

Committee on the Environment

an **AIA** Knowledge Community



Goody Clancy became the first firm in Boston to join JUST, a program focused on social equity and employee engagement. Image: Goody Clancy



Dear COTE colleagues,

Autumn symbolizes changes and an awareness of the future—to get prepared for the coming winter! A perfect time to embrace changes our profession must make to become more diverse. As the Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said, "The only constant is change." A lack of diversity is one problem our problem-solving profession has not solved and it is intrinsically linked to sustainable communities and firms.

[Read more >](#)

Like living on Earth? Vote climate!

The mid-term elections are less than two weeks away and the stakes could not be higher for the environment. The League of Conservation Voters has prepared a **comprehensive scorecard** rating Members of Congress on environmental issues.

[Learn more >](#)

Equity & Diversity



Diverse architecture firms are better for business

By Kira Gould, Allied AIA | gb&d magazine

Architecture firms (and others) should skip the nod to diversity because it looks good and make it real—strategically.

[Read more >](#)



Assessing social equity: Why Goody Clancy is a JUST organization

By Randolph Meiklejohn, AIA

In mid-2018, design and planning firm Goody Clancy became the first **JUST** organization in the city of Boston, and what had begun as a research and policy-writing project came out into the open in our workplace, as we started learning together how to be a better company.

[Read more >](#)



Talking diversity and equity in the AEC industry

By Lynn Simon | Thornton Tomasetti blog

Two years ago, when Thornton Tomasetti was launching its inclusion and diversity efforts, I had the opportunity to meet Gabrielle Bullock, Los Angeles-based principal and director of global diversity at Perkins+Will. Being an award-winning architect and leader of the firm's Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement program has enabled her to effect positive change in wide-reaching and unique ways.

[Read more >](#)

Design



Knowledge management and the COTE Top Ten Toolkit development process

By Tate Walker, AIA and Corey Squire, AIA

The process we took to develop the AIA COTE Top Ten Toolkit, now in Phase 1 Draft stage, is very similar to the process we use to integrate sustainability at our own firms. It's based on building a collective understanding of each measure

[Read more >](#)

Climate

ArchitectChats Ep. 25: Why Buildings Are Still Energy Hogs

By Wanda Lau | Architect magazine

Architecture firms that truly function as sustainable design practices are more about green business models and less about reusable water bottles, says Sustainable Performance Institute founder and CEO Barbra Batshalom.

[Listen >](#)



Let's talk solutions: Global Climate Action Summit

By the Commonwealth Club

Greg Dalton, Founder and host of The Commonwealth Club's Climate One, hosts a dynamic discussion with Marisa de Belloy (Cool Effect), Gina McCarthy (Harvard University), Bill McKibben (350.org), Tom Steyer (NextGen America), and Gloria Walton (SCOPE).

[Listen >](#)



Let's decarbonize our buildings: One engineer's take

By Chris Schaffner | The Green Engineer blog

Why not think beyond net zero, asks engineer Chris Schaffner. He shares his take on decarbonizing buildings starting now.

[Read more >](#)

Materials

The plastic plight

By Blaine Brownell | Architect

Despite increased awareness around climate change and global pollution, demand for petrochemicals is rising. Blaine Brownell explains the recyclability of plastic and how architects can reduce their dependence.

[Read more >](#)

Resilience



COTE Around the Country: Communities seek ways to mitigate against catastrophic weather events

By Scott Shuford

With the cost of repairs and rebuilding soaring into the billions in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, communities across the Southeast are urgently seeking ways to mitigate against future extreme weather events. Some solutions will be presented at the AIA Asheville's fourth annual *Where Building Science Meets Climate Science*.

[Read more >](#)

Calendar

Climate Adaptive Design - Where Building Science Meets Climate Science

November 1-2, Asheville, North Carolina

AIA's Asheville Section continues its Climate Adaptive Design series with the symposium "Deep Retrofit" – renovation of existing buildings to promote sustainable design. [Register >](#)

Greenbuild 2018

November 14-16, Chicago

Greenbuild is the world's largest conference and expo dedicated to green building. Check out COTE's list of recommended sessions! [Learn more >](#)

AIA COTE Connect: Greenbuild Gather

November 13 at 5:30pm, [Tradition Chicago](#)

Join us in Chicago for a casual meet-up of COTE leaders, members, and friends. There is no fee to join, but it's pay-your-own-way at the pub. [RSVP >](#)

AIA 2030 DDx Focus Groups

November 13, Chicago

Going to Greenbuild? AIA is looking for volunteers with a range of DDx experience to provide feedback at the offices of SOM in Chicago for one of three approximately 90-minute time slots. [Register >](#)

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The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20006-5292



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