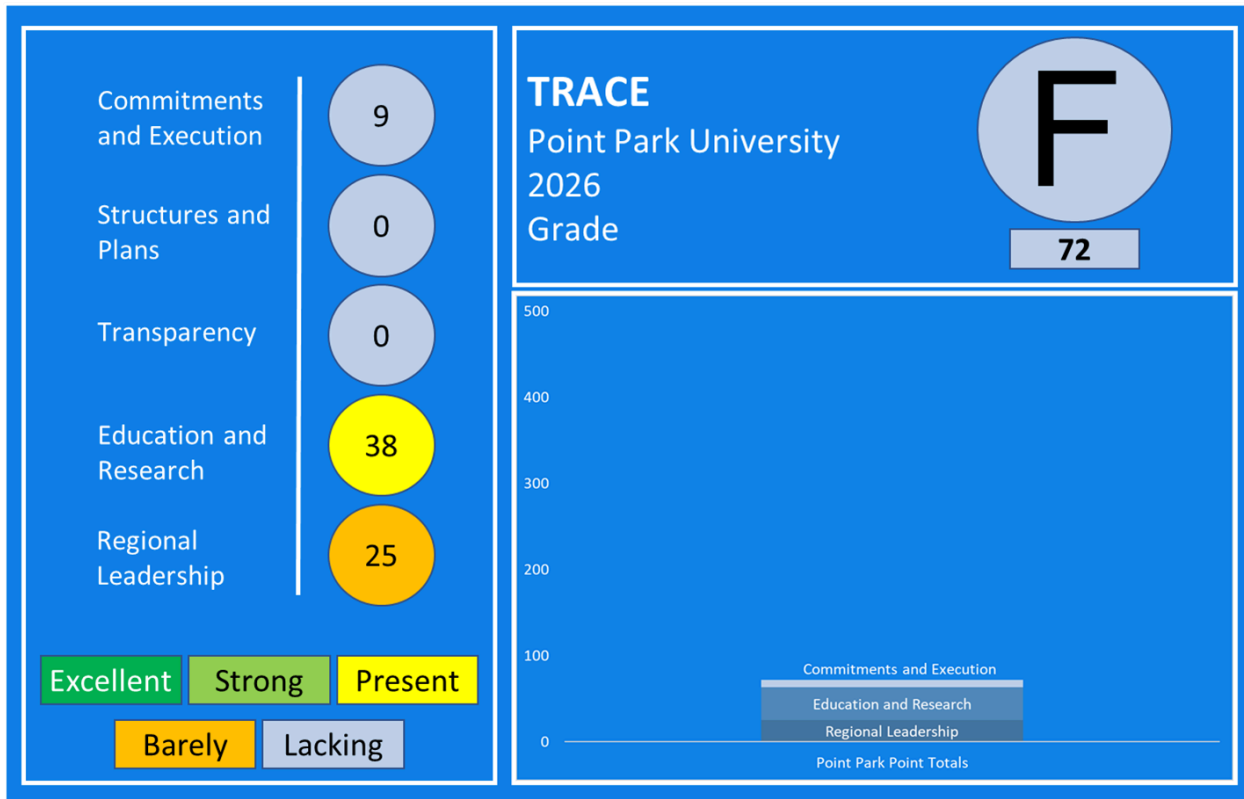




*Point Park University*  
**TRACE REPORT**  
*April 2026*



## Executive Summary

Point Park University is a private university located in downtown Pittsburgh with programs in the arts, science, business, communications, and education. It enrolled 3,448 total students in Fall 2024. According to the university’s website, “The Point Park University Community embraces a sustainable culture of environmental, economic and social responsibility through leadership, education and personal accountability.” Through our research we found that Point Park offers a relevant degree program and demonstrates some local climate leadership, but has gaps in their commitments, goals, and objectives.



## Highs

- Some early leadership: Point Park received the Trane Energy Efficiency Leader in Education award (2009) for implementing high performance and sustainable infrastructure in their dance complex. They were also awarded LEED gold for their George Rowland White Performance Center (2012).
- Point Park made a commitment to LEED-certify all new construction and renovation projects to be “green-friendly” (this text present on web site 2025, date of commitment and status unknown).
- Point Park takes steps to educate their community members on the importance of sustainability. They have many resources and lots of information available on their website. They also participate in nationwide educational efforts, such as Recycle Mania. Engagement with HECC, the Higher Education Climate Consortium, shows a further commitment to sustainability.
- Additionally, Point Park offers a Master of Science in Environmental Studies which includes important areas of study such as environmental law, environmental communication, environmental ethics, and the connection to health. No undergraduate environmental science degrees are currently being offered.

**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

- Point Park has not set a target date commitment for carbon neutrality. We believe that the implementation of a target date and transparency through an annual reporting progress is essential for institutions to achieve carbon neutrality.
- Point Park University's website features a page dedicated to sustainability at the university. Unfortunately, the information provided within is largely outdated. Furthermore, it specifies general sustainable practices for students to take instead of focusing on the university's goals and accomplishments.
- The university's Sustainability Committee should be reactivated.



## 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 ensure 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.

For the 2025 Point Park scoring, the process was led by two Chatham University students. Final scoring was jointly established by these students and 350 Pittsburgh. We were unable to identify Point Park students to participate in the scoring. Point Park did not respond to our request for feedback on the initial scoring. As a result, their score represents currently available public information.

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Megan Poff and Maddie Long, the two Chatham Students who helped with scoring.

## 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

Point Park received a total score of 72 for an “F” Grade.

Commitments, Goals and Objectives	Score	Category Score
Has a target date commitment and interim milestones to carbon neutrality for all 3 GHG Protocol scopes	0%	9
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	25%	
Institution Structures and Plan	Score	
Has a formal sustainability office/initiative/director	0%	0
Has a formal/public climate action plan with implementation underway	0%	
Transparency	Score	
The institution is reporting at least annually via public documentation and presentation	0%	0
Education and Research	Score	
Curriculum	100%	38
Students	0%	
Research (where applicable)	0%	
Regional Leadership	Score	
Publicly visible engagement and advocacy with regional higher education and non-education institutions	0%	25
Peer Institutions Leadership	50%	
Local Community	50%	



## Public Source Material

Commitments, Goals and Objectives	<a href="http://www.pointpark.edu/about/sustainability/greenawards">www.pointpark.edu/about/sustainability/greenawards</a> Member of AASHE
Institution Structures and Plan	
Transparency	
Education and Research	<a href="http://www.pointpark.edu/about/sustainability/greenclasscampus">www.pointpark.edu/about/sustainability/greenclasscampus</a> Master of Science in Environmental Studies
Regional Leadership	<a href="http://www.pointpark.edu/about/sustainability/greenclasscampus">www.pointpark.edu/about/sustainability/greenclasscampus</a> Local and National Involvement

## 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).