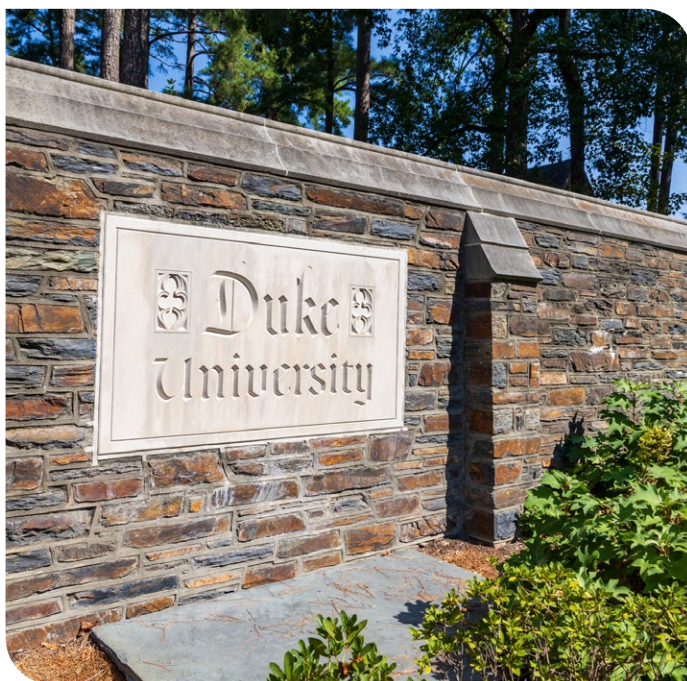


CLIMATE IMPACT:

Duke University Achieves Carbon Neutral Pledge

Duke University in Durham, N.C., consistently ranks among the very best U.S. universities. Its graduate and professional schools — in business, divinity, engineering, environment, law, medicine, nursing public policy and more — are among the leaders in their fields. And, of course, Duke Athletics is well known for excellence on the court. Now Duke is known for an additional achievement: climate leadership.



MEETING CLIMATE GOALS DESPITE CAMPUS GROWTH

In October 2024, Duke achieved its pledge to become [carbon neutral](#), making it the first among its academic peers to achieve such a goal. The university reduced its greenhouse gas emissions from all sources by 31% since 2007 when the pledge was made, despite 24% growth in the campus population and the addition of 3 million square feet of new building space.

“Achieving carbon neutrality on campus is a triple winner – we reduce our carbon footprint, we save money in the long term, and we demonstrate how universities can be part of the climate solution. Our Duke Climate Commitment extends to every facet of our university, including operations, research, education, community partnerships and external engagement.”

– Toddi Steelman, Vice President and Vice Provost for Climate and Sustainability at Duke University





CARBON CREDITS FROM DESTROYING POTENT REFRIGERANT GASSES

Duke's largest emission reductions came from activities the university has the most control over, such as campus electricity use and steam plant emissions, resulting in a reduction in campus energy use emissions by 42 percent since 2007.

In addition to investing hundreds of millions of dollars in infrastructure improvements and efficiencies, Duke took responsibility for its remaining emissions by purchasing and retiring 232,000 carbon credits. The university knew it could not achieve carbon neutrality without carbon credits to fund projects that reduce and remove carbon emissions. So, in 2009 Duke created the first university-based carbon credit program in the U.S. Since then, the university has invested in multiple different carbon projects, with 179,000 of its credits coming from two ACR-listed

projects developed by Tradewater to collect and permanently destroy stockpiled potent refrigerant gasses.

Duke's climate efforts did not end with achieving its carbon neutrality goal. The university continues to make improvements across multiple facets, including its heating, lighting, and transportation systems. To learn more about its efforts, visit the [Duke Office of Climate and Sustainability](#).

Duke University received the 2025 ACR Organizational Excellence Award for achieving its pledge to become carbon neutral by 2024. ACR is an internationally recognized carbon crediting program that operates in global compliance and voluntary carbon markets. ACR issued over 75% of the credits bought by Duke University as part of their ambitious climate action plan. These were all sourced from high-quality projects to collect and destroy potent ozone-depleting refrigerant gasses. For more information about ACR and the ACR Climate Impact Awards, visit [ACRcarbon.org](#).

