

# Pashman's Viewpoint: A 10-year vision of regional vitality

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Building a plan for a 10-county region, no matter the timeframe, is monumental. Rather than doing it alone — or with a limited number of people at the table — we opened the doors wide to many who are passionate about this region.

This year, on the threshold of a new decade and on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Pittsburgh's first Renaissance, we reached out to more than 1,000 stakeholders from across our 10 counties to capture aspirations for the region's future. The collective input, as well as an even better understanding of the challenges we face and the strengths we bring to bear, created the building blocks for a 10-year regional vision.

From this process it was clear what the people of this region want and what the place we all call home needs to be is a vital, globally competitive region that delivers a next generation economy for all. We have defined this vision as our "triple bottom line." The elements don't exist in a vacuum; rather, each informs and reinforces the others. Simply put, our vision for the future is to achieve thriving people, quality of place and a strong, inclusive economy.

We want all of the region's people, Pittsburghers of today and tomorrow — no matter gender, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, origin, race, ethnicity or belief system — to have better access to quality education, robust career pathways and ample job opportunities. We want everyone to have greater economic prosperity, resiliency and the ability to create lives that they love. We want to be the destination of choice for both individuals and employers globally. We want to create more robust ecosystems across all sectors of the economy. Creators and builders will want to be here to realize their potential — whether to be part of a startup venture or to take an established business to its next level.

The triple bottom line embodies a collective vision for regional vitality. It represents a commitment to sustainable, shared prosperity, no matter where in the region people live or what their backgrounds may be. The pursuit of this vision is guided by a commitment to diversity and inclusion, sustainability and regional collaboration.

On the path to regional vitality, we'll measure our progress against a set of bold, ambitious 10-year goals that include improving the standard of living by 25 percent; reducing greenhouse gas emissions to the levels set by the Paris Accord and implementing strategies toward UN Sustainable Development Goals; and doubling projected job growth to create 75,000 new jobs for our region. While audacious, we know we can go after these because we're no stranger to setting and achieving bold goals.

To make our aspirations possible, we must make growth a priority. A strong economy is necessary to generate viable pathways to individual prosperity and the strong tax base needed to finance the necessities and amenities we desire from robust multimodal transportation, quality public education and career training, affordable housing and more. This growth must be thoughtful and well-managed to generate truly inclusive opportunities.

Today, we have more tools available to us than ever to accomplish Pittsburgh's next renaissance. The days when a small group of leaders could huddle together and solve regional problems are gone. Today, we need all hands on deck to support strategies to grow. Everyone is called to share in the creation of what's next by investing time, talent and resources to move our region forward. The Allegheny Conference is committed to keeping the doors open — inviting more citizen leaders from all backgrounds and experiences to the table — but all must show up ready to work. We must hold ourselves and each other accountable and promote, as ambassadors of the region, the shared vision of vitality for all.

Together — and only together — will it be possible. Next is now.

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