7.1 Project Overview and Deliverables

**Overview**

The course project applies the urban climate change theory we have learned in class to develop a critique of Pittsburgh’s climate action plans. That is, your goal is to look at Pittsburgh’s climate action plans, assess their comprehensiveness, and make recommendations for how to improve them. You will write your report and give your presentation as if you were presenting to a Pittsburgh city official.

Each member of your team will pick one policy type (see list from Homework 3.1 Policy Type Research or Deetjen et al. paper). Each team member will describe their policy type from the standpoints of:

General theory: based on the discussion and literature used in class, what is this policy type, what can cities do to pursue it, how does it interact with other policies to achieve broad strategies for reducing urban GHG emissions?

Pittsburgh policy: what is Pittsburgh doing in this policy area? What are its future plans addressing this policy area?

As a team, you will discuss how your individual policies work together to achieve a broad strategy for reducing urban climate change. You will do this both generally and specific to Pittsburgh.

As a team, you will discuss Pittsburgh’s strengths and weaknesses for each of these policy areas and provide recommendations for how Pittsburgh might improve its current policy, urban form, and future climate action plans.

As a team, you will present your findings to the class on February 26.

**Your written report and a pdf of your presentation slides will be due by midnight on February 25.**

For Hints, see the following documents from the website:

2.1 Giving a Short Presentation  
4.1 Writing an Executive Summary  
5.1 Creating effective presentation slides

The work in this project also aligns with the following homework assignments, so feel free to reuse some of your work there and expand it as you see fit:

3.1 Policy Type Research  
4.1 Pittsburgh Climate Action Plan  
4.1 Project A – Executive Summary Outline  
5.1 Policy Type Recommendations  
5.1 Project B – Presentation Slides Draft

**Report Grading Rubric**

Your written report will be graded according to the following rubric:

40 points Executive Summary (2 pages maximum)

8 points Provide broader context for the report, and narrow down to your niche topic

4 points State the key questions you answer in your report

4 points State the main answer and solution near the beginning of the executive summary.

4 point Briefly discuss your methods (i.e. literature review and important Pittsburgh documents)

4 points Present your main findings

8 points Discuss the conclusions you draw from those findings, and tie those findings back to the key questions and main answer/solution you presented earlier in the exec summary

8 points End with a recommendation and reminder of the broader context and broader goals that recommendation helps to contribute to

40 points Main Body (suggest ~10-15 pages)

32 points Include a section for each of the four policy types you are analyzing. Each section is worth 8 points. In these sections I would like to see:

General description of that policy type  
 Discussion of how that policy type contributes to urban GHG emissions  
 Discussion of how that policy type interacts with broader strategies  
 Overview of Pittsburgh’s policies in that policy type area  
 The strengths and weaknesses of Pittsburgh’ policies in that policy type area

8 points Synthesis of policy types.   
Discuss, generally, how the four policy types in your study interact with each other to contribute to a broad strategy.   
Discuss how Pittsburgh’s strengths and weaknesses in these areas impact Pittsburgh’s ability to achieve that broader strategy.   
Provide recommendations for improving Pittsburgh’s plans.

20 points Miscellaneous

15 points Does your analysis make sense given the content we have discussed in class? I.e. are your arguments and recommendations supported by the literature and our class discussions?

5 points Is the report well written?

**Presentation Grading Rubric**

Your presentations should take approximately ~20 minutes.   
They will be graded according to the following rubric:

70 points Content

10 points Presentation begins the same way as our “3-minute” literature presentations:

Start with broad context and narrow down to your niche topic  
 State your key questions  
 State your main findings and recommendations

30 points Each of the four policy topics are presented on including:

General theory on why the policy type is relevant to urban climate action plans  
 Specific discussion of Pittsburgh’s strengths and weaknesses in this area

20 points The four policy types are synthesized in terms of one of the broad strategies

General theory on these policies interactions, synergies, etc. and its relevance to achieving the broad strategy being discussed  
Specific discussion about how Pittsburgh’s strengths and weaknesses in these different policy types impact its ability to achieve the broad strategy

10 points Presentation ends the same way as our “3-minute” literature presentations:

Reiterate how the results answer the questions stated in the introduction  
Reiterate the main recommendation(s)  
Reiterate the broad context in reverse

30 points Style

20 points Slides are generally clean and do not contain significant amounts of text.   
Images are relevant to the presentation.  
Slides conform to the criteria in homework 5.1 Project B – Presentation Slides

10 points The discussion is polished and well presented.   
The transition of topics flows well and makes sense.