

# Pace University Sustainability Projects & Policies

## ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- 2005 – Pace’s Energy Manager began documenting Pace’s greenhouse gas inventory and updates it every year ([link](#)).
- 2008 – Pace University joined the Bloomberg Challenge to reduce carbon emissions by 30% by 2018 ([link](#)). To date, we have achieved a 10% reduction.
- 2011 – Pace Law School installed 90 solar PV panels on the roof of “E-House,” home to the Energy & Climate Center and the Pace Environmental Litigation clinic. These panels produce 20 Kilowatts of electricity, or about 53% of the building’s total usage ([link](#)). In addition, the building underwent a complete renovation, including a new roof, attic insulation, more efficient windows, and heat pumps to replace in-window ACs. In 2013, the old oil-fired boiler was replaced with a natural gas boiler.
- 2011 – Pace implemented a no-idling policy that applies to staff and students, alike ([link](#)).
- 2012 – Pace Pleasantville installed an innovative and educational solar classroom, thanks in part to a grant from Con Edison ([link](#)) (now being used at the new Environmental Center).
- 2014 – With the new master plan, a new Environmental Center has been constructed on the Pleasantville campus. It utilizes solar energy for hot water generation, geothermal for indoor heating, and sustainable materials throughout the building, ultimately accumulating to Gold LEED certification. ([link](#))
- 2014 – To date, Pace University has replaced almost all of its 29,000 4ft fluorescent lamps with super-saver lamps, going from 34 watt bulbs to 25 watt bulbs, resulting in huge savings. 6,000 ballasts have also been replaced to increase efficiency.
- 2015 – Pace’s Energy Manager will be resubmitting a grant for large-scale solar projects on all campuses.
- LED lamps are being installed whenever possible in new buildings, walkways, and garages.
- Natural gas boilers are being installed when old oil boilers expire. Where there used to be one massive oil boiler, several smaller and more efficient natural gas boilers are being placed. Between 2009 and 2010, Pace Pleasantville was also able to reduce its natural gas usage by 20% with a new direct/indirect water heating system.
- At the Law School Campus, which is 274,000 square feet, we use 3.3 million Kilowatt hours of electricity; 63,000 therms of natural gas; and around 130-160,000 gallons of heating oil. At Dannat Hall, lighting in every lobby is supplied by LEDs and operated with sensors. New building controls allow for more control over heating and power usage. Elevators have been updated with more efficient motors. In Preston Hall, the 4<sup>th</sup> floor received all new LEDs and sensors and the building now uses 1/3<sup>rd</sup> fewer light fixtures. The dining hall also received lighting updates. All lighting in the garage has been replaced with LEDs.
- Within the new master plan, new dormitories at Pleasantville will feature energy meters so that students can have a better understanding on the carbon footprints. The new dormitories will also follow LEED protocols.
- New communal computers have been installed that use a fraction of the energy used by old computers and monitors.
- Combination microwave-fridges used in residence halls are Energy Star.
- In Pace’s contract renegotiations with food vendors, it adds an increasing requirement of local and organic food. Pace has also encouraged the availability of vegetarian food items, based on the increasing demand from students. An estimated 20% of Pace’s food purchases are local.

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## **WATER**

- 2008 – New frontloading washing machines were installed in dormitories, using 14 gallons of water less than the old machines. The washer machines and the natural gas powered dryers also use less energy.
- Low flow toilets, showers and faucets have been installed in all residence halls. This will be an ongoing project and replacements will be installed with efficiency in mind.
- Pace does not water its grounds, with the exception of athletic fields, which are only watered during season and by automatic timers.

## **RECYCLING, WASTE PREVENTION, AND GREEN PRODUCTS**

- 2007 - 2008 – The installation of compactors and cardboard bailers has increased the amount of paper prevented from entering Pace's waste stream.
- 2008 – In dining halls, aluminum containers were phased out in favor of paper ones.
- Trash compactors, E-waste recycling ([link](#)), composting pilots, and heavier promotion of recycling (via increased signage and bins on all campuses) have helped Pace better track and reduce its waste stream.
- Furniture, office equipment, and electronics are internally recycled. Pace offices are encouraged to review what is in stock before purchasing new.
- Pace University's communal printers are set to print two-sided by default.
- At the Law School, all cleaning chemicals are Green Seal or EcoLogo.
- At the Law School, all hand towels and tissues are either Green Seal or EcoLogo certified.
- At the Law School, 95% of all paint is GreenSeal certified (usually Benjamin Moore EcoSpec Paint, Zero VOCs)
- At the Law School, kitchen grease is collected in a special dumpster and picked up by a third party for reuse.
- At the Law School, vacuums and large floor scrubbers are all certified to off-gas the least amount of VOCs possible.
- At the Law School, all new carpet must be certified to meet the Carpet and Rug Institute's Green Label Plus standards for carpet, pads and adhesives with very low VOC emissions.
- At the Law School, the grass trimmings are not bagged and no chemicals are applied to the lawns.
- At the Law School, students conceptualized, created and maintain two organic gardens on the campus.

## **INITIATIVES – PARTNERS AND LEADERS**

- 2004 – Pace became the host institution of the Environmental Consortium of College & Universities ([link](#)). The Consortium's 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference was hosted at Pace Pleasantville in 2013.
- 2008 – Pace Law School became the second school to participate in the "Law Office Climate Challenge," an initiative created by the American Bar Association's Section of Environment, Energy & Resources and the EPA. ([link](#))
- 2008 – Pace University's Provost commissioned a university-wide GreenPace Sustainability Committee. Members span the campuses, and include faculty, staff, administrators, and students. Its Subcommittees are: Energy & Water; Campus Culture & Academics; Waste Reduction, Recycling, and Dining Services; Green Building & Landscaping; Purchasing; and Transportation. ([link](#))

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- 2009 – Pace promotes the Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility, which has continued successfully every year ([link](#)), with almost 4,000 signatures gathered so far. Graduates also rent their gowns, instead of purchasing them.
- As an academic institution, Pace University offers more than 300 undergraduate and graduate courses that directly focus on or cover aspects of sustainability.
- Pace University is a member of AASHE - the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. As a charter participant in the AASHE's STARS program, Pace's first report submission in August 2011 achieved a Bronze rating. Pace is currently in the process of submitting their second report.
- Pace continues to seek out projects, large and small, as well as the grants to help fund them. The University has studied concepts such as microgrid generators and geothermal heating systems for their viability. Large spaces like libraries and gyms are being eyed for new energy projects. Cooling/heating, lighting, and water conservation updates are continuously being reviewed.