

**American Institute of Architects
Sustainable Architectural Practice Position Statement**

**Sustainable
Architectural
Practice**

The AIA recognizes a growing body of evidence that demonstrates 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.

Explanation

Altering current practices of design and construction to realize significant reductions in the use of natural resources, non-renewable energy sources, and 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 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 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;
7. Promote the AIA's building performance design targets to local,

**American Institute of Architects
Sustainable Architectural Practice Position Statement**

- state, and national governments;
8. Communicate possible beneficial economics of environmentally responsible design to both public and private sector clients; and
 9. Assume a global role as advocates for sustainable design freely sharing knowledge and actively promoting sustainable practice throughout the world.