



848 William Pitt Union
3959 Fifth Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Phone: 412-648-7070
Fax: 412-648-2141

September 18th, 2019

The climate crisis is the largest threat of our generation. As natural disasters are exacerbated, sea levels rise, and communities are displaced, inaction is no longer acceptable. Industries, institutions, and governments here and abroad have a duty to take immediate action through bold policy and aggressive transformations of our economic and energy systems.

While the climate crisis is causing a global catastrophe we already see the effects in our campus, city and local communities. We are breathing toxic levels of particles in our air every other day and Allegheny County has the 7th worst air quality in the nation. Communities less than 50 miles from our campus have not had clean water for over 6 years due to natural gas extraction. In 2018, Pittsburgh had record-breaking rainfall leading to the flooding of communities.

Business as usual cannot continue. On Friday, September 20th, millions around the world are taking to the streets in the largest Global Climate Strike the world has seen. The United States Climate Strike has the following demands:

- Green New Deal
- Respect of Indigenous Lands and Sovereignty
- Environmental Justice
- Protection and Restoration of Biodiversity
- Implementation of Sustainable Agriculture

The crisis we are facing requires large-scale movement building and grassroots organizing from all of us, on every level, at every corner of the world to bring power back to communities to create the change this crisis requires.

The climate crisis is already destroying millions of lives. Natural disasters are destroying coastal and island communities especially communities who are low income or in the Global South. Heatwaves are devastating communities, especially those who can't afford to move or use cooling technology. We know that the climate catastrophe will only continue to escalate and we see our futures hanging in peril. We can not rely on small, incremental change to stop this crisis from becoming a mass extinction.

We, the University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board, invite all members of the Pitt community who are interested to attend the Global Climate Strike between 12 PM and 4 PM on Friday, September 20th, at the Pittsburgh City County Building at 414 Grant Street.

Strikes and other forms of protest are fundamental to the creation of change at any level of society. The Global Climate strikes are a call to action for people of all ages to join the collective movement for justice. While it is understood that faculty and staff may have academic obligations, we ask that they consider cancelling any Friday classes so that you and your students can join the movement. If this is logistically impossible, we ask that attendance to this event to be considered an excusable absence.

If you need any further information, please feel free to contact Student Government Board via sgbpresident@pitt.edu.

Thank you,
The University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board