



WHAT CAN I DO?

a sustainability guide for the 21st century

HOW we got HERE

2007

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

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.

2012

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

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.

ENERGY GENERATION & DISTRIBUTION

APPLIANCES & ELECTRONICS

Shut down your computer at night. Opting to shut down overusing a screensaver does not affect your computer's lifespan (Energy Star). So, power down!

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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).

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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.

Xennials

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).

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DID YOU KNOW?

There are a number of rebate programs, appliance recycling programs, and even free energy efficiency kits available through Duquesne Light's Watt Choices. <https://duquesnelight.com/energy-money-savings/watt-choices/residential>

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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.

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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 Berkeley National Laboratory).

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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.

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

There are now options for utilizing renewable energy ranging from on-site solar geothermal solutions to changing your grid supplier. Read more about your options at: www.puc.state.pa.us/consumer_info/electricity/renewable_energy.asp

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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).

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BUILDINGS & energy use efficiency

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.

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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.

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Run clothes and dish washers only when full. Today, the convenience of appliances make it easy to overuse them. Save water by only using appliances when at capacity.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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81% of Pittsburgh's greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings (PCAP).

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transportation & Land use

GETTING AROUND

Try alternative modes. Micro mobility like bikes, scooters, and skateboards are becoming more popular in urban settings. More and more cities are also recognizing these modes are imperative in their transit systems.

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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!

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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!

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PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

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.

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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.

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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.

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DID YOU KNOW?

18% of Pittsburgh's greenhouse gases come from the tailpipes of vehicles driving within city limits.

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.

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waste & resource recovery

REUSE

Maintain clothing and shoes. Keep up with your wardrobe by taking damaged shoes to a repair shop and damaged or ill fitted clothing to a tailor.

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Bring your own bag. Take a reusable bag with you when shopping to cut down on the demand for plastic bags.

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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.

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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. Cancel unneeded email subscriptions to reduce energy use

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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).

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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.

USE OUR DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

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

RECYCLING IS THE LAW!
Avoid fines by participating
in the mandatory program.

FOOD & AGRICULTURE

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.

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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

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

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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.

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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!

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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.

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***Learn how to cultivate your own food
and better connect with your community!***

DID YOU KNOW?

40% of food in the U.S. is wasted, which is approximately 400 lbs of food waster person/year.

URBAN ecosystems

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.

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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.

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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!

DID YOU KNOW?

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