

# CALL TO ACTION

Make sustainable design the standard, not the exception

## Why Architects?

Architects influence sustainable building outcomes from the earliest stages of a project, using design strategies that reduce environmental impacts while enhancing building performance, occupant well-being, and resilience. Their decisions help establish the framework for achieving sustainability goals throughout a building's lifecycle.

We have differentiated here between commercial and residential architecture to reflect the unique requirements and opportunities of each.

## Actions – Commercial

- Sign on to join the AIA 2030 Commitment, an actionable climate strategy that provides a set of standards and goals for reaching net zero emissions in the built environment
- Advise Clients and Owners on the benefits of resilient design features – owners respond to the idea of protecting their investment, allowing building resilience to be a path to achieve sustainability goals.
- Design for passive survivability—careful considerations on how a building is sited; use of natural ventilation, daylighting, and thermal mass strategies.
- Select building materials and systems designed for longevity, low maintenance, and ability to withstand extreme conditions, e.g. materials that can dry out quickly in case of a flood.
- Decrease building program square footage by incorporating shared, multi-function use spaces which can flexibly adapt to changing uses or future technologies. Utilize construction cost savings for multi-function use spaces to offset costs for higher efficiency building envelope improvements, enhanced HVAC equipment and control systems, etc.
- Engage performance-based energy modeling services early in the project to influence and advise on efficient design solutions.

## Stand Out Strategies



- Integrate ground source / geothermal and renewable energy systems (solar PV, battery storage, etc) into building design or other alternative renewable power generating systems. Explore financing opportunities for public-private partnerships between institutions, utilities, and private entities to develop mixed ownership microgrid projects.
- Perform building materials life cycle analysis and track embodied carbon from material extraction through eventual building demolition.
- Design to meet net zero energy standards, net zero-ready, or solar-ready buildings.

# CALL TO ACTION

Make sustainable design the standard, not the exception

## Why Architects?

Architects influence sustainable building outcomes from the earliest stages of a project, using design strategies that reduce environmental impacts while enhancing building performance, occupant well-being, and resilience. Their decisions help establish the framework for achieving sustainability goals throughout a building's lifecycle.

We have differentiated here between commercial and residential architecture to reflect the unique requirements and opportunities of each.

## Actions – Residential

- Design for passive performance:
  - Incorporate shade coverings with roof overhangs, trees, or screens.
  - Cross-ventilate rooms by aligning operable windows on opposite sides of the house.
- Improve building envelopes:
  - Detail continuous air barriers, sealed penetrations, envelope sealing, and weather stripping to maximize building envelope efficiency.
  - Choose cellulose insulation (low-embodied-carbon) or mineral wool and avoid foam-based insulation.

## Stand Out Strategies

- Install impact resistant roofing to protect against damage during extreme weather like hail.
- Design homes to be solar-ready or net zero-ready.
- Integrate renewable energy systems (solar PV, battery storage, ground source).