

STATEMENT ON SUSTAINABILITY  
UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Whereas the University of Pittsburgh was an original signatory of the 1990 Talloires Declaration supporting mobilization of the resources of higher education on behalf of sustainability;

Whereas the University recognizes that sound sustainability practices benefit the institution, the City of Pittsburgh and the Western Pennsylvania region and that such practices should reflect the values of the institution;

Whereas the University accepts its role as a leader and understands the importance of embodying these sound practices in all its procedures and facilities;

Whereas it is possible and desirable both to maintain research and instructional excellence, realize cost savings and apply sound sustainability principles;

Whereas the University recognizes that sound sustainability practices will appeal to high-caliber students, faculty, and staff and that such members of the University community will in turn reinforce the values of sustainability;

Whereas considerable expertise on sustainability among University faculty and staff is available for coordination, and best practices of similarly aspiring academic institutions are readily researchable;

Whereas the University of Pittsburgh recognizes the need to foster sustainability in its practices and curricula, while continuing with its adherence to sound fiscal practices.

Be it resolved that the Sustainability Subcommittee of PUPC recommends the University administration:

Re-affirm the commitment to environmental education and support of environmental academic education in the curriculum

Foster environmentally responsible purchasing practices by striving to balance short and long-term, maintenance, life cycle and environmental costs in purchasing goods and services, with sound fiscal practices.

Continue to identify, implement, communicate, and coordinate practices that preserve and promote efficient use and conservation of energy, water and other resources and increase promotion of conservation efforts to the University community, so as to reduce resource consumption.

Continue the efforts to minimize solid waste production by fostering recycling and reuse.

Reaffirm the University's commitment to environmentally responsible Campus planning, design, construction and operations principles by

- a) Making the most efficient use of our existing physical assets before considering the addition of new facilities
- b) Striving to balance sound fiscal practices and environmental responsibility in the renovation, construction, operation and maintenance of the University buildings and Campus infrastructure
- c) Continuing with the "greening" of the Campus and efforts to implement sustainable practices in the design and maintenance of the grounds, within the limitations of the Campus' urban context.
- d) Monitoring progress in accomplishment of institutional goals in such areas as energy systems, green practices, recycling, purchasing and waste management.

Continue to establish processes to maintain efficient use, tracking, storage and disposal of hazardous toxic and radioactive materials and commit to keeping the presence of toxic materials on Campus and the generation of hazardous waste at reasonable levels for work and research purposes.

Reaffirm the University's commitment to facilitating pedestrian travel, bicycle use and promotion of other alternative modes of transportation such as public transit, to minimize the environmental impact of vehicles on the Campus and surrounding communities.

Foster linkages among and within University academic and administration departments for the purpose of promoting, informing and reporting on sustainability efforts.

The University maintains a neutral political position and has a long-standing policy that it will not implement policies or undertake practices that would be generally understood to be political in character. None of the statements in the above shall be interpreted to compromise, conflict with or violate this neutral political position.