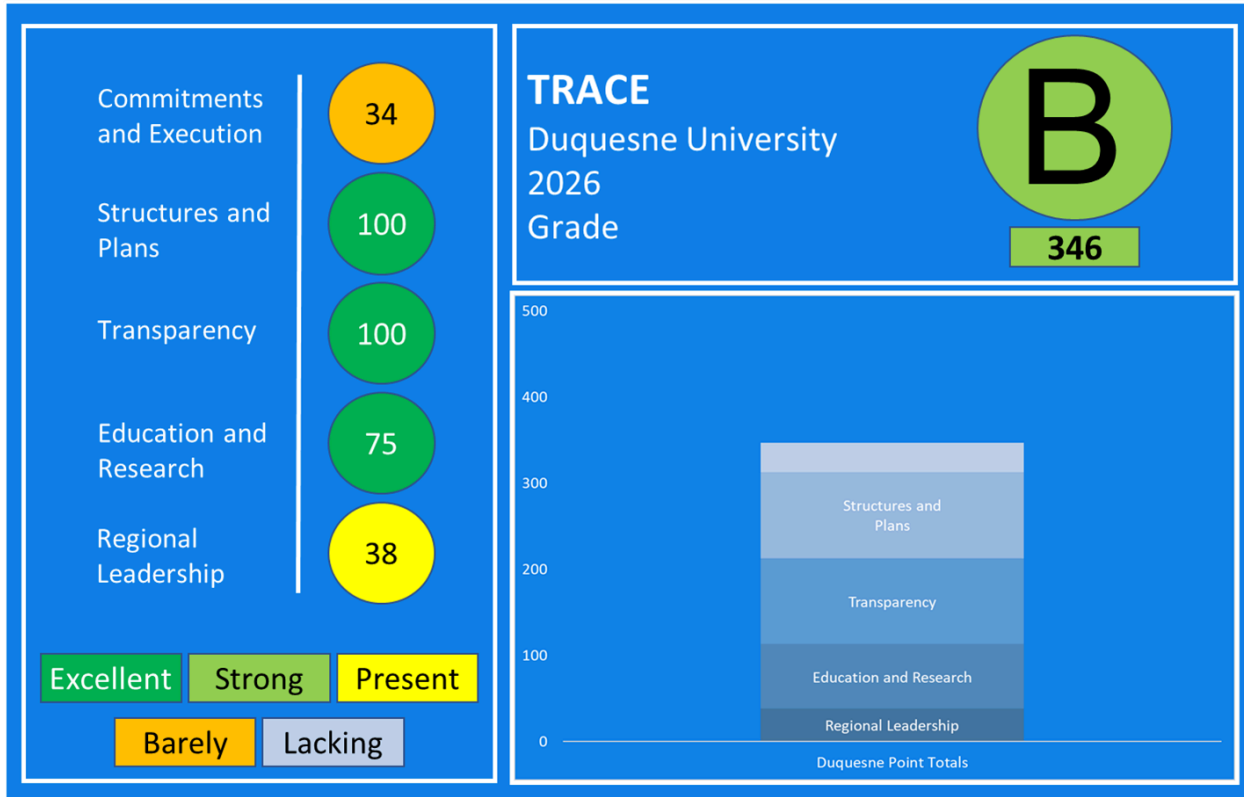




*Duquesne University*  
**TRACE REPORT**  
*April 2026*



**Executive Summary**

Duquesne University is a private university located in downtown Pittsburgh with programs in the arts, science, business, communications, and education. It enrolled 1,669 total students in Fall 2024. The work done by their University Sustainability Committee (USC) includes sustainable developments in research, academic coursework, community engagement, and construction. According to their university’s website, “The USC works to develop and promote a culture of sustainability that resonates across campus and the Pittsburgh community by being an advocate, resource, and a catalyst for social, environmental, and economic responsibility.”



## Highs

- Duquesne has a formal sustainability initiative, the University Sustainability Committee (USC). The chair of this committee is Dr. Sarah Breckinridge Wright.
- Sustainability reports: The USC publishes an annual report that details their notable achievements in sustainability. They also have received a Silver Rating from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report since 2019.
- Duquesne is the first university in western Pennsylvania to conduct regular inventories of its greenhouse gas emissions.
- Additionally, Duquesne offers a Masters of Environmental Science and Management, a Bachelor of Science (BS) in Environmental Science, and a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Environmental Studies. These programs include areas of study such as pollution prevention, environmental public policy, green technology development, and environmental management.

**About TRACE**

Given the importance of higher educational institutions to the southwestern Pennsylvania region, we have created the *350 Pittsburgh Three Rivers Assessment of Carbon Emissions (TRACE)*. This scorecard is intended to be a simple and understandable assessment of each institution's progress toward carbon neutrality. The scorecard assesses the school's results in five categories. These five categories are weighted based on the degree of impact they have on operational, financial, and educational results. For more information on the scorecard, see <https://world.350.org/pittsburgh/TRACE/>

## Areas for Improvement

- Duquesne has not set a target date commitment for carbon neutrality. Additionally, they have not published target dates for divestment from fossil fuel interests. We believe that the implementation of a target date and transparency through an annual reporting progress is essential for institutions to achieve carbon neutrality.

## Process

Because of the high priority that TRACE places on transparency, the scoring process starts with a survey of publicly available information provided by the University and other public data sources. This approach helps assure that the general public and other institutions can see the individual school's approach and progress. The public data search is supplemented with an opportunity for the school to respond to the initial scoring by providing additional information not found in the public data search. The final score is adjusted with the additional information and the school is encouraged to make this information available to the public.



## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Megan Poff, the Chatham University student who helped with scoring, and Grace Reyelts, the Carnegie Mellon student who wrote this report.

## Disclaimer

This report has been conducted by 350 Pittsburgh, the local affiliate of 350.org. 350 Pittsburgh is solely responsible for the result.



## Score Breakdown

Duquesne received a total score of 346 for a “B” Grade.

Commitments, Goals and Objectives	Score	Category Points
Has a target date commitment and interim milestones to carbon neutrality for all 3 GHG Protocol scopes	0%	34
Has published target dates for divestment from fossil fuel interests	0%	
Is making visible documented progress toward stated goals	0%	
Using recognized approaches for planning and tracking carbon neutrality	90%	
Institution Structures and Plan	Score	
Has a formal sustainability office/initiative/director	100%	100
Has a formal/public climate action plan with implementation underway	100%	
Transparency	Score	
The institution is reporting at least annually via public documentation and presentation	100%	100
Education and Research	Score	
Curriculum	100%	75
Students	100%	
Research (where applicable)	100%	
Regional Leadership	Score	
Publicly visible engagement and advocacy with regional higher education and non-education institutions	50%	38
Peer Institutions Leadership	50%	
Local Community	50%	



## Public Source Material

Commitments, Goals and Objectives	<a href="https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/duquesne-university-pa/report/">https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/duquesne-university-pa/report/</a>
Institution Structures and Plan	<a href="https://www.duq.edu/about/sustainability/index.php">https://www.duq.edu/about/sustainability/index.php</a> <a href="https://duq.app.box.com/s/7uexeqh13ixh17hdtlav7mseji1u0lhq">https://duq.app.box.com/s/7uexeqh13ixh17hdtlav7mseji1u0lhq</a>
Transparency	<a href="https://duq.app.box.com/s/sbtevexkkd0oo3l7t5lpl1yt54bzd5z">https://duq.app.box.com/s/sbtevexkkd0oo3l7t5lpl1yt54bzd5z</a>
Education and Research	<a href="#">Bs-ms-in-environmental-science-and-management.php</a> <a href="https://www.duq.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/science-and-engineering/academics/departments-and-programs/cere/ba-environmental-science.php">https://www.duq.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/science-and-engineering/academics/departments-and-programs/cere/ba-environmental-science.php</a> <a href="https://www.duq.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/science-and-engineering/academics/departments-and-programs/cere/bs-environmental-science.php">https://www.duq.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/science-and-engineering/academics/departments-and-programs/cere/bs-environmental-science.php</a> <a href="https://duq.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/ecologyclub">https://duq.campuslabs.com/engage/organization/ecologyclub</a> <a href="https://www.duq.edu/research/sponsored-research/grants-received/index.php">https://www.duq.edu/research/sponsored-research/grants-received/index.php</a> <a href="https://www.duq.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/science-and-engineering/academics/departments-and-programs/cere/research-facilities.php">https://www.duq.edu/academics/colleges-and-schools/science-and-engineering/academics/departments-and-programs/cere/research-facilities.php</a>
Regional Leadership	<a href="https://www.baumgartneruss.com/hecc">https://www.baumgartneruss.com/hecc</a> <a href="https://www.duq.edu/social-impact/community-and-global-service/index.php">https://www.duq.edu/social-impact/community-and-global-service/index.php</a>



## About 350 Pittsburgh

350 Pittsburgh was founded in Spring 2015 by local environmental activists to build on the momentum of the 2014 People’s Climate March and form a Pittsburgh group dedicated to climate issues. We envision a future where policies and actions at the local, state, federal and international levels will have ensured a stable climate that provides an opportunity for all people to achieve health, prosperity and fulfillment.

Through public education and collaborative civic activism, 350 Pittsburgh:

- Promotes understanding of the devastating impact of climate change on the urban and rural communities in our region and elsewhere.
- Demands that the region’s decision makers take all possible steps to help diminish climate disruption by ending our reliance on fossil fuels and investing in good jobs in a renewable energy economy.
- Encourages people in our region to become actively involved in the urgent struggle to reverse catastrophic climate change.

TRACE information, including a white paper, can be found on the [350 Pittsburgh website](#). To contact 350 Pittsburgh, email [350pittsburgh@gmail.com](mailto:350pittsburgh@gmail.com).