



July 2021  
Advocacy  
Newsletter

## Deep Dive: CLIMATE

We continue to take a deeper dive into the issues AIA responds to and works on, reviewing one of our issue “buckets” each month. This is a great time to offer feedback on AIA’s agenda and identify new issues for our Board to consider.

This month’s newsletter covers issues related to climate change, with a focus on building decarbonization.

At the **national level** and here in Washington, AIA is focused on advancing architects and our expertise in the built environment as indispensable resources in finding solutions to reversing climate change.

Buildings are responsible for about one-third of Washington’s greenhouse gas emissions, second only to transportation (which is also impacted by the built environment). This includes embodied carbon emissions in construction materials and emissions related to building energy use. For existing buildings, we have an opportunity to retrofit and decarbonize buildings with all-electric solutions. In addition, we can improve energy efficiency by upgrading mechanical systems and building envelopes to lessen the energy demand.

Simply put, the buildings sector must dramatically reduce emissions from construction, renovation, and operations. AIA|WA works on policy solutions to achieve this, including maximizing energy efficiency, eliminating fossil fuel use, reducing embodied carbon, and encouraging building reuse. Importantly, we work to ensure these solutions are addressed equitably for all residents.

Overall, AIA National is taking action to eliminate all building greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 in the U.S.; in Washington the goal is zero emissions by 2030. Reaching these targets will result in healthier, more resilient, and—if we do it right—more equitable communities.

Architects have the expertise and understanding to promote and support building decarbonization within our industry, among owners, and with policymakers.

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## Climate policy, continued

AIA members are taking the lead in helping to shape policy solutions that will get us to zero carbon. While individual buildings can make a difference when the client and architect work together, policy changes raise the floor by leveling the playfield, bringing new solutions to the market, reducing the cost of existing solutions through scale, and ensuring that buildings are built to align with the state's long term carbon reduction goals.

AIA's state policy work on decarbonization centers on these goals:

### [Maximize energy efficiency](#)

⇒ Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through highly energy efficient design, including high performance building envelopes, systems, and appliances.

### [Eliminate Fossil Fuel Use in Buildings](#)

⇒ Replace fossil fuel systems in buildings with efficient electric space heating, hot water systems, and appliances.

### [Minimize embodied carbon emissions](#)

⇒ Renovate, adapt, and preserve existing buildings.  
⇒ Prioritize building materials that emit less emissions in production and transportation and encourage carbon-smart materials and building reuse.

### **Join AIA Washington Council's Climate Committee**

AIA's Climate Committee is responsible for determining AIA's policy platform on climate issues and identifying our ongoing work plan. During the state legislative session, the committee provides critical feedback on policy proposals and weighs AIA's response to emerging legislation.

The committee meets monthly on the fourth Monday of the month at 12:30 pm and more frequently during the legislative session. All AIA members are welcome to participate.

Contact [Kirsten](#) if you are interested.



### **AIA Policy Priorities**

To promote decarbonization in buildings, AIA continues to work with legislators and state agencies on policy proposals that would:

- Require state code to make all new buildings fossil fuel free by 2030.
- Support the independence of the State Building Code Council.
- Allow local governments to voluntarily amend the state's residential energy code to be more equitable and efficient.
- Extend the state's benchmarking and operations requirements under 2019's **Clean Buildings Act** to smaller commercial buildings.
- Require gas utilities to decarbonize their operations.
- Require new public buildings to be highly efficient and all-electric.
- Restrict use of HFCs (hydrofluorocarbons) in refrigerants.
- Support increased renewable energy use.
- Provide state funding to support programs that:
  - ◇ Produce energy efficiency and health related retrofits for low-income homes
  - ◇ Implement building emissions reduction
  - ◇ Develop and deploy clean energy technologies
  - ◇ Provide energy retrofits for public buildings
- Support a just transition for low-income and BIPOC communities who bear the brunt of climate change impacts and environmental pollution.
- Support state investments in transit and transit-oriented development.





Much of AIA's climate work is achieved through **Shift Zero**, Washington's zero net carbon building alliance. AIA helped to found Shift Zero in 2017 to allow stakeholders to speak to public officials with a common voice on climate policy issues related to the built environment.

Shift Zero's mission is to catalyze a just transition to zero carbon buildings for all in Washington. Member organizations and others work together in the areas of state policy, local policy, code, technical work, communications, and equity to drive policy work around decarbonization in the building sector.

Shift Zero operates with volunteer support from architects, engineers, non-profit environmental groups, green building organizations, and many more. If you are interested in learning more about Shift Zero's work, here are some ways to get involved:

#### Sign up for the Shift Zero newsletter

- Stay informed about Shift Zero advocacy actions, policy news, and task force updates. [Subscribe here](#)

#### Attend a member meeting

- Shift Zero holds member meetings once a month. These meetings review existing Shift Zero initiatives, provide a forum for discussing new items, and offer learning opportunities.
- All AIA members are automatically members of Shift Zero, so you are welcome to participate as much or as little as you like.
- Please contact [Kirsten](#) for meeting dates and times or to receive an invite.

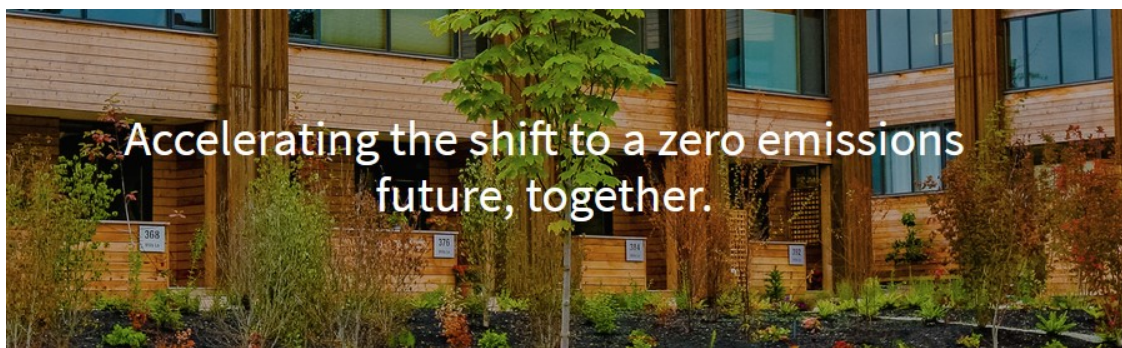
#### Join a task force or action team

- Join a task force to contribute expertise, develop policy proposals, and take action on Shift Zero's priority [initiatives](#).
- Join one or more Shift Zero action teams, which work across all initiatives. Teams meet monthly and have their own email listservs. They include:
  - Local Policy
  - State Policy
  - Code
  - Technical Group
  - Communications
  - Equity

Contact [Kirsten](#) for more information.

#### Request a presentation

- Shift Zero is eager to share information about its work and listen to feedback and ideas from organizations, individuals, or firms. Please contact [Kirsten](#) to request a presentation.



# Washington Policy News

## Washington State Long-Term Care Trust Program

Beginning January 1, 2022, Washington employees will be subject to a new, unknown to most residents payroll tax to fund a state-run long-term care program passed by the state Legislature in 2019.

Called the Washington State Long-Term Care Trust Program (also the Washington Cares Fund), it will be funded by an uncapped 0.58% payroll tax on all employee compensation, including wages, bonuses, commission, stock-based compensation, paid time off, and severance pay.

This tax is paid by individuals, not employers, and is mandatory unless you have alternative qualifying LTC coverage in place before Nov. 1, 2021 and proactively opt out. Employees 18 years of age or older can opt out of

the program if they have long-term care coverage in place before November 1, 2021. Additionally, the employee must file for an exemption with ESD between October 1, 2021 and December 31, 2022.

Employers and employees can review a summary of the program by ProPoint [here](#).



## AIA National Opportunities

### Climate Applied Research Grants

Call for submissions: [2021 AIA Upjohn Research Initiative grants](#) | Deadline: September 1

Upjohn Research grant funding will be allocated to projects related to the priorities outlined in AIA's Climate Action Plan. These include a drive toward sustainable design that helps mitigate or adapt to climate change. This program funds up to six research grants of \$15,000–\$30,000 annually for projects completed in a 6-to 18-month period. The funds must be fully matched with hard dollars.



### Jason Pettigrew Memorial ARE Scholarship

Licensure candidates: [Apply now for ARE Scholarship](#)

Deadline: August 27

Apply today for this grant covering the full costs of the Architect Registration Examination, as well as study materials and access to ArchiPrep®.



### 2021 Herman Miller Scholarship—Health Care Design

[Call for submissions](#) | Deadline: August 8

Are you know a young professional with an interest in healthcare design? This program provides assistance to attend the 2021 Healthcare Design Expo and Conference in Cleveland, OH on October 23-26, 2021. Each selected recipient will receive a full conference pass and a stipend to offset travel, hotel room and meal costs.

# COMPONENT EVENTS

## AIA Central Washington

- 2021 AIA Central Washington Design Awards:
  - Submittal deadline: Aug. 27
  - Gala Awards: Oct. 22 [More info](#)

## AIA Seattle

- Event: [2021 Seattle Design Festival](#), Aug. 21-22.  
This year's theme is: EMERGE.

## AIA Northwest Washington

A Section of AIA Seattle

- NWW Design Awards Call for Submissions - opens 8/2. Awards event 10/7.
- NWW / AGC Scholarship Golf Tournament, Aug. 27. Avalon Golf Links, Burlington. [Info](#).

## AIA Washington Council Civic Design Awards

Our virtual Civic Design Awards program for 2021 will be aired on September 9.

## AIA Southwest Washington

- AIA SWW's Golf Tournament at The Golf Club at Hawks Prairie, "The Links", Lacey. Aug. 6. Player registration [here](#).

## AIA Spokane

- AIA/CSI Annual Golf Tournament, Sept. 16. [Registration](#)

## AIA Washington Council

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*AIA Washington Council serves as the collective voice for and a resource on state government policies that impact the practice of architecture for all architects and the profession through AIA components in Washington State.*

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