

Pittsburgh's

GREEN

GUIDE

● 2019 ●



Welcome!

As a member of the Pittsburgh community, we know you care about the health and success of the city you and your loved ones call home. By now, you might have heard the word "sustainability" tossed around as a broad term associated with the environment and human action.

But what does sustainability mean to you and your everyday involvement in the Pittsburgh community?

This Green Guide is here to answer just that! As a vital member of a community at the crest of innovation, there are multiple actions you can take to help advance Pittsburgh's sustainability and resiliency now and into the future. This guide is structured by Pittsburgh's Climate Action Plan (CAP) 3.0—a comprehensive strategy to reduce the city's greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by 2023, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050.

Please use this guide as a reference for your own sustainability journey and share your progress with us!



How we got here :

2007



The first Climate Action Plan was created by Pittsburgh's Green Government Task Force and adopted by the city as a guiding document providing an outline of specific strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Pittsburgh signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, pledging to implement local climate change mitigation solutions that would save taxpayer dollars and reduce long-term energy use.

2008



2012



The third Climate Action Plan was created to track progress from the first two plans and propose new measures to counteract continuing effects of climate change. This document aligns with Mayor Peduto's climate goals signed in the 2015 Paris Accords.

The second Climate Action Plan was created proposing new measures that could be implemented in order to meet a greenhouse gas reduction target of 20% below 2003 levels by 2023.

2017



Fun fact: Mayor Peduto was one of 12 mayors representing the U.S. at the 2015 Paris Accords.

Energy Generation & Distribution

City Goals:

- ✓ 50% emissions reduction below 2003 levels by 2030

Factors like electricity, natural gas, and transportation from Pittsburgh's built environment contribute to 99% of the city's total emissions. While the city has plans for larger energy generation and distribution projects, there are many ways to participate in lowering the city's energy output from the comfort of your own home.

Appliances & Electronics

- **Shut down your computer at night.** Opting to shut down over using a screensaver does not affect your computer's lifespan. (EnergyStar). So power down!
- **Unplug idle electronics.** Devices like TVs, microwaves, and printers use standby power, even when off. Some chargers continue to pull small amounts of energy, even when plugged in (a good judge of this is if a charger feels warm to the touch).
- **Turn off lights.** It might sound trivial, but be conscious of the lights you have on. Avoid using lights in rooms with daylight and that aren't being used.

Did you know?

You can save up to **\$100** a year by using Advanced Power Strips, devices that cut off power supply to electronics not in use. (Energy.gov)

Lighting

- **Invest in LED.** LED bulbs use 75% less electricity than incandescent bulbs (Energy Star). They also have no mercury, and last about 25 times longer than traditional incandescent bulbs (DoE).

Monitoring

- **Audit your home's energy.** Find out how your home is using energy and where there might be lapses. Duquesne Light Company serves the Pittsburgh community and offers home energy audits. Schedule yours by calling 1-888-998-9478.
- **Plug-in to smart power strips.** Power strips are a great way to control your energy use and smart ones cut off power to devices that go into standby mode. Standby power consumption in an average home ranges from 5-10 % of your household energy consumption. (Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory)
- **Use a smart monitor.** Home energy monitors connect to your electricity meter to show how much energy your home is using and provide information about how you can make your home more energy efficient.

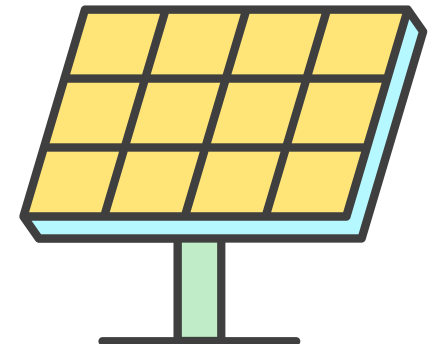
Resources

Conservation Consultants Inc. (CCI)
64 South 14th St
Pittsburgh, PA
www.ccicenter.org

Duquesne Light Co.
411 Seventh Ave
Pittsburgh, PA
www.duquesnelight.com
wattchoices@duqlight.com

Diagnostic Energy Auditors of Western Pennsylvania

510 Sandra Drive
Trafford, PA
<http://www.deawp.org>



Buildings & Energy Use Efficiency

City Goals:

- ✓ Reduce energy and water consumption by 50% by 2030

Pittsburgh is known for its historic structures. In fact, more than 70% of Pittsburgh homes were built before 1970. While historic buildings add to the city's culture, they also enhance its energy burden. Learn what steps you can take to help lessen this burden across the city:

Reduce Water Use

- **Fix leaks.** Leaky faucets are unavoidable and can add up to a lot of wasted water. Remain vigilant on fixing leaks in your home.
- **Invest in low-flow fixtures and aerators.** The standard maximum flow rate for shower heads is 2.5 gallons per minute, based on current U.S. regulations. By comparison, a low flow shower head uses 2.0 gpm or less.
- **Run clothes and dish washers only when full.** Today the convenience of appliances make it easy to over use them. Save water by only using appliances when at capacity.

Did you know?

81%

of Pittsburgh's greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings. (PCAP)

- **Install a rain barrel.** It's no secret that it rains a lot in Pittsburgh, so why not capitalize on the weather? Install a rain barrel to capture water which you can then use for outdoor watering later.

Temperature Control

- **Insulate windows and doors.** About 1/3 of energy loss in homes is through windows and doors. Insulate these openings by weather stripping, sealing leaky edges with caulk, or investing in double-pane glass.

Cook Consciously

- **Match up pans with the proper-sized burners.** On stove tops with multiple-sized burners, make sure the pan you're using fits to reduce energy loss and increase efficiency.
- **Utilize your oven's top rack.** The top rack of an oven is often the hottest. By placing baking items there it can reduce bake time and energy used with the oven.

Resources

Green Building Alliance

33 Terminal Way, Suite
331 Pittsburgh, PA
www.go-gba.org

ReEnergize Pittsburgh Coalition

64 S 14th St
Pittsburgh, PA
www.reenergizepgh.org

Green & Healthy Homes Initiative

2714 Hudson St
Baltimore, MD
www.greenandhealthyhomes.org



Transportation & Land Use

City Goal:

- ✓ Reduce on-road transportation emission by 50%

As Pittsburgh continues to gain jobs and residents, transportation around the city is becoming more in demand. Public transit is a huge factor in a city's sustainability. Learn how you can contribute to Pittsburgh sustainability goals with your commute:

Getting Around



- **Try alternative modes.** Micromobility like bikes, scooters, and skateboards are becoming more popular in urban settings. More and more cities are also recognizing these modes are important in their transit systems.
- **Share your ride.** Driving can be inevitable in Pittsburgh, but it doesn't have to be inefficient. Take the time to plan your ride and carpool with others to cut down on cars on the road!

- **Take a walk.** It sounds trivial, but choosing to walk all or part way to your destination if possible makes a big difference. It's also a great way to get some exercise and break up your day!

Did you know?

18%

of Pittsburgh's greenhouse gases come from the tailpipes of vehicles driving within city limits.



Public Transit

- **Bus.** There are over 700 buses in the Port Authority's fleet that operate 365 days a year and service more than 7,000 stops throughout Allegheny County.
- **Light Rail.** The Port Authority's Trolley, or T, system spans 26.2 miles from the North Side to the South Hills and services 27 stations along the way.
- **Incline.** The iconic Incline on Mount Washington not only serves as a staple of Pittsburgh's landscape, but a quick and easy way to travel down the hillside.
- **ACCESS Paratransit.** ACCESS service is among the largest coordinated systems in the country with an average of 5,000 trips on weekdays, 1.5 million annually. ACCESS is open to the general public but primarily serves people with disabilities, clients of human service agencies and people aged 65 and over.



Resources



Port Authority

Heinz 57 Center
345 Sixth Ave, Third Floor
Pittsburgh, PA
www.portauthority.org

BIKE PGH

188 43rd Street, Suite 1
Pittsburgh, PA
www.bikepgh.org

CommuterInfo

Two Chatham Center
Suite 500
112 Washington Place
Pittsburgh, PA
www.commuterinfo.org



Waste & Resource Recovery

City Goal:

- ✔ Zero waste landfilled by 2030

In 2013, an estimated 4 pounds of trash per person per person per day in Allegheny County was sent to a landfill. By 2030, Pittsburgh's goal is to reduce this number to zero through tactics outlined in the Climate Action Plan 3.0. To reach this goal, there are many ways for you to help:

Reuse



- **Maintain clothing and shoes.** Keep up with your wardrobe by taking damaged shoes to a repair shop and damaged or illfitted clothing to a tailor.
- **Bring your own bag.** Take reusable bag with you when shopping to cut down on the demand for plastic bags.

Reduce



- **Buy in bulk.** Not only does bulk shopping save money, but it reduces plastic. It's easy to split up bulk items into smaller reusable containers.

- **Cancel unnecessary mail.** Unfortunately, junk mail is still relevant to many of our mailboxes. Take the extra time to cancel these mailing services to help reduce paper use and mailbox volume.

Did you know?

If you have gently used furniture, clothing, or appliances you want to donate, you can have them picked up!

Goodwill:

www.goodwillswpa.org

VVA:

www.pickupplease.org

Recycle



From your home: The City offers curbside pick up for clean plastic bottles and jugs (without caps/lids), aluminum and steel cans, mixed paper, and glass that are placed in a clearly marked blue recycling bin. Flattened and bundled cardboard is also collected when placed into a separate blue recycling bin. (pittsburghpa.gov/dpw/residential-recycling)

CANNOT BE RECYCLED

- food service ware
- shredded paper
- garden hoses
- pizza boxes
- plastic bags
- coffee cups
- styrofoam
- food

HARD-TO-RECYCLE

and household chemical items have a new home. To recycle TVs, computers, and waste like paint, chemicals and automotive fluids, please contact Pittsburgh's partner, ECS&R at ecsr.net.

Recycling is the law!
Avoid fines by participating in the mandatory program.

USE OUR DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

for yard debris, tires, shredded paper, and recycling.

Drop-Off Locations



Strip District

3001 Railroad St
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

East End

6814 Hamilton Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
412-665-3609

West End

1330 Hassler St
Pittsburgh, PA 15220
412-937-3054

Construction Junction

214 North Lexington Ave
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
412-243-5025

Hazelwood

40 Melancton St
Pittsburgh, PA 15207
412-422-6524

Beltzhoover

McKinley Park
Bausman St
Pittsburgh, PA 15210



Food & Agriculture

City Goal:

Improve local food systems

Though the City of Pittsburgh is not a main agricultural producer, how its residents consume, interact, and purchase food greatly affects our environment. To help the City improve its relationship with food to best serve its residents, you can do the following:

Food Sources



- **Buy local foods.** Buying food sourced within a 150 mile radius of the City not only supports local business, but cuts down on emissions from the transportation of food.
- **Find a CSA program.** A CSA, or Community Supported Agriculture, program brings local food to consumers during harvest season. Find your local CSA here:

www.ams.usda.gov/local-food-directories/csas

Did you know?

40%

of food in the U.S. is wasted which is approximately **400** lbs of food waste per person/year.

(NRDC)

- **Shop at the Farmer's Market.** Pittsburgh offers several Farmer's Markets from spring—fall where you can shop for seasonal produce and support local businesses. Find the closest market to you:

www.pittsburghpa.gov/events/farmers-market



Food Education

- **Learn how to cook locally.** Buying local is great, but knowing how to cook local foods may not be as easy. Learn more about cooking locally with events held by Farm to Table Western PA.
- **Use 'ugly' produce too.** Some of the most wasted food product, is produce that is misshapen or unique. Know that food that isn't picture perfect is still edible and should be used!
- **Participate in Adopt-A-Lot.** Adopt-A-Lot is a program that allows residents to obtain leases and licenses to establish vegetable, flower, or rain gardens on vacant, city-owned land. Learn how to cultivate your own food and better connect with your community!



Resources



Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Agriculture

650 Smithfield Street, Suite 1160 Pittsburgh, PA
www.pasafarming.org

Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank

1 N. Linden St.
Duquesne, PA
www.pittsburghfoodbank.org

Adopt-A-Lot

www.pittsburghpa.gov/dcp/adopt-a-lot

Farm to Table Western PA

733 Washington Road, Suite 102
Pittsburgh, PA
www.farmtotablepa.com



Urban Ecosystems

City Goal:

Increase carbon sequestration by 100% by 2030

Urban areas take up only 2-3% of the world's surface, yet hold more than 50% of the population and create more than 75% of the total global anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions. In Pittsburgh, there's great opportunity to help lower GHG emissions through actions you can take:

Landscaping



- **Compost.** Composting lawn, vegetable, or fruit scraps is a great way to reduce waste and enrich soil. Learn how to compost at your home and ways to utilize this nutrient rich material with your own landscape.
- **Cultivate native plants.** There are approximately 2,100 plants native to Pennsylvania. (DCNR) By utilizing these species in your own landscaping you can save money, water, effort, and help promote the natural ecosystem.

Did you know?

Pittsburgh streets are lined with over **40,000** trees that create a tree canopy for **42%** of the City?

PA's Native Plants:

Ferns
Clubmosses
Grasses
Sedges
Rushes
Wildflowers
Woody trees
Shrubs
Vines

What is carbon sequestration?

Carbon sequestration is the capture and secure storage of carbon that would otherwise be emitted to or remain in the atmosphere. Carbon can be sequestered through vegetation, urban forestry, soils and more!



Resources



Pennsylvania Resource Council

64 South 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA
www.prc.org

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA
www.dcnr.pa.gov

