

# Committee on the Environment

an **AIA** Knowledge Community



Total Eclipse, 1:16pm August 21, 2017, St. Clair, Missouri; IMAGE: Mary Ann Lazarus

Dear COTE Colleagues:

As summer winds down, COTE related activity has continued to be on overdrive. What a year!

While federal legislators are on August break, COTE members are leading efforts locally in targeted states to engage with elected officials to make the case for maintaining key federal programs. The states are those with legislators on the related House and Budget Appropriations Committees. These programs were outlined in earlier COTE Advocacy letters to DOE and EPA. A list and a link to those letters can be found on [COTE's advocacy page](#). Many thanks to all of those who are participating in these advocacy efforts—we must keep on keeping on.



Kudos go to AIA CEO Robert Ivy who sent [a letter](#) on to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources expressing deep concern over potential legislative changes that would repeal the fossil fuel reduction goals of federal buildings. This would be a major setback given

the important role that federal requirements for fossil fuel reduction have played since first initiated by President George W. Bush.

One more important item, COTE welcomes your interest if you want to be more involved in all that COTE is doing nationally. Our mission continues to grow in importance every day. The call for new Advisory Group members [is now open](#), and we're always looking for members interested in serving on our task groups as well. See more about that in the article below.

Finally, I just had the amazing experience of 2 minutes and 30 seconds of Totality during the August 21 eclipse. What a reminder of the fragility of our planet and our need to all work together. It couldn't come at a better time.

Warmly,



Mary Ann Lazarus, FAIA  
2017 Chair, Committee on the Environment



IMAGE: AIA San Diego

## **Housing the next one million—sustainable solutions for San Diego's housing challenge**

By Philip J. Bona, AIA

As rent and sale prices continue to escalate to beyond what the market will bear in San Diego, the projected median price of a home, currently at \$550,000, in 2050 is expected to be \$1.6 million. This pervasive rising cost of housing is not sustainable. Left to the marketplace for the next 33 years, and expecting slower acceleration of personal income and workforce reductions, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren face certain hardship and potential chronic homelessness as a generation. [Read more >](#)



## Materials transparency in practice: Earning LEED v4 points

By Anne Hicks Harney, FAIA

Product selection is a critical piece of an architect's job. The more we learn about what is contained within the products we choose for our buildings, the more we understand how important product selection can be. With the increasing emphasis on materials transparency, we have access to many tools that can give us a fuller comprehension of material content and impacts on environment and health, allowing us to make better choices.

[Read more >](#)



## Get more involved with COTE!

By Mary Ann Lazarus, FAIA

COTE's mission continues to grow in importance in light of recent events along with the AIA's renewed sustainability commitment and focus on the New Urban Agenda. The call for new Advisory Group (AG) members is **open through October 9**. [Please take a look](#) and consider whether you want to put yourself forward to either serve on the AG or as a member of a task group. [Learn more >](#)



## 2018 SDAT program: Call for applications

The Center for Communities by Design has announced the Call for Applications for its 2018 Sustainable Design Assessment Team (SDAT) program. Since 2005, the SDAT program has worked with over 70 communities across the country and catalyzed billions of dollars in sustainable development. If your community is in need of assistance to build strategies on revitalization, housing, climate

change or other key issues, consider applying.

**Applications are due December 8, 2018.** [Learn more >](#)



### **The path to net zero energy: How DPR's Living Labs are pioneering net zero energy building certification**

These DPR offices are prime examples of how the company is helping to pioneer a movement that many expect will ultimately make net-zero energy the “new norm” in sustainable design and construction. More than just offices, these buildings serve as living laboratories that showcase the latest in sustainable concepts in a variety of regions and climates. [Read more >](#)



### **A riverfront neighborhood at risk: Fortifying Chesterfield Heights**

Student researchers from Hampton University and Old Dominion University collaborated on design solutions for a community at risk from sea level rise [Read more >](#)



## **Upcoming events**

### **Living Product Expo 2017**

September 12-14, Pittsburgh

The International Living Future Institute is hosting its 3rd annual Living Product Expo, dedicated to healthy products for everyone. Imagine products made completely from non-toxic inputs and factories that support equitable development in their local communities. With the support of leading minds in the industry, this can be a reality. Join in the collaborative design process as we craft a healthy and inclusive materials economy. [Learn more >](#)

### **Where building science meets climate science**

November 4, Asheville, North Carolina

This symposium, presented by AIA Asheville, will incorporate problem-based learning and draw from numerous case studies to help participants identify the role of architects in addressing the challenges presented by climate change. Participants will learn methods to achieve climate adaptive design from experts in both building science and climate science. [Learn more >](#)

## Greenbuild 2017

November 8-10, Boston

When we come together at Greenbuild, we are one community of professionals, advocates and practitioners, students and teachers, designers and builders, and everything in between. We leave no stone unturned in our pursuit of what's next — new technology, new ideas and new ways forward. We are dedicated to transforming the market and changing the way the people all over the world experience buildings. [Learn more >](#)

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