

Committee on the Environment

an **AIA** Knowledge Community

Dear COTE Colleagues:

Happy New Year! As we begin this new year, I'm struck by how the value of our strong, diverse community becomes even more important with all of the uncertainty ahead. We are a powerful group numbering 11,325 COTE members along with more than 30 local and regional COTE chapters. Wow!

This is my first letter to you as 24th Chair of the AIA [Committee on the Environment](#) Advisory Group. I'm honored to serve as Chair following my wonderful colleague Paula McEvoy, FAIA, LEED Fellow. Under Paula's leadership, COTE accomplished some important milestones, including a [complete revamp of the Top Ten Awards criteria](#), a strengthening COTE network, and a successful [COTE Open Letter](#) that engaged 654 design professionals across the globe committed to our shared goals.



We are delighted to have three new members join the COTE Advisory Group who bring important resources and wisdom: Varun Kohli, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Senior Designer and Sustainable Design Leader, HOK; Marsha Maytum, FAIA, LEED AP, Principal at the 2017 Architecture Firm Award winner LMS Architects; and Anne Schopf, FAIA, Design Partner at Mahlum Architects. Each will be featured in an upcoming newsletter.

We also want to recognize the three departing Advisory Group members who have brought so much commitment and brilliance to COTE: Rand Ekman, AIA, LEED Fellow, 2015 Chair, Chief Sustainability Officer at HKS; Andrea Love, AIA, LEED Fellow, Director of Building Science at Payette; and Alison Kwok, PhD, AIA, LEED AP, Professor of Architecture at University of Oregon. Many thanks for their tremendous contributions.

The COTE newsletter is introducing this month a new feature "COTE around the Country" where we highlight the recent work of our COTE Seattle Chapter. It's inspiring to hear of the good things that so many are doing in their communities. Especially given the current national political climate, work locally is where we can make a major difference.

Our 2016 accomplishments and the over 25-year COTE legacy that precede them are a strong base from which to build. Our focus is strong to make sustainable, equitable, resilient design the new normal for everyone.

I welcome your ideas: please feel free to email me at mary.ann.lazarus@gmail.com

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "MAL".

Mary Ann Lazarus, FAIA

“I cannot think of an issue that is more **black and white** with respect to the agreement in the science and the **need to address it.**”

ARCHITECTS ORGANIZE

A Chicago-based Network Effort Gathers Firms Around Climate Change

By Kira Gould

Last summer, a couple of architects in Chicago got talking about "supporting candidates who are committed to climate change." In September, Architects Advocate was launched. According to its founders, Tom Jacobs, AIA, of Krueck Sexton, and Peter Exley, FAIA, of Architecture is Fun, the goal was to gather a list of firms who wanted to speak out—somehow—about the pressing need for action on climate change.

[Read more >](#)



This new tool helps architects design façades with comfort in mind

By Jim Hanford, AIA

"Architects need to address comfort; simple as that." Jim explains how Payette's [Glazing and Winter Comfort tool](#) has benefitted his firm's designs and helped him to better communicate with engineers

and clients. [Read more >](#)

What do you want to see from COTE?

Take our reader survey!

Your feedback will help us plan content for the year ahead. The survey takes about five minutes; thanks for your input!

[Take the survey >](#)



AIA 2030 Commitment annual reporting Deadline is March 31

The AIA 2030 Commitment is the Institute's signature program for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the built environment. Signatory firms commit to designing low-energy-use buildings, with the goal of creating net-zero projects across their portfolios by the year 2030. The deadline for signatory firms to report their 2016 projects is March 31, 2017. To make the process as smooth and efficient as possible, this year AIA is offering office hours for signatory firms to answer questions about what and how to report, and provide technical assistance with the 2030 Design Data Exchange (DDx).

Office hours will take place weekly on **Tuesdays 4-5pm ET**.

[Join a session >](#)

Call in: +1 (224) 501-3412 access code: 731-005-597

Email 2030commitment@aia.org with any questions or if you would like get involved with the mentor program.



Seattle

The [AIA COTE Sustainability Slams](#) give people the chance to stand and share their work to the sustainable design community in Seattle. "We want to provide a platform for individuals and firms to share what they are doing and to create a fun social mixer." The format is meant to quickly share innovative ideas and encourage conversation which is why presenters have only 21 slides and 7 minutes to present. After a quick round of presentations networking follows to encourage conversation and future collaboration.

Presentations cover a wide range of architectural practice including urban agriculture, Passive House, Project Drawdown, façade optimization methods, case studies and international bamboo construction.

[Watch them here >](#)

Thank you to our sponsors



Get connected



This email was sent to you from The American Institute of Architects. If you are having trouble viewing this email you can [view it in your browser](#). [Unsubscribe](#).

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



© 2016 The American Institute of Architects