

Committee on the Environment

an **AIA** Knowledge Community

Dear COTE Colleagues:

Happy Fall to all. Although the year is winding down, the COTE-related activities are heating up. This month's newsletter includes informative articles related to AIA's sustainability priorities:

- the importance of the **New Urban Agenda** for architects
- **energy**: a small firm's perspective on the value of the AIA 2030 Commitment
- **materials**: the **mindful MATERIALS Library** tool for materials transparency
- **resilience**: architects' contributions to the challenges of water

We're introducing two new features beginning in this newsletter. "COTE voices" showcasing



blogs and articles by COTE leaders from across the country. Please share your links with communications committee member **Kira Gould**. "AIA Advocacy update" is a post from Andrew Goldberg, Managing Director of Government Relations and Advocacy, with news of recent or upcoming important federal activities related to sustainability so we can all stay informed.

Also, in response to the EPA's unhappy announcement to withdraw from the Clean Power Plan, we urge all AIA members to join with Architect's Advocate by signing an open letter supporting the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus. More on **COTE's advocacy page**.

Finally, check out last month's terrific list of COTE member presentations at Greenbuild. I hope to see many of you there—wear your COTE green square pin so we can find each other.



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



What New Urban Agenda means for architects

By Tim Hawk, FAIA; Chere LeClair, AIA; and Derek Washam

Architects, with our “design thinking” expertise and desire to engage in visionary work, are uniquely qualified to be at the forefront of engaging New Urban Agenda within our communities. [Read more >](#)



This small firm made AIA's 2030 Commitment part of their practice

By Melissa Smith Nilles

Mode Associates in San Luis Obispo, California, was an early adopter of AIA's energy efficiency initiative: "The 2030 Commitment is a key way to demonstrate that the work we do matters." [Read more >](#)



AIA Advocacy update

By Andrew Goldberg

Clean Power Plan: what does this announcement mean for the climate and for architects? The short-term impact is not clear: for one thing, the Clean Power Plan was already held up in the courts and had never taken effect. Also, the administration is still legally required to limit carbon pollution and must re-issue a new plan, along with ample time for public comments.

[Read more on the COTE Advocacy page >](#)



The mindful MATERIALS Cloud Library: Navigating the maze of transparency information

By Nancy Hulse

Material health equates to healthier spaces for building occupants and the planet. For designers, that requires an understanding of—and a willingness to sift through—material transparency data. [Read more >](#)



Water: How to prepare for too much, and too little

By William Richards

Some experts say water scarcity is a national security threat. And, over the past two months, millions of Americans have encountered first-hand the devastation caused by too much water. Through interviews with five different experts, we explore the paradox of water and how architects can contribute to this evolving struggle. [Read more >](#)



Sponsored post: How to use human energy to boost productivity

By Brandon Tinianov

It turns out that people who work in offices with natural elements, of which light is an integral factor, show a 6 percent increase in productivity. Workers in offices with poor lighting quality and poor window views used significantly more sick leave hours than those in offices with good natural light. [Read more >](#)



COTE VOICES

The storms this summer and fall inspired many letters and articles about design's role in community planning and how we think about resilience long term. Jon Penndorf, FAIA, is a Senior Associate and Project Manager/Sustainability Leader at Perkins + Will. For their blog, Penndorf and his colleague David Cordell write about [Designing for Cultural Resilience](#). Lance Hosey, FAIA, Chair of Design Excellence at Harley Ellis Devereaux, was also moved by the storm season's influence on many communities and wrote for *Huffington Post* about [Washington Under Water](#).

Each month in this space, we will share a few of these voices. Send submissions to [Kira Gould](#) with COTE VOICES in the subject line.



Upcoming events

"Where Building Science Meets Climate Science," the 3rd Annual Climate Adaptive Design Symposium

November 2-3, Asheville, North Carolina

The [symposium](#) opens with a special event on November 2 when keynote speaker [Victor Olgyay, AIA](#), Principal of Rocky Mountain Institute delivers a pre-conference lecture "Design With Climate: a personal history." The event includes a reception with refreshments, including local beer and food. November 3 is a full day of sessions and network opportunities. Continuing education credits are available for several professional organizations (AIA HSW, GBCI, LFA). [Register >](#)

Carbon Leadership Forum Annual Meeting

November 7, Boston

Sessions include: CLF Embodied Carbon, Visioning workshop, LCA practice guide. Lunch provided. [RSVP >](#)

Greenbuild 2017

November 8-10, Boston

Greenbuild brings together industry leaders, experts and frontline professionals dedicated to sustainable building, making Greenbuild the ideal space to learn about groundbreaking green building products, services, and technologies. [Check out COTE's list of featured sessions >](#)

Webinar: Demystifying the COTE Top Ten Awards

December 6 at 1pm ET, 1 AIA LU

Each year, COTE awards ten projects for setting the standard in design and sustainability. However, documenting projects across the ten measures in order to submit for the award can seem daunting. What does it take to enter? Hear from two firms with successful track records in the program. They will share insight into processes and documentation that support a successful submission. [Register >](#)



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