

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

9/18/23: Climate Action advocacy wins: the 2022 CEBC was updated by adding Chapters 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 of the International Existing Building Code (IEBC), helping to ease barriers in the safe conversion of underused existing commercial buildings (AIA CA article here); and on 8/2/23 it was unanimously voted to bring our mandatory embodied carbon measures into CALGreen (AIA CA article here). The Climate Action Committee is currently looking forward for 2024 leadership and developing general 2024 work plan to continue to advance advocacy efforts at the local and state levels, and educate members and the public on the importance of our climate action work.

OPERATING PLAN OVERVIEW

STRATEGIC PLAN	OPERATING PLAN OBJECTIVE	% DONE	DATE OF COMPLETION	DRIVER
Engagement	Curate, share, and promote important AIA CA and allied organization events, updates and publications related to Climate Action and the built environment.	75%	12/31/23	Climate Action Education, Communications, Communication Committee
Engagement	Continue to promote the AIA 2030 Commitment and celebrate firms in California	50%	12/31/23	Climate Action Education Subcom
Engagement	Promote resources from Small Firm Exchange (SFx) and create curated	0%	12/31/23	No one identified on Climate

	Small Firm Toolkit/Resource Library to prepare firms for Zero Net Carbon Design (ZNCD) and construction			Action Committee, likely partnership with Professional Practice Committee
Advocacy	Monitor legislation and updates at the state and local levels and help support local components in their decarbonization efforts	75%	12/31/23 – next code cycle effective 1/1/26	Climate Action code advocacy (Mike Malinowski, FAIA), Climate Action Advocacy
Advocacy	Ensure design professionals are at the table in policy discussions about resiliency in the built environment	75%	12/31/23	Climate Action code advocacy (Mike Malinowski, FAIA), Resilient Design Committee
Advocacy	Advocate for public policies related to climate action and the built environment	75%	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	(?)	12/31/23	Code Advocacy with Mike Malinowski, Government Relations
Education	Continue to develop curriculum for Climate Action professional development/education (i.e. carbon reduction strategies, AIA 2030 Commitment)	75%	12/31/23	Climate Action Education Subcommittee
Education	Publish and promote case studies to support the profession's understanding of electrification as a principle to reduce carbon	75%	12/31/23	Climate Action 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	75%	12/31/23	Climate Action Education Subcommittee, Resilient Design Committee, Climate Action Advocacy
Education	Educate students about the benefits of the reuse of existing buildings	75%	12/31/23	Climate Action Education Subcommittee, climate action code advocacy
Innovation	Participate with collateral organizations and stakeholder groups to develop practice tools in	75%	12/31/23	Climate Action code advocacy,



	response to climate change that impact the built environment			Climate Action Education
Governance	Manage and support Climate Action Steering Committee, Big Climate Action Committee, and accompanying subcommittees	75%	12/31/23	Sarah Vasquez (AIA CA Staff)

ADDITIONAL PROJECTS & TASKS

PROJECT OR TASK	% DONE	COMPLETION DATE	DRIVER
Embodied Carbon Policy	25%	12/31/23	Embodied Carbon Working Group
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)	James Dean, AIA, Stephanie Reich, AIA, Resilient Design Committee
Embodied Carbon Roundtable 2 for cities who have already adopted or have considered adopting EC policies/reach codes	50%	October 2023	Embodied Carbon Working Group
Resilient Design Resilience Resource compilation	50%	12/31/23	Resilient Design Committee Leadership
Efforts with incorporating IEBC into CEBC	100%	June 2023	Climate action code advocacy (Mike Malinowski, FAIA)
Incorporating Embodied Carbon Measures in CALGreen	100%	August 2023	Climate action code advocacy (Mike Malinowski, FAIA)

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
Communications Subcommittee Chair	Henry Siegel, FAIA	hsiegel@siegelstrain.com
Education Subcommittee Chair	Frank Bostrom, AIA	fbostrom@verizon.net
Local Chapter Outreach Subcommittee Chair	Sharon Refvem, FAIA	srefvem@hpsarch.com
Resilient Design Subcommittee Chair	Tian Feng, FAIA	tfeng@bart.gov
Local Chapter Outreach Subcommittee Co-chair	Suyama Bodhinayake, Assoc. AIA	suyama@bauer-architects.com



Embodied Carbon Working Group Chair	Avideh Haghighi, AIA	avideh.haghighi@zgf.com
Communications Subcommittee Co-chair	Pauline Souza, FAIA	psouza@wrnsstudio.com
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@aiacalifornia.org

REPORT DATE	PREPARED BY
May 12, 2023	Sarah Vasquez
September 18, 2023	Sarah Vasquez