

Committee on the Environment

an **AIA** Knowledge Community



Architects in San Francisco advocate for climate action at the Global Climate Strike on September 20th. Image: Marsha Maytum



Letter from the chair

By Marsha Maytum, FAIA

The autumn brings important developments for AIA COTE members across the country. A great deal is happening—around the country and around the world—in the climate action ramp-up. This is happening within our profession and far beyond.

[Read more >](#)

If you'll be at Greenbuild...

Please join the COTE Gather on Wednesday, November 20, 6-8pm at the Braves All Star Grill (200 Peachtree St., Atlanta). We hope to see you there!



Image: KettleSpace

Build less. For more people. Design circular.

By Clare Mifflin, AIA

The seven-word maxim in my title (inspired by Michael Pollan's maxim for healthier eating) could be a way for our community to take a big leap in climate action. "Design for Economy" states that "Space should be seen as a resource to conserve, just like water or energy." This sounds like common sense, but is unrewarded by our green building rating systems -- and, indeed, by our entire real estate economy.

[Read more >](#)

Defining design excellence: Design for Integration

By Kira Gould, Allied AIA

As Lance Hosey wrote in his book, *The Shape of Green: Aesthetics, Ecology, and Design* (Island Press, 2012), "We don't love something because it's nontoxic and biodegradable—we love it because it moves the head and the heart." Designing that which has the power to move the head and the heart is what Design for Integration is all about.

[Read more >](#)



Advocacy Update: AIA opposes EPA & DOE regulatory roll-backs

By Mike Davis, FAIA

In recent months, the AIA has filed or has planned to file firmly-worded letters of opposition to proposed roll-backs of longstanding Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Energy regulations as part of open public commentary periods.

[Read more >](#)

RIBA sees the 2030 Commitment and raises us

By Z Smith, FAIA

Architects in Britain recently announced huge moves addressing climate change that parallel the initiatives underway here. There is an exciting convergence between efforts on both sides of the Atlantic, enabled, in part, by a heightened level of collaboration between members of both the AIA and RIBA (the Royal Institute of British Architects).

[Read more >](#)

Accelerating to zero CO₂ emissions by 2040

News from Architecture 2030 about the September Summit, the urgency of it all, and the conference in March. [Read more >](#)

Can architecture reach net zero by 2050?

By Katherine Flynn

The built environment is essential in the fight against climate change, but time is running out. [Read more >](#)

New certifications broaden the meaning of "sustainable"

By Steve Cimino

RELi, Fitwel, and others go beyond green building to focus on resilience and health. [Read more >](#)

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Calendar

Designing for Performance: Who, What, When, Why... and How?

October 28 | San Francisco, CA

With building performance specialist Maria Grimm, mechanical engineer Dimitri Contoyannis, and architect Brad Jacobson. [Register now >](#)

Building Resilience 19

November 7- 8 | Cleveland, OH

Building Resilience 19 is the first national gathering of building industry professionals focused exclusively on how to create more resilient buildings and communities.

[Register now >](#)

Climate Adaptive Design Symposium

November 8- 9 | Asheville, NC

The fifth annual Climate Adaptive Design Symposium in Asheville, NC will be headlined by the renowned sustainability expert Vivian Loftness, Professor of Architecture at Carnegie Mellon University. She will be joined by a lineup of interdisciplinary speakers who will touch on the current state of the climate, mitigating against extreme coastal climatic events, the AIA 2030 Commitment, and more. [Register now >](#)

Call for entries: AIA COTE Top Ten Awards open

November 15 | AIA National

Keep an eye out!

Architecture 2030 Climate Positive

March 2-4 | Los Angeles, CA

Continue to build momentum for immediate, impactful, and scalable actions on embodied carbon with the CarbonPositive'20 Conference and Expo. The Conference will provide a "how-to" for planning, designing, building and manufacturing a CarbonPositive future. [Register now >](#)

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