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## 350 Pittsburgh Releases New TRACE Scorecards Evaluating Local Universities' Climate Action Efforts *Chatham, Duquesne, and Point Park assessed on progress toward carbon emission reduction goals*

PITTSBURGH, Pa. — 350 Pittsburgh today announced the release of a new round of scorecards evaluating how local colleges and universities are addressing climate change and reducing their carbon emissions. The initiative, the **Three Rivers Assessment of Carbon Emissions (TRACE)**, assesses institutions on their commitments, progress, transparency, and leadership in climate action.

The Spring 2026 release includes scorecards for Chatham University, Duquesne University, and Point Park University. These results build on the 2024 pilot program, which evaluated Carnegie Mellon University, the University of Pittsburgh, and Robert Morris University.

The TRACE scorecards are designed to promote transparency and collaboration among institutions of higher education and to encourage more ambitious action to reduce carbon footprints. The program evaluates universities participating in the Pittsburgh Higher Education Climate Consortium (HECC), a group committed to advancing the region's transition to a low-carbon future.

### Key Findings

Overall, the 2026 scorecards indicate a decline in visible institutional focus on sustainability in recent years, alongside significant opportunities for improvement. At the same time, the findings highlight important examples of progress and leadership.



**Duquesne University** stands out as a leader in this year’s assessment. The university continues to publish annual sustainability reports through its University Sustainability Committee and has maintained a Silver rating from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) since 2019. Duquesne was also the first university in western Pennsylvania to conduct regular greenhouse gas inventories. In addition, it offers a range of academic programs in environmental science, environmental studies, and environmental management, helping to prepare students to lead in a sustainable future.

**Chatham University**, long recognized for its leadership in sustainability and the development of the Eden Hall campus, committed in 2008 to achieving carbon neutrality by 2025. However, the TRACE scorecard found no clear public indication that this goal has been met. The university is no longer publicly reporting emissions data, its AASHE rankings expired in 2021, and no public plans to resume reporting were identified. While Chatham remains strongly associated with environmental leadership—reinforced by the legacy of alumna Rachel Carson—recent transparency and public engagement appear to have declined.

**Point Park University** demonstrates positive efforts in sustainability education and past leadership in energy-efficient building projects. The university has received recognition for LEED-certified facilities and continues to offer sustainability-related academic programs. However, the scorecard identified gaps in long-term commitments, measurable goals, and publicly reported progress.

“We’re proud to share the latest round of scores in the 350 Pittsburgh TRACE scorecard. TRACE is a vital tool for motivating regional colleges and universities to lead the transition to a carbon-free future. We’re encouraged by the progress to date and urge institutions to accelerate their efforts for the sake of future generations,” said Warwick Powell, Board Chair of 350 Pittsburgh.

“Conducting the scoring and writing these reports increased my awareness of where universities are making progress and where more work is needed,” said Grace Reyelts, a student at Carnegie Mellon University and TRACE scorer. “Making this information accessible helps encourage action from university leadership and raises awareness among students, who play a critical role in shaping sustainable initiatives.”

“We at Third Act Pittsburgh working group are thrilled that our younger counterparts at local colleges and universities are doing the vital work of creating TRACE scorecards for their institutions. This work will help everyone involved to clearly see each institution’s actions in the move to a carbon-free future and will hopefully motivate them to do even more in the future.”  
Marty Seltman, MD

## About TRACE

The TRACE scorecards evaluate each institution across five key categories:

- **Commitments, Goals, and Objectives** — Commitment to carbon neutrality with clear timelines and milestones
- **Structures, Plans, and Progress** — Organizational capacity and progress tracking
- **Transparency** — Public accessibility of sustainability information
- **Engagement and Education** — Opportunities for student involvement and learning
- **Regional Leadership** — Contributions to broader community climate efforts

Early findings suggest that while many institutions have taken meaningful steps, significant opportunities remain. 350 Pittsburgh encourages students, faculty, and community members to ask: *What are we doing to be more carbon free?*

## **About 350 Pittsburgh**

350 Pittsburgh is a grassroots organization founded in 2015 by local environmental activists. Building on the momentum of the 2014 People's Climate March, the organization works to promote public education, civic engagement, and collective action to address climate change at the local, state, national, and global levels.

Through advocacy and outreach, 350 Pittsburgh:

- Raises awareness of climate impacts in Western Pennsylvania and beyond
- Calls on decision-makers to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and invest in renewable energy
- Encourages community members to take action to address climate change

More information about TRACE and the full scorecards is available on the 350 Pittsburgh website. <https://world.350.org/pittsburgh/trace>

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