
STATE OF SUSTAINABILITY

2019-2020



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

Department of City Planning
Sustainability + Resilience Division

Department Mission

The Department of City Planning establishes and sustains an orderly and consistent approach to land use in the City of Pittsburgh that incorporates sustainability, city design, resilience, equity, and opportunity in its work. To achieve this end, City Planning works with communities, civic organizations, and public entities to develop policy, projects, and programs at the neighborhood and citywide scale, and implements these policies through regulations, public commissions, and review of land development plans, master plans, and projects for compliance with those policies and regulations. The overriding goal is to sustain and enhance a thriving city of neighborhoods for the people who live, work, learn, and visit here. Planning works to integrate completed and evolving citywide strategies - the OnePGH resilience strategy, the Climate Action Plan, and the People, Planet, Place, and Performance (p4) model - into our everyday practice, policy, code, and Comprehensive Plan.

Sustainability + Resilience Division

The Sustainability + Resilience Division partners with organizations and governments to protect and improve the environment for present and future generations. They provide leadership towards the integration of sustainability and resilience into City operations, policies, investments, and implementation of Pittsburgh's climate and resilience strategies. Principle activities include performance benchmarking, policy research for City operations, community education for sustainability, and identification of innovation investment opportunities.

Our Team

Grant Ervin, Chief Resilience Officer + Assistant Director of City Planning

Will Bernstein, Climate Advisor

Shelly Danko+Day, Urban Agriculture and Food Policy Planner

Aftyn Giles, Senior Sustainability Coordinator

Rebecca Kiernan, Principal Resilience Planner

Flore Marion, City Energy Advisor

Sarah Yeager, Climate and Energy Planner

2019-2020 STATE OF SUSTAINABILITY

The 2019-2020 State of Sustainability reports the accomplishments of the Sustainability + Resilience Division (S + R) on the implementation of Pittsburgh's climate planning and resilience strategies, performance benchmarking, policy research for City operations, and identification of innovative investment opportunities.

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GESA training



Mayor William Peduto speaks at the Climate Action Plan annual update.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

S + R continues to pursue programs, projects, and initiatives to lessen the city’s contribution to global climate change based on Pittsburgh’s Climate Action Plan 3.0 (CAP) goals.

CAP Goal: 100% Renewable Energy in City Facilities

In May 2020, the Western Pennsylvania Energy Consortium (WPEC), led by the City of Pittsburgh (the City), signed a new contract with Direct Energy to provide 100% renewable energy through 2021 at a \$700,000 savings to the City and WPEC members. The previous contract was for 35% renewable energy.

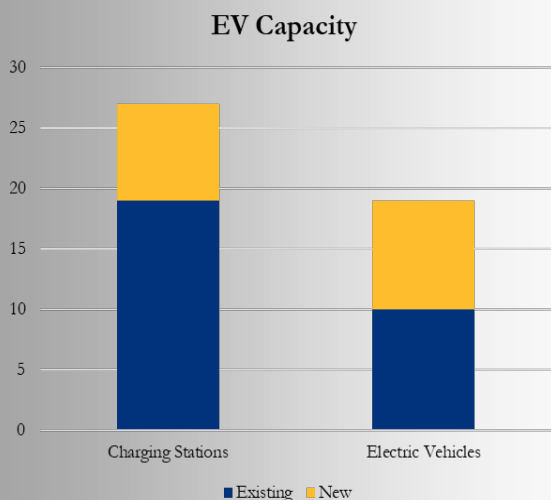


CAP Goal: 50% Energy and Water Use Reduction in City Facilities

In November 2019, the City adopted an ordinance requiring all new or renovated City government buildings to be net-zero energy ready.

In 2020, S + R with the Rocky Mountain Institute advised the Department of Public Works (DPW) on incorporating net-zero energy ready and high energy efficiency goals in Requests for Proposals. Nine city facility projects are currently pursuing net-zero energy ready goals including the retrofits of Thaddeus Stevens Elementary School, the Williams Memorial Park Shelter, and several fire stations.

CAP Goal: Operate a Fossil-Fuel-Free Fleet



An Electric Vehicle Task Force was convened in 2019 with local and regional partners. Their [EV Task Force Recommendations report](#) identified 11 action items ranked by priority and difficulty.

On January 30, 2019, a workshop on the e-mobility future of Pittsburgh brought together industry experts, government workers, and scholars. The workshop was developed and facilitated in partnership with 100 Resilient Cities and powered by the Rockefeller Foundation.

In June 2019, the City received a Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant to fund eight new dual hosed electric vehicle charging stations for the Second Avenue lot and to add nine new electric vehicles to its fleet.

Two fast chargers and four dual hose level chargers were installed at a Pittsburgh Parking Authority lot in East Liberty for public use.

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The electric vehicle fleet now saves the City up to \$70,000 in reduced fuel costs.

CAP Goal: Divestment of City Pension Fund from Fossil Fuels

The S + R team partnered with C40, the Heartland Investors Network, the City of New York, and the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis to educate and advise the City's pension board on fossil fuel investment strategies.

Together, the committee designed and approved the creation of an environmental social governance (ESG) policy, advancing the reduction of fossil fuel investment in the City's pension fund. The fund now stands with less than 1% invested in fossil fuels.

CAP Goal: Zero-Waste Citywide



Joylette Portlock, Executive Director of Sustainable Pittsburgh; Laura Karet, CEO of Giant Eagle; Mayor William Peduto; and County Executive Rich Fitzgerald at the Fall 2019 launch.

In Fall 2019, S + R, Giant Eagle, and Sustainable Pittsburgh launched a pilot program to eliminate the use of plastic bags at the Waterworks Giant Eagle’s cash registers.

In November 2019, the City received a \$500,000 grant from the Recycling Partnership, a national nonprofit organization, to support the distribution of free, reusable blue recycle bins to residents.

In 2020, the DPW Environmental Services Division began distributing blue recycling bins to all the households serviced by the City.

In 2019, the City updated its [Recycling Ordinance](#) to clarify the existing regulations and to add a [composting component](#) legalizing residential backyard composting.

More Initiatives Supporting the CAP

In June 2019, “[A Technology Roadmap for Pittsburgh: Linking Climate and Innovation](#)” was released as a City Performance Tool Report. Based on a partnership between the City, Siemens, and the University of Pittsburgh, this 53-page report identifies strategies from the Climate Action Plan that have the greatest impact on greenhouse gas reduction, economic benefits, job creation, and air quality improvement potential.

In March 2019, the 14-page [Green Guide](#) was published to provide residents with tips and resources on individual-scale energy and waste use, transportation, food, agriculture, and landscaping actions that support the goals of the Climate Action Plan.

In October 2019, the City formally adopted the United [Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs): 17 worldwide goals to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and improve the quality of



E-mobility event hosted by Siemens and Carnegie Mellon University.



Mayor William Peduto announces the City's adoption of the SDGs and Voluntary Local Review.

life for every human being. It was the second US city to do so. The City will periodically conduct what is known as a Voluntary Local Review to show alignment of operations, programs, and projects with the 17 SDGs.

In May 2019, S + R joined the American Cities Climate Challenge (ACCC). ACCC is a two-year initiative to help cities meet, or beat, their near-term carbon reduction goals by reducing building energy use, increasing renewable energy, reducing motor vehicle travel, and advancing electrification of vehicles.

In 2019, the City and the City of Aarhus in Denmark signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on projects that expand district energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in both cities. This partnership brought technical support from the Danish Energy Ministry that enabled the City to support district energy development in downtown, the Lower Hill, Uptown, and Oakland.

Allegheny County adopted Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE) guidelines in 2020.

MORE S + R INITIATIVES

The plan for “[Strengthening Pittsburgh’s Farmers Markets](#)” was released in January 2019 to introduce equitable access to healthy food, enhance support for local farmers, and strengthen community ties to local markets. The plan is based on a study of 30 farmers markets conducted by S + R and the Farmers Market Coalition in January 2018.

Plan goals:

- Establish the City as an active facilitator of farmers market development
- Implement effective city-wide programs and promotions in partnership with the City, independent farmers markets, and community partners
- Offer best-in-class markets that effectively serve a wide range of Pittsburgh’s residents



James Stitt, Sustainability Manager for Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority; Dr. Barbara Baker, President and CEO of Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium; and Mayor William Peduto sign MOU for 100% renewable electricity for WPEC.

- Scorecards were introduced in 2020 for continuing participants in the [Municipal Building Benchmarking](#) initiative. The scorecards provide local context, empowering building owners to initiate energy-reducing projects in future years.
- Following up on the [2017 OnePGH Resilience Strategy](#), in 2018 S + R convened a provisional board of directors to develop OnePGH Fund's 501c3 structure. The fund will support the goals of the OnePGH Resilience Strategy through cross-sector partnerships, private contributions, and philanthropic investments.
- The [2018 Pittsburgh Equity Indicators](#) report was released in April 2019. The 2018 report represents a progress update on the indicators described in the [2017 baseline report](#).

Talent

S + R hired Will Bernstein in 2019 as the first Climate Advisor with funding by ACCC.

Flore Marion transitioned into a full-time position in 2019 to implement the benchmarking ordinance and to develop a strategy to achieve the [Pittsburgh 2030](#) goals established by the Green Building Alliance.

In 2019, S + R and the Student Conservation Association (SCA) renewed their contract for three more years for a student employee position in S + R funded by the SCA. This partnership provides students with valuable hands-on experience in the field.

S + R hosted 19 interns in 2019 and 2020.



CODE Training with the Department of Permits, Licenses, and Inspections