EDEN HALL CAMPUS

A brighter, healthier tomorrow.
When faced with challenges like globalization, climate change, an environment in crisis, and dwindling natural resources - problems that defy simple solutions – it’s easy to make pledges and set goals or say you’re committed to sustainability. But it is far more difficult to actually do something about it.

But what if there were an institution dedicated to addressing environmental, social, and economic concerns on local, national, and international levels through education, research, sustainable living, conservation, energy and water management, and green development?

What if this institution were committed to living out its commitment to sustainability and the environment while also serving as a model for leadership?

What if this institution were a university with a track record and resources that demonstrate tangible commitments, including creating a sustainable campus community from the ground up?

On 388 acres just north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Chatham University has risen to this challenge with Eden Hall Campus.

EDEN HALL CAMPUS HISTORY
Sebastian Mueller (1860–1938) was a German immigrant who came to Pittsburgh in 1884 to work for his cousin, Henry J. Heinz. Mueller became Heinz’s second-in-command, managing manufacturing operations for what is now the H.J. Heinz Company, and later married Elizabeth Heinz. A tireless advocate for and supporter of working women, Mueller willed his entire estate, including Eden Hall Farm in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, to benefit women. The farm served as a resort and retreat destination for the women of Heinz until 2008, when Eden Hall Foundation gifted the land to Chatham; the University has long shared Mr. Mueller’s vision and devotion to enhancing the lives of women through higher education.
Designed as the first academic community in the world built for sustainable living, learning, and development, Eden Hall is:

- Self-sustaining in every way possible: Eden Hall generates its own electricity through solar panels; manages all storm- and wastewater onsite; harnesses the earth’s natural temperature to heat and cool the buildings; grows its own food; and manages its own woodland.

- A nexus of living, learning, and landscape: the campus demonstrates the latest in environmentally and socially responsible design and technology.

- Dedicated to producing tomorrow’s green economy workforce today: equipping graduates with the skills they need to succeed in a variety of jobs and fields.

- Open to educators, students from around the world, developers, planners, policy makers, and community members: encouraging them to explore more sustainable ways of organizing work and campus governance.

- An important partner to the surrounding neighborhood, city, and region: serving as a boon to the local economy, a driver of green innovation, and a model for a more sustainable society.

Chatham University’s Eden Hall Campus embodies all of these things and more. Read on to learn more about this new campus community that is ensuring a brighter, healthier tomorrow.
PLANNED USAGE

Chatham has a long history of cultivating learning environments that inspire and enrich its students and faculty, members of the academic community at large, and education-seeking professionals from across the world. Eden Hall Campus is no exception. Much more than a collection of high-performance green buildings and landscapes, Eden Hall is the premier environmental living and learning destination for the students who call it home as well as for anyone looking to earn a professional degree, host a conference or event, or experience everything from the arts to farming in new and exciting ways.

“Eden Hall is designed to reach a vast set of audiences, to interface with the community, and to bring people to this place. I think that’s part of what makes it such a dynamic environment.”

— Sandy Mendler, principal, Mithun (a Seattle, Washington-based firm leading the design of Eden Hall)
Eden Hall features all the amenities of a traditional residential campus and then some, including meeting and assembly spaces, classroom buildings, residence halls, a dining hall and kitchen, a café, a greenhouse, and field labs. However, in practice, it will be the furthest thing from a traditional residential campus.

The first academic community in the world to incorporate sustainable design, living and learning from the ground up, Eden Hall is a living laboratory where the science, culture, economics, and politics of sustainability can be experimented with and explored in a uniquely hands-on way.

Eden Hall is first and foremost an accessible community. We serve as a model and demonstration site for developers and contractors, engaging everyone from ecotourists to elementary school children in educational and recreational activities.
“Through Eden Hall Campus, our faculty and students discover theories and explore practices that will sustain the land, and, by extension, our cities and those who live in them.”
— David Finegold, DPhil, president, Chatham University

A Living-Learning Laboratory
Eden Hall serves as a living laboratory, encouraging students and faculty to interact with the buildings, which functions as part of the overall educational experience. Outdoor landscaping and student gardens enclose and define the residences. The buildings are transitional spaces and offer sheltering porches and overhangs.

The entire Eden Hall Campus also operates as a learning laboratory where students use their surroundings to explore topics such as sustainable land management; food production and delivery; and energy generation. In addition, the campus features a student-run teaching garden; crop production for use in food studies and sustainability courses; and innovative research spaces and laboratories for studying such subjects as storm- and wastewater management, agriculture, aquaponics, and ecology.
A Model Community

Eden Hall is a model of affordable, environmentally sensitive design as well as a place where community members can learn and experience sustainability firsthand.

Demonstrating principles of high-performance and integrated design, Eden Hall’s buildings provide a laboratory for researching and testing best practices. The entire campus serves as a model for those looking to incorporate sustainable principles and green development methods in higher education, urban and suburban residential, and commercial settings.

Visitors hike eco-education trails, explore sustainable agriculture sites, and observe natural wastewater treatment systems in action. Eden Hall’s working organic farm provides opportunities for Chatham to connect to the community through farm-to-school programs and partnerships with local farmers and nonprofits. Eden Hall also attracts academic, public, and artistic communities through various visual, performing, literary, and other creative arts programs.
A SUSTAINABLE CAMPUS

Eden Hall Campus deploys a mix of innovative sustainable technologies, methods, and curricula, modeling new ways to improve our approaches to energy and climate, water, food and sustainable agriculture, and design and planning.

Energy & Climate

The design of Eden Hall incorporates an array of technologies to meet its energy needs. These technologies reinforce Eden Hall’s goals to model and monitor the effectiveness of proven and new approaches to creating, conserving, and using energy. Almost all roofs feature photovoltaic panels, serving the dual purpose of generating electricity and helping to collect rainwater for non-potable uses. Residence and dining halls rely on solar energy to heat water. An underground geothermal heating system enables buildings to share heat energy.

Water

To help protect the important waterways downstream and not overburden the local municipal sewer system, Chatham treats all wastewater on site through a system of constructed wetlands and a six-step filtering system. It ensures 300-foot buffer zones on all waterways as recommended by the Environmental Law Institute. To manage stormwater, rain gardens are built into the topography in areas where water naturally collects. Water conservation efforts include seed mix that requires less watering; low-flow toilets, faucets, and showers; and general building and site design that encourages water conservation. Water use is carefully monitored and studied, and individual practices that both maintain a high standard of living while reducing water demand are developed and encouraged.
Eden Hall’s natural beauty impresses everyone who encounters it. The design plan of the campus protects streams and waterways, regenerates forest-lands, and preserves productive landscapes and scenic views. Eden Hall practices and demonstrates regenerative landscaping by fostering native plants and animals, recovering tiled sections of the watershed, and managing the surrounding forests. Programs offer exciting opportunities for agricultural research and the study of ecosystems, which could, in turn, help to restore ecological balance to the land.

Food & Sustainable Agriculture
Preserving, protecting, and working within the surrounding land are vital to Eden Hall’s development. As a working agricultural classroom, Eden Hall helps students explore the critical relationship between food, the land, and the environment. Sustainable agriculture practices at various locations are used to produce food for the campus; develop and demonstrate diverse agricultural methods; teach food cultivation and marketing; and incubate small businesses. Innovative agricultural practices include demonstration aquaculture for fish production, mushroom farming, and edible landscaping around buildings.

Design & Planning
Eden Hall functions as a demonstration site, modeling a variety of building standards, energy management techniques, and new ways of sustainable living. Each building is monitored to determine energy consumption and to see what works and what doesn’t in the course of day-to-day activities. All buildings are built to a minimum LEED Platinum standards. The campus generates real-time data on energy generation and use, water flows, air quality, and weather, river, and woodland health, with all data available for students to use and experiment with, to create improvements to campus sustainability.

Community & Health

Eden Hall Campus
Master Plan

1  EcoCenter
2  Greenhouse
3  Academic Building
4  Residential Building
5  Commons Building
6  Constructed Wetlands
7  Amphitheaters
8  Mueller House
9  Lodge
10 Sports Complex
11 Studio Arts Building
12 Facilities Building
13 Pedestrian Bridge
14 ADA Parking
15 Thoreau Cottages
16 Townhouse Community
17 Springhouse
18 General Parking

A  Orchard and Guest Facility
B  University Meeting Center, Dining Facility, Classrooms
C  Aquaponics and Living Machine
D  Academic Building
E  Guest House
F  Bunkhouse and Common Building
G  Wellness Center
H  High Tunnels, Greenhouses, Market
I  Barn and Pasture (rotating acreage)
ACADEMICS

Chatham’s Falk School of Sustainability & Environment offers a Master of Arts in Food Studies, a Master of Sustainability, dual masters degrees in sustainability or food studies with a Master of Business Administration, and bachelors degrees in sustainability, food studies, and natural resource management. In addition, summer programming at Eden Hall Campus offers unique learning opportunities for people of all ages and educational and professional levels.

The innovative Master of Arts in Food Studies (MAFS) program is one of the first of its kind in the country and the only one to offer sustainable agriculture within a liberal arts environment. The curriculum emphasizes a holistic, interdisciplinary approach to food systems and includes classroom and field components. Courses focus on how food affects people and the environment from farm to table to compost, providing students with intellectual and practical experience in sustainable food production. Areas of specialization include food politics, food marketing, communication and writing, and sustainable agriculture.

The Master of Sustainability (MSUS) program applies a problem-based learning approach. Students study in cohorts across several disciplines and explore material through case studies, required internships and group projects, hands-on problem solving, and systems-thinking strategies. The campus itself is a major part of the curriculum. Students can learn where they live, interacting with the buildings and the land, and ultimately discover how to simultaneously improve economic development, advance social justice, and protect the biophysical environment.

“What unites our students is a commitment to the principles of sustainability, a willingness to work with people from diverse backgrounds, and an interest in understanding complex problems – from an individual to a global level.”

— Peter Walker, dean, Falk School of Sustainability & Environment
The dual-degree programs with the MBA, (MSUS+MBA and MAFS+MBA) which may be completed full- or part-time, prepare graduates for management and leadership positions across sectors including business, government, and NGOs. The programs include foundational coursework in both business and sustainability or food studies and extends the breadth and depth of students’ knowledge bases with advanced work at the nexus between sustainable systems and evolving business practice. Students consult with local businesses, complete individual or group projects, and apply their knowledge in summer-long professional placements.

The Bachelor of Sustainability (BSUS) prepares students to affect change in the real world. Through a sustainability-focused, multi-disciplinary education that extends beyond the classroom, students will practice what they learn in real time, integrating lessons into their work and discovering new ways to tackle the challenges facing the world today.

The Bachelor of Natural Resource Management gives students the theoretical and hands-on skills to manage and develop forests, wetlands, and river systems, combined with the social, business, and economic skills to seek real-world solutions to issues as diverse as eco-tourism, biodiversity, and climate change mitigation.

The Bachelor in Food Studies equips students to truly understand every aspect of our food cycle, from production through processing, retail, and restaurants, to family meals and cultural traditions on down to waste disposal and composting and so back to production. The program explores the culture, economics, science, and business of food production and consumption.
IMPACT

Academic Opportunities
At Eden Hall, students don’t just go to class, they truly integrate with the campus. They are encouraged to experience the technical, social, and economic aspects of life at Eden Hall and to apply these experiences at other locations on a global scale through opportunities and partnerships abroad. Students have access to courses across the entire Chatham curriculum, and may enroll in classes outside of Chatham, if necessary, to expand their particular area of study.

Job Opportunities
The number of jobs related to sustainability has soared over the past few years in fields like healthcare, energy, manufacturing, public policy, education, design, construction, agriculture, media, and food safety and security. Sustainability-related skills are in demand as businesses and nonprofits look to be more socially responsible and green their workplaces for bottom-line results. Chatham prepares students to compete for leadership positions in sustainability.
A Stronger Pittsburgh
Eden Hall is important for Pittsburgh, too. Pittsburgh has become a leader in sustainable design, alternative energy technology, LEED-certified green building, brownfield development, and sustainable regional architecture in recent years. Several headquarters for biofuel, wind turbine, and solar cell companies now call Pittsburgh home. Eden Hall has sped the city’s leadership in sustainability and green energy, not to mention the economic impact the city has and will continue to have, due to construction, tourism, education, and collaboration with enterprises around the world.

While continuing to foster relationships with distinguished local institutions like Carnegie Mellon University and Phipps Conservatory, Eden Hall continues to attract newcomers to the region through national and international partnerships. Ramifications for the Southwestern Pennsylvania region are far-reaching and include enhanced economic development opportunities; regional revitalization and community engagement; and innovations in educational methods, access, and delivery.

A Healthier World
Eden Hall reaches far beyond Chatham, helping to establish Pittsburgh as an international leader in sustainability and model for the world community. Faculty members in the Falk School of Sustainability & Environment are making a global impact through research in areas like ecology and conservation, energy, food security, social and economic justice, sustainable agriculture, and stormwater management. Eden Hall has cultivated international partnerships with other universities and has joined with major environmental institutions around the country.

“I couldn’t believe there was something like this in Pittsburgh. It was a space I had never seen before in an academic environment, and it was actually one of the reasons I chose Chatham University.”
— Cory Van Horn, MAFS ’12
CHATHAM AND SUSTAINABILITY

Chatham is the alma mater of Silent Spring author and environmental icon, Rachel Carson ’29. Silent Spring is widely credited with igniting the modern environmental movement, and Time magazine named Rachel to their list of the 100 Most Influential People – and 25 Most Powerful Women – of the 20th Century. For half a century, Carson has been the patron saint of Chatham University. Her inspiration has led Chatham to become a world leader in its environmentally responsible practices. Chatham is among the 21 colleges and universities that received a perfect score (99) in The 2016 Princeton Review Green College Honor Roll and is also ranked in the top five nationally for sustainability achievements in the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System™ (STARS), placing us as one of the highest ranked private college in the United States.

“EHC is a living-learning community on one of the world’s most sustainable campuses where we develop leaders of today and tomorrow to tackle some of the most pressing issues facing our planet.”

—David Finegold
Examples of Chatham’s commitment to sustainability are widespread. Chatham was one of the first signatories of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, which requires devising a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve climate neutrality. Courses focused on sustainability and experiences at Eden Hall Campus form part of Chatham’s undergraduate general education requirements. Chatham Eastside, located in East Liberty, is a LEED Silver renovation that reclaimed a former manufacturing facility and features sustainable design, recycled materials, and energy-efficient lighting.

Highlights of the Shadyside Campus, which features a 32-acre arboretum, include:

- installing solar thermal water heating on two residence halls (the largest such installation in Pennsylvania)
- purchasing 100 percent of electric power from a Green-e Certified mix of renewable energy, including wind-generated sources
- eliminating the use of chemical herbicides and pesticides while implementing green cleaning products
- composting food waste and recycling cooking oil as biofuel
- banning the sale of bottled water on campus
- earning Bicycle Friendly Business and University designations as the first employer in the state to offer tax breaks to employees who bike to work

In 2009, Chatham founded its Falk School of Sustainability & Environment, the first school of sustainability in the East and only the second in the country. The University is also home to the Rachel Carson Institute, formed in 1989 to promote the awareness and understanding of significant environmental issues.
“We stand now where two roads diverge. But unlike the roads in Robert Frost’s familiar poem, they are not equally fair. The road we have long been traveling is deceptively easy, a smooth superhighway on which we progress with great speed, but at its end lies disaster. The other fork of the road - the one less traveled by - offers our last, our only chance to reach a destination that assures the preservation of the earth.”

Rachel Carson, Pennsylvania College for Women (now Chatham University) Class of 1929