AIA Chattanooga COTE

In small chapters where there are few or no paid staff and nearly all activity is on a volunteer basis, a traditional Committee on the Environment may not be feasible. Like many small chapters, AIA Chattanooga in Southeast Tennessee has a very limited committee structure: Executive, Advocacy, Programming, Extended Studio (Emerging Professionals), Golf Committee (Fundraiser for Scholarships). Because of this, our sustainability programming is folded into Advocacy and Programming as well as coordinating closely with partner organizations (in our case, green|spaces, but in other cities that may be the local US Green Building Council Chapter) that focus exclusively on sustainability. We still have a champion in the chapter that coordinates with the COTE AG and ensures that resources that come out of AIA National and other COTEs are made available to local members. The ebb and flow of participation and relationships with partner organizations does tend to be less predictable with such an informal version of COTE, but we are at least able to ensure that members know where to get the education they need and the advocacy at the local and state levels to advance priorities like energy efficiency, water efficiency, water quality, and sustainable, healthy materials.

Our programming committee ensures that some of the monthly lunch and learns and feature speakers focus on sustainability topics, such as the Rural Studio from Auburn University discussing the sustainability features of the 25k House, and Timber Frame Connections discussing designing with and detailing Cross Laminated Timber. green|spaces hosted Anica Landreneau from HOK to present about the Sustainable DC Plan and Green Building policies developed by the District of Columbia Green and Energy Codes Technical Advisory Group.