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## Committee on the Environment

an **AIA** Knowledge Community



The University of Washington's Life Sciences Building by Perkins&Will, one of the 2021 COTE Top Ten award recipients, was recognized for its innovative use of vertical fins for solar energy and thorough stakeholder engagement process. Image: Kevin Scott



### Letter from the chair

By Betsy del Monte, FAIA

With appreciation to our juries and reviewers, we are delighted to announce the 2021 winners of the COTE Top Ten Awards and the COTE Top Ten for Students Competition. We'll toast them all ([online](#)) on May 20.

[Read more >](#)

## Don't miss these upcoming COTE events!

### **The 2021 COTE Top Ten Toast**

May 20, 4:30-6pm ET | Free event

Join us to celebrate the 2021 COTE Top Ten Winners and the 2021 winners of the COTE Top Ten for Students Competition. Our amazing jurors will help us toast these projects and designs. We'll also recognize our supporting Partners and have breakouts for discussion. All are welcome—architects, owners, engineers, community officials, manufacturers, etc. [Register >](#)

### **The 2021 COTE Open Forum: Architects Advance for Climate Action + Climate Justice**

June 24, 3:30-5pm ET | Free event

This is your chance to discuss the issues that we are facing in our practices and communities with the COTE community. We are thrilled to have a special guest speaker, Christine Knapp, director of the Office of Sustainability for the City of Philadelphia. [Register >](#)



### **Network News: COTE Chapter Guide launches**

By Kendall Claus, AIA

The COTE Chapter guide offers best practices, context, examples, and other resources to COTE chapters or related groups operating or stating in local or state AIA components.

[Read more >](#)



## **Creating a Sustainability Action Plan: A guide to making it work for your firm**

By Kira Gould

The AIA 2030 Working Group has released an important new resource – *Creating a Sustainability Action Plan that works*. Firms of any scale will find its wisdom useful.

[Read more >](#)



## **Advocacy update: Raise Your Voice Today**

By Mike Davis, FAIA

AIA Advocacy is engaged with Capitol Hill on a number of measures. And there's still time to contact your representatives in support of the American Jobs Plan.

[Read more >](#)



## **The AIA Materials Pledge: Accountability in Action**

By Anne Hicks Harney, FAIA

Firms can sign on to a Materials Pledge to signal their support for materials that support human health and climate action.

[Read more >](#)



### **The Problem with Exceptional Buildings**

By Patrick Sisson | ARCHITECT (April 2021, Zonda Media)

To truly cut carbon, architects must design better systems, not singular structures.

[Read more >](#)

### **Check out the Architect's Primer on Renewable Energy**

Incorporating renewable energy into your projects can be approachable if you have the information to begin necessary conversations and find the right expertise for the design team. AIA created the *Architect's Primer on Renewable Energy* to provide a roadmap for incorporating these solutions into every project you undertake, even if you just make it “solar ready.”

[Read more >](#)

## **2021 AIA COTE Partners**



### **Partner Content: Understanding the potential of energy retrofits**

By ROCKWOOL

Existing building renovation is critical to cities' efforts to reduce energy use intensity and greenhouse gas emissions. AIA partner ROCKWOOL discusses the opportunities.

[Read more >](#)

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