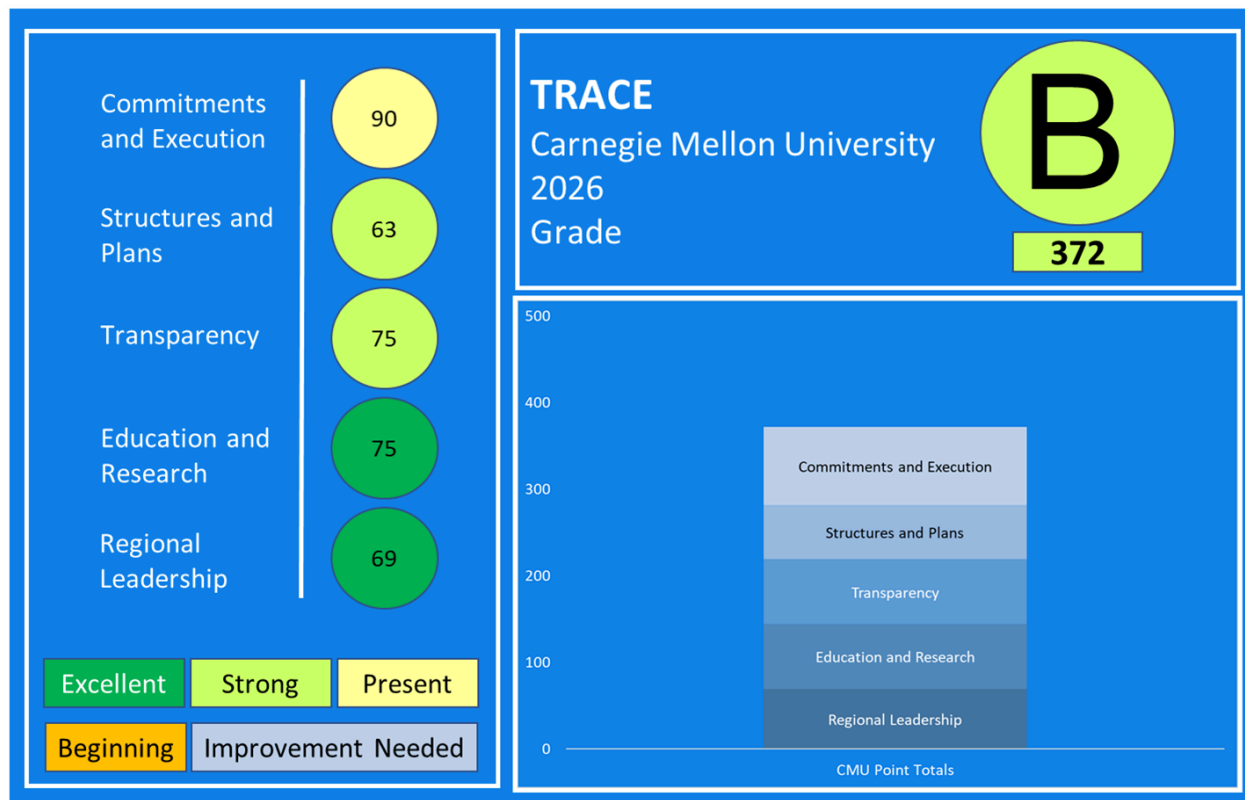




Carnegie Mellon University TRACE REPORT July 2026



Executive Summary

Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) is a private university located in the Oakland neighborhood of Pittsburgh with programs in the arts, sciences, business, humanities, and information systems. As of Spring 2025, it has 16,676 students consisting of both undergraduate and graduate students. The Sustainability Initiative is CMU's effort to advance sustainability by implementing the UN Sustainable Development goals into education, research, and the campus community. We found that CMU has made notable efforts in sustainable developments in education, research, and regional leadership. However, improvements could be made in progress towards goals within a formal climate action plan.



Highs

- CMU has committed to offsetting net greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. They joined Second Nature's Climate Leadership Network by signing their Climate Commitment in September of 2023.
- They have received a Gold Rating from the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) report as of Dec. 2024 and have multiple LEED recognized buildings.
- Additionally, CMU has a Campus Master Plan, a Strategic Plan, and a Climate Pledge that discuss their goals and objectives.
- CMU offers degrees in Environmental and Sustainability Studies (additional major or minor), Environmental Engineering (BS), and Civil and Environmental Engineering (MS).
- The university is also recognized as a member of the Higher Education Climate Consortium (HECC) of Pittsburgh.

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

- CMU has not released any information indicating that they will divest 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.
- CMU does not have its own Climate Action Plan (CAP). A CAP would allow visible progress to be shown towards their carbon neutrality goals. Additionally, it would publicly affirm a commitment to the institution's climate goals.

Comparison to the 2023 CMU Pilot Scoring

In 2023, CMU received a score of 375 which is comparable to the 2026 scoring of 372. Since this initial scoring, they have improved their level of transparency, specifically with carbon neutrality targets. Information given to the public is now more readily accessible through the Sustainability Initiative's website. However, since the 2023 report, CMU has not made notable



strides toward creating a Climate Action Plan. We request that CMU formally commit to developing a CAP and establishing a team and funding for the creation of that plan in 2026.

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 Grace Reyelts, the Carnegie Mellon student who helped with scoring. Thank you to Deborah Steinberg from Carnegie Mellon who gave feedback during the scoring process.

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

Carnegie Mellon received a total score of 372 for a “B” Grade.

Description	Score	Category Score
Commitments, Goals and Objectives		
Has a target date commitment and interim milestones to carbon neutrality for all 3 GHG Protocol scopes	100%	90
Has published target dates for divestment from fossil fuel interests	0%	
Is making visible documented progress toward stated goals	50%	
Using recognized approaches for planning and tracking carbon neutrality	90%	
Institution Structures and Plan		
Has a formal sustainability office/initiative/director	75%	63
Has a formal/public climate action plan with implementation underway	50%	
Transparency		
The institution is reporting at least annually via public documentation and presentation	75%	75
Education and Research		
Curriculum	100%	75
Students	100%	
Research (where applicable)	100%	
Regional Leadership		
Publicly visible engagement and advocacy with regional higher education and non-education institutions	75%	69
Peer Institutions Leadership	100%	
Local Community	100%	



Public Source Material

Commitments, Goals and Objectives	University Commitments - Environment at CMU Greenhouse Gas Inventories - Environment at CMU Carnegie Mellon University Scorecard Institutions STARS Reports
Institution Structures and Plan	About Us - Sustainability Initiative at CMU Carnegie Mellon University Climate Pledge - Environment at CMU
Transparency	https://www.cmu.edu/sustainability-initiative/dashboards/index.html
Education and Research	https://reports.aashe.org/institutions/carnegie-mellon-university-pa/report/2024-12-17/ scored 18/18 on STARS but not sure entirely
Regional Leadership	Carnegie Mellon University Scorecard Institutions STARS Reports https://www.baumgartneruss.com/hecc https://www.centerforsharedprosperity.org/events

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.