

Committee on the Environment

an **AIA** Knowledge Community

Dear COTE Colleagues:

Summer is almost here and COTE has a lot of news to share. It's been a very productive few months!

- Thanks to the wonderful response to the Call to Action to the EPA—[775 firms responded!](#)—Scott Pruitt, Administrator of the EPA, invited AIA representatives to meet with him. Jon Penndorf, FAIA, a member of the COTE Advisory Group, recounts the visit in a story linked below.
- [The Call to Action letter to the Department of Energy](#) received 654 firm signatures, representing 46 states. We're hoping for a similar meeting with DOE to follow.
- If you missed the excellent webinar given by AIA's federal relations staff outlining the role COTE has in advocacy you can [access that on COTE's webpage](#).
- We held the inaugural COTE Forum at A'17 where 150 people gathered to work together on "Architects Leading—Design, Sustainability, Resilience and Equity."
- Anne Schopf, FAIA, a Design Partner at Mahlum Architects in Seattle has joined the COTE Advisory Group! Read more about her in a profile linked below.
- We're excited to announce the [new supercharged COTE Top Ten for Students competition](#) for 2017-2018 in collaboration with Architecture2030.



We also would like to recognize the great work on climate change from AIA leaders that has taken place in the past few months. This includes the excellent [Where We Stand: Climate Change](#) statement that clearly lays out the important principles in addressing climate change. This statement along with the detailed [AIA Commentary on the role of the Architect in Climate Mitigation](#), prepared by the AIA Energy Leader Group, positions AIA and all architects as critical contributors to climate mitigation.

It couldn't happen at a more important time.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'MAL' followed by a stylized flourish.



A Conversation with the EPA

By Jon Penndorf, FAIA

This invitation represented a huge opportunity—a recognition of the impact that architects have on the design and construction economy and a chance to explain why AIA valued specific EPA programs. [Read more >](#)

Hacking the FY18 budget at the COTE Forum



By Karen Robichaud

Thank you to everyone who joined us last month at the COTE Forum! We hosted a number of rapid-fire, roundtable discussions on topics including social media advocacy, the resilience working group, and the 2030 Commitment to a Mini Hackathon, which focused on hacking for change in regards to the proposed federal budget for 2018. [Read more >](#)

Anne Schopf joins AIA COTE Advisory Group

By Kira Gould

It seems it's an ideal time for Schopf's engagement: an opportunity for the 'full integration' of design and sustainability. Anne has led her own firm's reassessment and recommitment



to a vision for the next decade that emphasizes leadership in sustainable environments. [Read more >](#)

Ten steps to reducing embodied carbon



THE EARLY STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION FOR A NET ZERO, LOW-CARBON, LEED PLATINUM SCHOOL PROJECT, DESIGNED BY SIEGEL & STRAIN ARCHITECTS. IMAGE: SIEGEL & STRAIN ARCHITECTS

By Larry Strain, FAIA

My own "a-ha" moment came when my firm calculated all the embodied carbon emitted from building the Portola Valley Town Center. It's a very efficient project and performed better than expected, but when we ran all the numbers we found that construction still emitted 1,000 tons of carbon—roughly the same as 10 years of operating emissions. The good news is there are several steps architects can take to make significant upfront impacts in the design and construction process. [Read more >](#)

A decade of sustainability: How AIA Contract Documents have evolved



AIA has released a batch of new and revised documents as part of the once-in-a-decade update of the A201 design-bid-build family of documents. This release marks the largest and most significant update of AIA Contract Documents library since 2007, the last time AIA updated this same set of documents. Along with this release, AIA unveiled its new sustainability exhibit, E204-2017, which offers a simplified approach to including sustainability requirements into owner/contractor and owner/architect agreements. [Read more >](#)

Upcoming event: New England AIA COTE Leadership Summit

June 8-9

Burlington, Vermont

How can we facilitate effective change for enhanced sustainability in our communities at district scales? This year's Summit will bring together demonstrated sustainability leaders from our region to come together to discuss, collaborate, and strategize next steps related to our region's biggest obstacles for advancing sustainability efforts at the community scale. A primary goal will be to collectively address and mitigate climate change. [Learn more >](#)

Call for proposals for education sessions at A'18

AIA and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) are pleased to announce a call for abstracts for a series of proposed educational sessions at the 2018 AIA Conference on Architecture in New York City. We are looking for research on Technological, Social and Ecological Resilience. The submission deadline is June 14, 2017. [Learn more >](#)

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