



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS

## AIA 2030 Commitment

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### The Commitment

#### Identify Sustainability Team

Within two months of signing the commitment the firm will establish a team or leader to guide the development of the firm's sustainability efforts and implementation of its commitment plan.

#### Immediate Operational Actions

Within six months of signing the commitment, the firm will implement a minimum of four operational action items from the [list provided](#). These actions will be undertaken while the long-term sustainability plan is in development.

#### Sustainability Action Plan

Within one year of signing the commitment, the firm must develop a long range sustainability action plan that aligns with the stated 2030 benchmarks for achieving carbon neutrality. While action plans will differ from firm to firm, a successful sustainable action plan should address the following aspects:

##### *Develop Sustainable Design Goals*

Set quantifiable design goals for every project regardless of whether required by the client.

- Design projects to reduce the amount of fossil-fuel based energy used to align with 2030 goals
- Reduce the amount of potable water used in all projects
- Improve indoor air quality (IAQ) through the elimination of hazardous materials used in all projects
- Have every project undergo a green building evaluation whether the project is seeking certification or not
- Document all projects in case study format with consistent criteria to help measure performance and progress

##### *Institute Staff Training and Education*

- Ensure staff is invested in the firm's sustainable design goals and can contribute to the success.
- Determine a minimum amount of staff training and education on sustainable design issues
- Provide support for staff to attend conferences and education programs focusing on sustainable design programs
- Implement programs that recognize individual and team sustainable design contributions

##### *Evaluate the Design Process*

Engage in a design process that is multidisciplinary, collaborative, goal-oriented, and metric driven:

- Use an integrated design process that promotes early involvement of stakeholders and engages in collaborative design process
- Use life-cycle cost analysis and consider the life-cycle effects of the materials and systems used in a project
- Develop metrics for sustainable design goals at the outset of the project. Green building rating systems such as LEED or Green Globes can be a useful tool
- Develop consistent measurement standards for building and site design performance
- Create feedback procedures to gather information about building performance that include things such as meters, sensors, controls, and post-occupancy evaluations

### *Sustainable Operations*

Develop a sustainable operations plan that sets goals aimed at reducing the negative impact of firm operations related to:

- Office Energy Use
- Waste Reduction and Supplies
- Transportation
- Meetings

### *Develop a Business Strategy*

Develop a business strategy that communicates why a sustainable design approach is important and why the firm is qualified:

- Put together information that supports the value of the firm's sustainable design services (include information on projects costs, operating costs, and occupant satisfaction)
- Develop marketing materials that highlight the sustainable design aspects of the firm: define the design philosophy; list accredited staff; highlight benefits of sustainable design, etc...
- Make your sustainable actions and operations available to clients

### **Report Progress**

Make the sustainability action plan available by providing them to the AIA for posting and commit to annual progress reports