



## **Position Statement of the Board of Directors – December 2005**

### **Sustainable Architectural Practice**

The AIA recognizes a growing body of evidence demonstrates that current planning, design, construction, and real estate practices contribute to patterns of resource consumption that seriously jeopardize the future of the Earth's population. Architects need to accept responsibility for their role in creating the built environment and, consequently, believe we must alter our profession's actions and encourage our clients and the entire design and construction industry to join with us to change the course of the planet's future.

Altering current practices of design and construction to realize significant reductions in the use of natural resources, non-renewable energy sources, waste production and promote regeneration of natural resources will require a multiple year effort in conjunction with clients, industry partners and concerned organizations. To achieve these changes the AIA will act through all its Board Committees, Knowledge Communities, Task Forces, Working Groups and related activities to:

1. Promote sustainable design including resource conservation to achieve a minimum 50 percent or greater reduction from the current level of consumption of fossil fuels used to construct and operate new and renovated buildings by the year 2010, and promote further reductions of remaining fossil fuel consumption by 10 percent or more in each of the following five years;
2. Collaborate with other national and international organizations, the scientific research community, public health community and industry leaders engaged in issues related to sustainable / restorative design to facilitate the dialogue, share knowledge and accelerate the rate of change for all those seeking to improve the industry's current practices and utilize integrated approaches to achieve a sustainable future;
3. Develop and promote the integration of sustainability into the curricula for education of architects and architectural students to enhance their design skills;
4. Develop standards for the architectural profession that incorporate greater sustainability into design, education, management, and licensure standards and provide resources to assist integrating these standards into the daily practices of all architects;
5. Promote documentation of the measurable contributions resulting from implemented sustainable design and construction approaches to the health of humankind and the planet to promote the value and achievements of increased use of sustainable design;
6. Promote research by industry, scientific and governmental entities to provide the design and construction industry with full life cycle assessment data for all

7. products and assemblies used in the construction of the built environment at every scale in order to facilitate decision-making and communicate benefits to all;
8. Promote the AIA's building performance design targets to local, state, and national governments;
9. Communicate possible beneficial economics of environmentally responsible design to both public and private sector clients; and
10. Assume a global role as advocates for sustainable design freely sharing knowledge and actively promoting sustainable practice throughout the world.

## **ADOPTING THE “2030 CHALLENGE” FOR CITY BUILDINGS**

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community’s most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Building Sector has been shown to be the major consumer of fossil fuel and producer of global warming causing greenhouse gases; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government through programs fostered within many of its key agencies and numerous state governments as well as municipalities across the U.S. have adopted high performance green building principles; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent study completed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the most definitive cost-benefit analysis of green buildings ever conducted, concluded that the financial benefits of green design are between \$50 and \$70 per square foot, more than 10 times the additional cost associated with building green; and

**WHEREAS**, the large positive impact on employee productivity and health gains suggests that green building has a cost-effective impact beyond just the utility bill savings; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have indicated that student attendance and performance is higher in high performance school buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing that a building’s initial construction costs represent only 20-30 percent of the building’s entire costs over its 30 to 40 year life, emphasis should be placed on the “life cycle costs” of a public building rather than on solely its initial capital costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction industry in the U.S. represents a significant portion of our economy and a significant portion of the building industry is represented by small business and an increase in sustainable building practices will encourage and promote new and innovative small business development throughout the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the national professional organization representing architects has adopted a position statement calling for the immediate energy reduction of all new and renovated buildings to one-half the national average for that building type, with increased reductions of 10% every five years so that by the year 2030 all buildings designed will be carbon neutral, meaning they will use no fossil fuel energy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage its members to adopt the following “2030 Challenge” for building performance targets:

New construction of City buildings shall be designed to and achieve a minimum delivered fossil-fuel energy consumption performance standard of one half the U.S. average for that building type as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Renovation projects of City buildings shall be designed to and achieve a minimum delivered fossil-fuel energy consumption performance standard of one half the U.S. average for that building type as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy.

All other new construction, renovations, repairs, and replacements of City buildings shall employ cost-effective, energy-efficient, green building practices to the maximum extent possible; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work to increase the fossil-fuel reduction standard for all new buildings to carbon neutral by 2030, in the following increments:

60% in 2010

70% in 2015

80% in 2020

90% in 2025

Carbon-neutral by 2030 (meaning new buildings will use no fossil fuel GHG emitting energy to operate); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will urge mayors from around the nation to join this effort by developing plans to fully implement the above mentioned targets as part of their procurement process and by establishing policies to insure compliance and measure results; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will urge mayors from around the nation to develop plans to fully implement the above mentioned targets for *all* new and renovated buildings within the City; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work in conjunction with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and other appropriate organizations to join this effort to develop plans to fully implement similar targets as mentioned above.