

COMMITTEE STATUS REPORT

CLIMATE ACTION

COMMITTEE CHARGE

The Climate Action Committee aims to improve the sustainability of the built environment by promoting conservation of natural resources, design which brings buildings closer to net-zero usage, and public policy that supports these efforts. This diverse committee consists of individuals who also serve on the advocacy, education, communications or resilient design subcommittee.

OVERARCHING GOALS/OUTCOMES FOR 2023

1. Advance building decarbonization policies in California
2. Educate design professionals on ZNCD, sustainable design, and resilient design
3. Communicate and provide resources to design professionals on what they can do as individuals and within a firm to promote sustainable design and Climate Action in the built environment.

STATUS SUMMARY / RECOMMENDATIONS

2/23/23: Passing of AIA CA proposal in CALGreen for Embodied Carbon reporting (through EPDs or WBLCA) as a mandatory requirement for buildings over 100,000sqft. Introduction of a new What to Know and Say article series that provides tips and resources on how to promote sustainable design to clients on a variety of project types. Continuation of Climate Action webinars to include ZNCD MCE and other topics, while also offering and identifying opportunities for collaboration with other committees on education.

OPERATING PLAN OVERVIEW

STRATEGIC PLAN	OPERATING PLAN OBJECTIVE	% DONE	DATE OF COMPLETEION	DRIVER
Engagement	Curate, share, and promote important AIA CA and allied organization events, updates and publications related to Climate Action and the built environment.	25%	12/31/23	Committee members, Communications Subcommittee, Sarah Vasquez (AIA CA Staff)
Engagement	Continue to promote the AIA 2030 Commitment and celebrate firms in California	15%	12/31/23	Committee members, Education Subcommittee
Engagement	Promote resources from Small Firm Exchange (SFx) and create curated Small Firm Toolkit/Resource Library to	0%	12/31/23	No one identified on Climate Action Committee, likely partnership with

	prepare firms for Zero Net Carbon Design (ZNCD) and construction			Professional Practice Committee
Advocacy	Monitor legislation and updates at the state and local levels and help support local components in their decarbonization efforts	25%	12/31/23 – next code cycle effective 1/1/26	Mike Malinowski, Steering Committee
Advocacy	Ensure design professionals are at the table in policy discussions about resiliency in the built environment	25%	12/31/23	Mike Malinowski, Resilient Design Committee
Advocacy	Advocate for public policies related to climate action and the built environment	25%	12/31/23 – next code cycle effective 1/1/26	Mike Malinowski, Steering Committee
Advocacy	Grow relationship with California Energy Commission (CEC) to influence building standards and understanding of impact of real-world implementation	25%	12/31/23 – next code cycle effective 1/1/26	Mike Malinowski, Steering Committee
Education	Continue to develop curriculum for Climate Action professional development/education (i.e. carbon reduction strategies, AIA 2030 Commitment)	25%	12/31/23	Frank Bostrom, AIA, Bill Burke, AIA, Education Subcommittee
Education	Publish and promote case studies to support the profession’s understanding of electrification as a principle to reduce carbon	25%	12/31/23	Frank Bostrom, AIA, Bill Burke, AIA, Education Subcommittee
Education	Follow trends in sustainability, Zero Net Carbon Design, and carbon neutral technology to educate students about codes and opportunities for design thinking in responding to the climate emergency	25%	12/31/23	Frank Bostrom, AIA, Bill Burke, AIA, Education Subcommittee
Education	Educate students about the benefits of the reuse of existing buildings	25%	12/31/23	Frank Bostrom, AIA, Bill Burke, AIA, Education Subcommittee
Innovation	Participate with collateral organizations and stakeholder groups to develop practice tools in response to climate change that impact the built environment	25%	12/31/23	Frank Bostrom, AIA, Bill Burke, AIA, Education Subcommittee
Governance	Manage and support Climate Action Steering Committee, Big Climate Action Committee, and accompanying subcommittees	25%	12/31/23	Sarah Vasquez (AIA CA Staff)

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS & TASKS

PROJECT OR TASK	% DONE	COMPLETION DATE	DRIVER
Embodied Carbon Draft Policy – stemming from the Embodied Carbon Working Group. Also recently identified that this could possibly be used for the next CALGreen Triennial cycle as a new proposal we put forward. Looking for it to be an adoptable framework in CALGreen for jurisdictions in California.	15%	June 2023	Avideh Haghghi, Amie Lewis
Inter-Committee Collaboration – stemming from Resilient Design Subcommittee. RDC is interested in promoting the connection between social and environmental justice and resilient design. They planned on communicating with other committees to identify opportunities for partnerships/knowledge sharing on this topic.	10%	12/31/23 (ongoing effort)	Cary Bernstein, AIA, Stephanie Reich, AIA, RDC
Embodied Carbon Roundtable 2 for cities who have already adopted or have considered adopting EC policies/reach codes	5%	July, 2023	Avideh Haghghi, Embodied Carbon Working Group

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

ROLE	NAME	E-MAIL
VP of Climate Action	Bill Leddy, FAIA	BLeddy@lmsarch.com
Advocacy Subcommittee Chair	Simone Barth, AIA	simoneb@mithun.com
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Local Chapter Outreach Subcommittee Chair	Sharon Refvem, FAIA	srefvem@hpsarch.com
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Embodied Carbon Working Group Chair	Avideh Haghghi, AIA	avideh.haghghi@zgf.com
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Education Subcommittee Co-chair	Bill Burke, AIA	billburke500@icloud.com
Resilient Design Subcommittee Co-chair	Bill Melby, FAIA	bmelby@ordizmelby.com
Staff Liaison	Sarah Vasquez	svasquez@aicalifornia.org

REPORT DATE	PREPARED BY
March 10, 2023	Sarah Vasquez