



WMB ARCHITECTS

Shaping Environments to transform People, Organizations, & Communities

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN







WMB ARCHITECTS

Stockton | Sacramento

August 1, 2024

Robert Ivy, FAIA
EVP/Chief Executive Officer
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006-5292

Re: Architecture 2030

Dear Mr. Ivy:

WMB Architects, Inc., a 13 person firm located in Stockton and Sacramento California, is hereby signing on to the AIA 2030 Commitment program and its goal of carbon-neutral buildings by the year 2030.

The places where we live, work and play represent the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in America, as well as around the world. The design and construction industry has made significant strides toward creating high performance buildings of all types and uses. As a result, the industry is positioned to have a profound impact by continuing to foster high building performance and reducing building-related greenhouse gas emissions.

As architects, we understand the need to exercise leadership in creating the built environment. We believe we must alter our profession's practices and encourage our clients and the entire design and construction industry to join with us to change the course of the planet's future. A multi-year effort will be required to alter current design and construction practices and realize significant reductions in the use of natural resources, non-renewable energy sources and waste production and promote regeneration of natural resources.

We therefore commit WMB Architects, Inc to take the following steps as part of the AIA 2030 Commitment program:

- Create an account in the Design Data Exchange (DDx).
- Develop and publish a *Sustainability Action Plan*.
- Endeavor to meet 2030 energy reduction targets as a deliberate part of design.
- Within the first year and each year thereafter, report the progress of our firm's project portfolio toward meeting the 2030 goals by using the AIA 2030 DDx.
- Review how progress and practices are tracking with our firm's Sustainability Action Plan and update our Sustainability Action Plan periodically, reflecting on the progress shown in our reporting.

We also support the critical need for more consistent and more rigorous metrics related to actual building performance. We further commit our firm's assistance to the AIA and others in the ongoing development of effective metrics and standards for reporting purposes. It is understood that reporting through the AIA 2030 Commitment program must respect the confidentiality of information about specific clients, projects and proprietary tools.

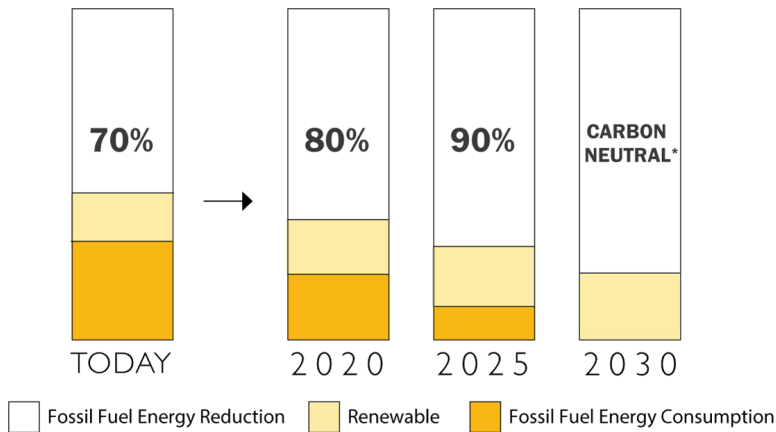
We look forward to working with you and our professional colleagues to achieve the goals of the 2030 Commitment.

Sincerely,

Tim Mattheis
Principal Architect

Doug Davis
Principal Architect

Melanie Vieux
Principal Architect



The 2030 Challenge

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 *Using no fossil fuel GHG-emitting energy to operate.

Research has demonstrated that buildings are a $\pm 40\%$ annual contributor to greenhouse gas emissions.


In response to this statistic, **The 2030 Challenge** advocates that "all new buildings, developments, and major renovations shall be carbon-neutral by 2030."

To support this effort, The American Institute of Architects (AIA) created The AIA 2030 Commitment which is an actionable climate strategy with a set of standards and goals for reaching net zero emissions in the built environment. The AIA has solicited architectural firms across the United States to join the effort and calling them to make the commitment.

WMB Architects is 1 of more than 1,350 firms committed to reaching carbon neutrality by 2030.

THE 2030 CHALLENGE
architecture2030.org

THE AIA 2030 COMMITMENT
www.aia.org/design-excellence/climate-action/zero-carbon/2030-commitment



At WMB, our vision is to provide a positive impact on our community through thoughtful and intentional design. Ranging from small scale tenant improvements to large new buildings, our efforts are consistently guided by our **Core Values** - a list of defined values that inform our operations as a company. Of these nine values are included **Care for the Environment**, **Commitment to Community** and **Care for People**. Our team understands that we must be forward thinking and develop solutions that **reduce negative impacts** and strengthen the positive impacts of our projects on the environment. We recognize that the collaboration with our community is essential to developing solutions to complex shared challenges, such as climate change, and we strive to work in partnership with our local community in working toward solutions.

We, at WMB, are committed to being stewards of positive change. With this **Sustainability Action Plan**, WMB has defined specific goals and strategies, and we will use these objectives to gauge our success in achieving our broader vision, using the power of design to elevate the human experience and be responsible stewards of the land.



IMMEDIATE GOALS

(3 MONTHS)

- Present the WMB Sustainability Action Plan to the office staff.
- Incorporate sustainability statement into Employee Handbook regarding office operations.
- Eliminate single use plastics – baggies, plastic utensils, plates, etc.
- Post clear graphics in Break Room for trash & recycling
- Turn off 50% of office lighting during business hours between March to September
- Turn off computer monitors when not in use
- Standardize double-sided printing
- Prioritize remote meetings (Teams/Zoom/etc.)
- Evaluate the current WMB corporate carbon footprint. Host an all-staff workshop to explore options to reduce the footprint.

SHORT TERM

(12 MONTHS)

- All unused material samples shall be returned to vendor/ recycled to avoid sending to landfill
- Incorporate sustainability statement into current job descriptions
- Institute employee incentives for use of reduced carbon work transportation (electric or hybrid cars, carpooling, bicycle, mass transit, walking, etc.)
- Reduce in-house printing by 50%
- Develop implementation plan to reduce the corporate carbon footprint. Institute plan for internal continuing education of evolving sustainability methods and systems for all licensed architects.

LONG TERM

(36 MONTHS)

- Company vehicles shall be electric vehicles.
- Purchase clean energy credits to offset WMB carbon footprint
- Establish a committee to explore pathway of pursuing 'net zero' office operations.

GOALS | PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



IMMEDIATE GOALS (3 MONTHS)

- Identify WMB personnel to serve as the sustainability liason on applicable projects.
- Identify energy usage goals during programming (projects > \$5M).
- Register projects to the AIA 2030 DDx.

SHORT TERM (12 MONTHS)

- Generate a database of sustainably manufactured building materials and systems.
- Develop a preliminary project sustainability checklist + toolkit.
- Integrate energy modeling and passive design strategies into our internal workflow during the schematic design process (projects > \$5M).
- Partner with like-minded consultants that have the required tools and can improve our team's sustainable design process.
- Curate resources for calculating embodied and operating carbon

LONG TERM (36 MONTHS)

- Calculate embodied carbon and operating carbon at schematic design and design development phases (projects > \$10M).
- Evaluate project feasibility of pursuing net zero (projects > \$5M)
- Implement design strategies to reduce embodied carbon by 20% (projects > \$5M)
- Construction completed on a building designed to net zero operating carbon
- Institute post-occupancy phase to evaluate actual building performance (projects > \$5M)

GOALS | ADVOCACY & KNOWLEDGE SHARING



IMMEDIATE GOALS (3 MONTHS)

- Publish the WMB Sustainability Action Plan on the website.
- Develop sustainability marketing document as part of WMB Kit of Parts.

SHORT TERM (12 MONTHS)

- Institute employee incentives for professional sustainability certifications (e.g. LEED, WELL, GBI, etc.).
- Send WMB personnel to attend sustainability conference.
- Develop a repository of precedent projects to be used as applicable case studies on WMB projects, to be shared with clients, in proposals and with future employees.
- Develop a list of WMB's involvement in community organizations that have an impact on sustainability and encourage further participation.

LONG TERM (36 MONTHS)

- Publish articles to share our industry experience.
- Engage with local community groups/committees to advocate for sustainable design and construction practices.

Positive change within a community does not naturally transpire but requires the commitment of participants within the community to work collectively toward a common goal.

WMB Architects is committed to its local and global communities and, through these stated goals and strategies, will work toward the common goal of designing buildings that are healthy for the individuals that inhabit them and for the longevity of the planet on which they are set.





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