<b>EFFICIENCY:</b> Achieve Pittsburgh 2030 District goals of 50% reduction in energy use intensity (consumption per square foot) by 2030 (below 2003 national median baseline).
<b>STANDARDS:</b> Elevate design standards and operational practices to achieve energy use reduction goals.
<b>RENEWABLES:</b> Produce or procure 50% of the University’s electricity from renewable resources by 2030 and 100% by 2037.

 TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY
<b>EMISSIONS:</b> Achieve Pittsburgh 2030 District goal of 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from commuter travel by 2030 (below the 2013 Oakland neighborhood baseline).
<b>FLEET:</b> Reduce greenhouse gas emissions from fleet vehicles 50% by 2030 (below 2017 baseline).
<b>COMMUTING:</b> Increase active & shared commuting to 55% of all commuting trips to Pittsburgh campus by 2030.
<b>BIKING:</b> Achieve Gold Bicycle Friendly University status from the League of American Bicyclists in 2025.
<b>CHARGING:</b> Install 50 new electric vehicle charging plugs in existing facilities between 2025 and 2030




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 WATER SYSTEMS
<b>EFFICIENCY:</b> Achieve Pittsburgh 2030 District goal of 50% reduction in water use intensity (consumption per square foot) by 2030 (below historic district average)
<b>STANDARDS:</b> Elevate design standards and operational practices to achieve water use reduction goals.
<b>DRAINAGE:</b> Responsibly manage stormwater by increasing pervious surfaces, improving campus porosity, and removing and improving lawn areas with native, sustainable landscapes (compared to 2017 baselines).*
<b>STORMWATER:</b> Divert 25% of stormwater from impervious surfaces by 2030 via above ground (green) and rainwater reuse infrastructure.*
<b>DRINK:</b> Work with the City of Pittsburgh to ensure clean, healthy drinking water for all in our community.

 LANDSCAPE & ECOLOGY
<b>STANDARDS:</b> Maintain at least 75% of landscaped areas in alignment with Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) Standards for Organic Land Care.
<b>DESIGN:</b> Adhere to Pitt’s Sustainable Landscape Design Guidelines in all landscape designs.
<b>TREES:</b> Maintain and grow tree count and canopy on campus by 2037 (compared to 2017 baseline), while improving tree health & ecosystems in Pittsburgh.*
<b>CERTIFICATION:</b> Pursue SITES certification for applicable landscape projects.

 MATERIALS & RESOURCES
<b>LANDFILL:</b> Reduce landfilled materials 25% by 2030 (from 2017 levels).
<b>PURCHASING:</b> Enhance procedures, policies, practices, and educational tools to reduce the quantity and environmental impact of materials entering and exiting the University.
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS:</b> Use healthy products for our built environment in accordance with Pitt Design Guidelines.


\*Reflecting their inclusion in the University’s 2021 Institutional Master Plan, reporting on the original 2018 Pitt Sustainability Plan goals addressing these topics will continue.

## COMMUNITY & CULTURE


Pitt will continue to strengthen its campus and communities by creating a culture of shared responsibility for our impact locally, regionally, and globally.

 ENGAGEMENT & AWARENESS
<b>CELEBRATE:</b> Share our stories of impact as leaders on a national scale and promote our model of sustainability.
<b>STUDENTS:</b> Incorporate the tenets of sustainability into co-curricular student programming, including via unique sustainability student engagement and leadership opportunities and green event best practices.
<b>SURVEY:</b> Deploy & report on trends from triennial University sustainability literacy & culture survey to students and employees.
<b>TRAINING:</b> Ensure all incoming employees know how to infuse sustainability into their everyday work at Pitt by embedding sustainability educational materials into staff and faculty orientations.
<b>EMPLOYEES:</b> Embed sustainability into the employee experience.
<b>DEVELOPMENT:</b> Enhance mechanisms for employees to obtain University-sponsored sustainability professional education & credentials relevant to their fields.

 CITY & REGIONAL CONNECTIONS
<b>TRANSPARENCY:</b> Continue to maintain and increase transparency between Pitt and our community for knowledge sharing, capacity building, and change empowerment.
<b>LEADERSHIP:</b> Take active leadership roles in sustainability initiatives in Oakland, Pittsburgh, the region, and nationally to demonstrate solutions to our grand challenges.
<b>ENGAGEMENT:</b> Incentivize sustainability activism and community collaborations by providing opportunities for sustainability-related volunteerism, internships, service, and community engagement.
<b>PARTNERSHIP:</b> Embrace a culture of impactful service through long-term investment in our communities.

 EQUITY & ACCESS
<b>BASIC NEEDS:</b> Maintain and grow student resource net that proactively meets students’ physical, social, financial, and mental health needs.
<b>PURCHASING:</b> Continue to integrate sustainability tenets into the University’s procurement guidelines, processes, and contracts.
<b>INVESTING:</b> Increase Pitt community understanding about the purpose and management of the Consolidated Endowments Fund (CEF), including education and engagement about the CEF’s aggregate status, trends, and current and future fossil fuel exposure (including the basis for any material changes in expectations).
<b>EQUITY:</b> Work across all impact areas of the Pitt Sustainability Plan to ensure benefits for all within the Pitt community.

 HEALTH & WELL-BEING
<b>BUILDINGS:</b> Pursue LEED Gold green building certification or better for applicable University owned and partnered projects, while continuing to include 2030 Challenge energy and water use intensity performance targets.
<b>SPACE:</b> Improve the environmental quality of our indoor and outdoor spaces.
<b>HAPPINESS:</b> Enhance student & employee physical and mental health.

 FOOD SYSTEMS
<b>MEALS:</b> Achieve Coolfood Pledge commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions per plate 38% by 2030 (from 2017 baseline).
<b>PROCUREMENT:</b> Support local food economies by sourcing 30% of food and beverage products locally or sustainably by 2030.
<b>TO-GO:</b> Offer reusable to-go containers for food and beverages at over 50% of campus dining locations by 2030.