



October 2021 Advocacy Newsletter

AIA Gears Up for Glasgow: COP26

In November, AIA National will participate in the U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland, which will convene nations from around the world for climate negotiations. Following are excerpts of a letter from 2021 AIA President Peter Exley FAIA to Congress and an op-ed by Exley and 2021 AIA Gold Medalist Ed Mazria FAIA published in *The Hill*—both calling for the urgent need for climate action.

From Peter Exley FAIA

Dear Members of Congress
and Climate Staff Members:

I am writing to you, as the President of the American Institute of Architects, to reassert AIA's commitment to the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Since 1857, this concern is central to all that we, as architects, do.

AIA's over 94,000 members have worked to advance our nation's quality of life through design. From designing the next generation of energy-saving buildings to making our communities healthier and safer, architects play a central role in influencing and improving the built environment through their work. Climate change has certainly challenged all of us in terms of creating both greater mitigation (reducing climate change altogether) remedies and adaptation methods (adapting to the climate change already in the pipeline).



I write today to urge Congress to work with the architectural community to take bold steps to achieve true climate action. The upcoming U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow offers us an opportunity to double down to target the solutions we need.

First, AIA believes we must address two long-overdue vulnerabilities in the built environment: building emissions and building resilience. Taken together, these challenges are not only contributing to accelerated climate change, but also worsen the impacts of climate change on building occupants. AIA urges Congress to include investment in buildings in the infrastructure package and to work with AIA and others to meet the commitments made by the U.S. during the upcoming COP26 in Glasgow.



Read the rest of the letter

COP26,
continued



On climate change, it's time to lead

BY EDWARD MAZRIA AND PETER EXLEY, OPINION CONTRIBUTORS — 10/06/21 08:30 AM EDT
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

By Peter Exley
FAIA and
Ed Mazria FAIA

Devastating wildfires and brutal heat waves. Expanding drought. Disastrous storms and deadly flooding. Billions of dollars of damage and heartbreaking stories of lost lives and destroyed businesses and homes. Climate change is upon us, and the impacts we are witnessing and experiencing this year are but a harbinger of what's to come in the years ahead if we collectively fail to act.

Despite the very real and present impacts of climate change, far too many world leaders continue to effectively sit on the sidelines. Collectively, at a moment when bold action is needed, global leaders have yet to mount a response commensurate with the challenge even as the window for action closes.

Buildings are the largest source of the world's carbon emissions globally, accounting for approximately 40 percent of total emissions due to the energy used for heating, cooling, lighting, appliances, and building construction. When you add the embodied carbon of building interiors, systems, and associated infrastructure, that percentage is substantially higher. The building industry has a critical role to play in solving the climate crisis, and fortunately for all of us, they are leading the way. For example, today, the entire U.S. building sector's CO₂ emissions are 30 percent below 2005 levels even though over 50 billion square feet was added to its building stock over that same period.



And now, more than 60 of the largest and most influential international architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, planning and construction firms, collectively responsible for over \$300 billion in annual construction, along with two dozen organizations that represent more than one million building industry professionals worldwide, announced a shared commitment to dramatically reduce carbon emissions, and they have challenged sovereign governments to do the same.

The firms and organizations are signatories to the 1.5°C COP26 Communiqué—an open letter to sovereign governments calling on them to commit to reducing carbon emissions to meet the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C carbon budget—which scientists have determined is necessary for a good probability to avoid the worst impacts of climate change—a 50 percent to 65 percent reduction by 2030 and fully decarbonize all sectors by 2040.

[Read the rest of the op-ed](#)

Washington's 2022 State Legislative Session is Around the Corner



Washington's 2022 State Legislative Session begins on January 10, 2022 and runs through March 11. We expect the session to be virtual for everyone but legislators, who will be allowed to participate in person.

AIA|WA expects to be active in engaging on bills related to climate, housing, tax, licensing, contracting, Capital Budget funding, equity, and more. Look to this publication and AIA|WA emails for updates. If you are interested in weighing in on any of the above topics (and are not currently participating in an AIA|WA committee), let [Kirsten](#) know. Consider joining one of [AIA|WA's policy committees](#) for the best opportunity to impact ongoing legislation.

OPPORTUNITIES

Advocacy in Action

AIA Washington Council's free Advocacy in Action series aims to turn you into an architect advocate on any issue that is important to you. It is designed for emerging professionals and students, but everyone is welcome. In this 3-part webinar (Nov. 4, 11, 18), you will discover how AIA works to protect the profession and address key issues, as well as how you can play an important role and engage on issues important to you. LU credits are provided. More info and register [here](#).



AIA National Small Project Awards

AIA National's Small Project Design Knowledge Community seeks projects for its Small Project Award Program—aimed at raising public awareness of the value and design excellence that architects provide regardless of the limits of size and budget. Categories include:

- Small project construction, object, work of environmental art or architectural design element up to \$250,000 in construction cost
- Small project construction up to \$2.5 million in construction cost
- Small project construction, object, work of environmental art or architectural design under 5,000 SF
- Unbuilt project award: any unbuilt design that meets any of the category requirements above

All projects must demonstrate design achievement, including how the project fits into its environment and how the project connects to the Framework for Design Excellence. Submissions are due by Nov. 12. More info on submitting projects [here](#).

Associates: AIA National Associates Committee

AIA|WA Council is seeking candidates to serve as Washington's State Representative to the **AIA National Associates Committee (NAC)** for a 2-year term. The NAC represents associates, in both traditional and non-traditional paths, by providing information and leadership to AIA components. The NAC representative will be involved in addressing local and national issues and will help to shape and dictate new policy. The appointed representative will also become an AIA|WA Board Associate and ex-officio member of the AIA|WA Board of Directors for the duration of their NAC term. Applications are due Nov, 30, 2021. More information, including qualifications and how to apply, is available [here](#).



Historic Preservation of Diverse Places

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is launching the **Telling the Full History Preservation Fund** to help interpret and preserve historic places of importance to underrepresented communities across the country. Grant applications will be accepted from 501(c)(3) nonprofit humanities-based organizations, accredited public and 501(c)(3) colleges and universities, as well as state, local, and Tribal governmental agencies starting November 2021. Among other areas, they may be used for architectural design and planning to preserve and activate historic places of importance to underrepresented communities—including, but not limited to, women, immigrants, Asian Americans, Black Americans, Latinx Americans, Native Americans and LGBTQA communities.

AIA Spokane Welcomes New Executive Director

Andrew Parker has been selected by AIA Spokane as its new Executive Director.

A licensed architect, Andrew most recently worked as an architect at NAC Architecture in Spokane. He also worked at A&E firms in Houston and at Thom Mayne's Morphosis in Los Angeles.



Andrew grew up in Grants Pass, Oregon. He moved with his family to Spokane in 2016 to be closer to family.

Andrew is also a visual artist and manages his own art studio that includes managing his exhibits, website, and social media.

Andrew has begun his job with AIA Spokane and is working with outgoing Executive Director as she transitions through the end of the year. He can be reached at andrew@aiaspokane.org.



Thank you to Stephanie and welcome Andrew!

C-PACER Enacted in 3 Counties; King County's Program Underway



In 2019, AIA|WA worked with state legislators to pass **C-PACER** (Commercial Property Assessed & Clean Energy-Resilience) legislation. C-PACER is an important financial tool that can be used to decarbonize commercial, industrial, non-profit, and multifamily buildings. The program authorizes private loans which allow owners to finance projects that increase energy efficiency, water efficiency, or resiliency. Critically,

these are liens on the building and not attached to the owner. This means that the loans do not appear on the owners' books or stay with the owner when sold, allowing owners to make deep green improvements now even if they plan to sell the building in the short or medium term.

C-PACER loans will allow owners to make long-term decisions on sustainability projects that will pay for themselves over time. They will also be critical for many owners who will need to comply with the state's clean building performance standard – the Clean Buildings Act – in the coming years.

The state legislation was enabling legislation, allowing but not requiring counties to implement C-PACER programs. Each county must implement its own program via legislation. To date, **Whatcom**, **Thurston** and **Clark** counties have passed C-PACER programs. **King County's program** is currently under consideration by the King County Council. King County's draft ordinance was amended to restrict projects that use fossil fuel-fired equipment from being eligible for C-PACER loans after 2023. That language is not final, but the legislation has been moved out of committee to the full County Council.

We expect additional counties to address C-PACER legislation in 2022.



COMPONENT EVENTS

AIA Northwest Washington

- New Building Envelope Solutions Webinar, Nov. 18, 8:30-1:00. 4 LU/HWU pending. [More info.](#)

AIA Seattle

- AIA Seattle **Honor Awards**: in-person event Nov. 8
- Architecture for Health: Resiliency Through Physical Design; Nov. 4-5, 8 LU/HWU. [More info.](#)

AIA Southwest Washington

- SWW Scholarships: available for recent high school graduates or 2nd year college students with direct admission into an architecture program. [More info.](#)

CAPITOL CONNECTIONS

Capitol Connections is AIA|WA's annual lobby day in Olympia, where architects discuss issues important to the profession directly with their legislators. We expect 2022's event to be virtual once again, so you will have the opportunity to advocate from your desk or home computer.

Capital Connections 2022 will be held the week of Jan. 17-21. It will feature a kick-off webinar briefing, an opportunity to hear from key legislators on our issues, and meetings with your state legislators. We'll set up your meetings and provide talking points and a prep session for everyone in your district.

This is a great opportunity to get a glimpse into how your state legislature operates and an easy way to start building relationships with your legislators. Please consider joining your fellow architects from across the state in this important outreach effort.

More info or register [here.](#)

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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