

# SUSTAINABLE EVENT MANAGEMENT REPORT

ASLA 2025 CONFERENCE



**HONEYCOMB  
STRATEGIES**

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# HONEYCOMB STRATEGIES

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## Overview

### About ASLA

Founded in 1899, ASLA is the professional association for landscape architects in the United States, representing more than 15,000 members. Landscape architects lead the planning, design, and stewardship of healthy, equitable, safe, and resilient environments.

The ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture (Conference) is the largest gathering of landscape architects and allied professionals in the world, coming together to learn, celebrate, build relationships, and strengthen the bonds of the professional community. The Conference draws thousands of attendees and hundreds of exhibitors each year.

### Scope

In collaboration with ASLA, Honeycomb Strategies worked closely with the Conference production team and key vendors to shape the sustainability strategy for ASLA 2025. This effort aimed to ensure sustainability-informed conference decisions while collecting metrics to measure the event's overall environmental impacts.

Building on the baseline established in 2022, the fourth year of this partnership allowed ASLA and Honeycomb Strategies to refine programs and establish strategic goals based on data from the previous year. These goals, along with associated actions, guided discussions with vendors. It is understood that not all impacts are under the direct control of ASLA or production partners, but rather under their influence. The detail and effectiveness of Honeycomb Strategies' reporting is reliant on vendors and partners supplying data.

ASLA is sharing this report in the spirit of full transparency and as a learning opportunity for members, exhibitors, and partner organizations.

### ASLA Climate & Biodiversity Action Plan

The ASLA Conference was planned with consideration of the goals of ASLA's Climate Action Plan (2022-2025).

At the 2025 Conference, ASLA launched its **Landscape Architecture 2040: Climate & Biodiversity Action Plan** for the landscape architecture community. The updated plan sets important new targets for realizing our 2040 vision, establishing an ambitious set of benchmarks to meet by 2030 in the areas of biodiversity, greenhouse gas emission reductions, carbon sequestration, adaptation, economic benefits, and climate and biodiversity justice.

The new plan is designed to act as a resource and guide the climate and biodiversity work of landscape architecture firms and organizations of all sizes. It will also direct all ASLA climate and biodiversity programs and investments from 2026 to 2030.

## 2025 Stats

- **Show Dates:** October 10-13, 2025
- **Location:** Ernest M. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, LA
- **Total In-Person Participants:** 5,293
- **No. of Exhibiting Companies:** 320
- **Event Space:** 523,197 square feet
- **Number of Occupied Room Nights:** 8,076

## 2025 by the Numbers

- 27,136 pounds of materials were donated to New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity to support the development of the Rising Oaks community
- Total carbon footprint: 3,794.76 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e
- 95% of flooring was multi-use carpet
- 75% waste diversion rate
- 23% of speakers self-identified as Black, Indigenous, or people of color
- 100% of catered meals were served on compostable serviceware

## Per Attendee Conference Impacts

|                                   | <b>2022</b><br>(5,582 attendees) | <b>2023</b><br>(4,767 attendees) | <b>2024</b><br>(6,058 attendees) | <b>2025</b><br>(5,392 attendees) |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Travel (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b> | 0.82                             | 0.53                             | 0.49                             | 0.63                             |
| <b>Energy (kWh)</b>               | 15.14                            | 98.15                            | 20.47                            | 60.71                            |
| <b>Waste (pounds)</b>             | 15.79                            | 24.04 <sup>1</sup>               | 8.56                             | 9.45                             |
| <b>Water (gallons)</b>            | Not Provided                     | 392.12                           | 31.93                            | 76.41                            |
| <b>Total (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>  | <b>845.62</b>                    | <b>585.53</b>                    | <b>527.84</b>                    | <b>703.78</b>                    |

<sup>1</sup> For comparability across years, only convention center waste data is reflected. Waste data from a secondary venue/hotel was collected in 2023 and can be viewed in HIVE.

## Key Achievements

- **Community Connections:** ASLA prioritized partnerships with the local New Orleans community. In 2025, ASLA donated 27,136 pounds of exhibitor materials to Greater New Orleans Habitat for Humanity to support an innovative neighborhood development designed to enhance economic and social outcomes in aging suburban communities. In addition, from May to November 2025, ASLA partnered with the ASLA Louisiana chapter and community experts on a legacy project to prioritize sites for green infrastructure to reduce flooding along the I-10/Claiborne Avenue corridor.
- **Exhibitor Engagement:** ASLA intentionally engaged exhibitors throughout the event cycle to provide and promote opportunities to demonstrate sustainable exhibiting. 25 exhibitors participated in the Habitat for Humanity donation program, contributing materials with an estimated total retail value of \$51,982. 38 exhibitors completed the detailed Exhibitor Climate Action Impact Survey, which tracks exhibitor commitments to reduce impacts from travel, freight shipping, waste, and more.
- **Positive Climate Contributions:** For the second year, ASLA continued its partnership with the National Indian Carbon Coalition (NICC) to offset greenhouse gas emissions from the Conference. This partnership supports ASLA's cultural empowerment and climate equity goals and promotes natural climate solutions through Improved Forest Management. For ASLA 2025, 3,391 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e were retired. These offsets were generated by the work of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in Mississippi to preserve and improve tribal forests.

## Key Opportunities for Improvement

- **Procurement Guidance:** Establish a sustainable procurement policy for the Conference including climate, biodiversity, and equity considerations in alignment with the ASLA Climate Action & Biodiversity Plan. Include guidelines for destination and venue selection, as these decisions have significant impact on Conference greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Focus on Biodiversity:** Incorporate a greater focus on biodiversity as a consideration in Conference planning, particularly in venue selection and food & beverage procurement.
- **Multiply Impacts through Education:** Share knowledge about sustainable conference planning with the broader events industry. Provide guidance to Conference sponsors and partners to improve the sustainability of ancillary events.

## Carbon Footprint

ASLA achieved its initial goal of reducing the emissions of the Conference by 20% by 2024 from the 2022 baseline year. The next milestone on the path to zero emissions by 2040 is to reduce Conference emissions 50-65% by 2030, continuing to measure against the 2022 baseline.

Overall, Conference emissions decreased 19.61% from the 2022 baseline. Total emissions from travel decreased 25.92%. Travel emissions per attendee decreased 23.17%.

## Year Over Year Carbon Footprint

From baseline 2022

|                        | 2022            | 2023                              | 2024                              | 2025                              |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Travel (MTCO2e)</b> | 4,588.84        | 2,524.69<br>-44.98%               | 2,986.74<br>-34.91%               | 3,399.22<br>-25.92%               |
| <b>Energy (kWh)</b>    | 84,494          | 467,871<br>+453.73%               | 124,027<br>+46.79%                | 327,349<br>+287.42%               |
| <b>Waste (US Tons)</b> | 44.08           | 57.31 <sup>1</sup><br>+30.14%     | 25.93<br>-41.18%                  | 25.47<br>-42.22%                  |
| <b>Gross (MTCO2e)</b>  | <b>4,720.24</b> | <b>2,791.23</b><br><b>-40.87%</b> | <b>3,197.67</b><br><b>-32.26%</b> | <b>3,794.76</b><br><b>-19.61%</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Only convention center waste data is reflected here. Waste data from a secondary venue/hotel was collected in 2023 and can be viewed in HIVE.

## Total Carbon Footprint

|                                                  | 2022            | 2023              | 2024           | 2025          | % change from 2022 to 2025 |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Travel</b>                                    | 4,588.84        | 2,524.69          | 2,986.74       | 3,399.22      | -25.92%                    |
| <b>Lodging</b>                                   | 89.83           | 159.34            | 138.08         | 172.02        | +91.50%                    |
| <b>Venue(s) Energy</b>                           | 17.06           | 66.37             | 35.38          | 119.55        | +600.76%                   |
| <b>GSC<sup>1</sup></b>                           | 15.95           | 27.53             | 20.68          | 19.49         | +22.19%                    |
| <b>Materials<sup>2</sup></b>                     | -               | -                 | -              | 75.11         | N/A                        |
| <b>Waste</b>                                     | 6.28            | 3.20 <sup>4</sup> | 2.26           | 2.88          | -54.14%                    |
| <b>Event Production<sup>3</sup></b>              | 2.29            | 10.11             | 14.52          | 6.49          | +183.41%                   |
| <b>Total Emissions (MTCO2e)</b>                  | 4,720.24        | 2,791.23          | 3,197.67       | 3,794.76      | -19.61%                    |
| <b>Total Net Emissions with Offsets (MTCO2e)</b> | <b>4,720.24</b> | <b>1,565.23</b>   | <b>-368.33</b> | <b>403.76</b> | <b>-91.45%</b>             |

<sup>1</sup> GSC (general services contractor) includes freight, forklifts and boom/lift emissions.

<sup>2</sup> Materials includes the embodied emissions of graphic substrates and flooring used for the event. This is a new metric first calculated for the 2025 conference.

<sup>3</sup> Event production includes shuttle fuel, food procurement, and paper usage emissions.

<sup>4</sup> Waste emissions for 2023 include both the convention center and the secondary venue/hotel.

## Positive Climate Contributions

3,391 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e (MTCO<sub>2</sub>e) were retired on behalf of ASLA.

ASLA continued its partnership with the National Indian Carbon Coalition (NICC), an Indigenous carbon innovator, to purchase positive climate contributions for the Conference. This partnership supports the cultural empowerment and climate equity goals outlined in the ASLA Climate Action Plan and promotes natural climate solutions through Improved Forest Management. With contributions from the 2024 and 2025 Conferences, ASLA has now made a positive climate contribution of a total of 6,957 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e with NICC.

The contributions purchased for ASLA 2025 were generated by the work of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians in Mississippi to preserve and improve tribal forests. The offsets are third-party verified and registered with the American Carbon Registry.

The lead sponsor of carbon offsets for the 2025 Conference was KOMPAN.

## A Closer Look at Transportation Emissions

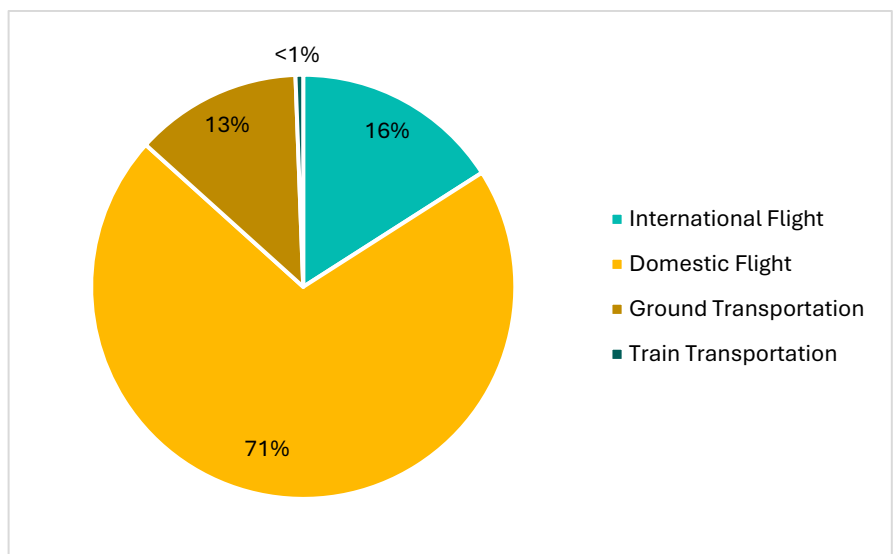
Travel accounted for 89.58% of total carbon emissions of the Conference. ASLA encouraged attendees to choose more sustainable travel options to and from the Conference, such as train travel and carpooling, and to select direct, economy flights if flying. ASLA also shared information with attendees about local public transportation in New Orleans, including the express RTA bus for airport transfers, streetcar lines, and the Blue Bikes bike sharing system.

The proportion of modes of travel utilized by attendees stayed nearly the same as in 2024. Train travel saw an expected decrease from 2024, reflecting the change in venue from Washington, D.C., to New Orleans, outside the densely populated eastern rail corridor. 766 attendees chose train travel in 2024, while only 40 traveled by train in 2025.

### Total Travel Emissions:

**3,399.22 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e**

- Domestic flight: 2,414.46 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e
- International flight: 544.70 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Ground transportation (car, bus, airport transfers): 434.78 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Train transportation: 5.27 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e

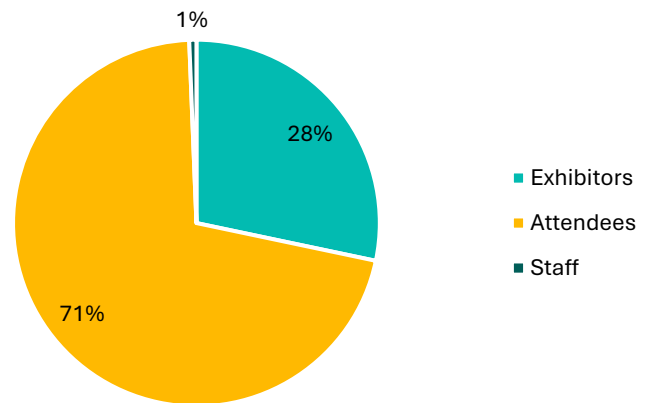


## Total Travel Emissions:

**3,399.22 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e**

- 3,931 Attendees accounted for 2,415.67 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e
- 1,421 Exhibitors accounted for 962.09 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e
- 40 Staff accounted for 21.45 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e

Carbon Emissions of Group Types



## Freight

Freight emissions increased 4% from 2024 and 17% from the 2022 baseline year. One contributing factor was the greater distance between the event destination and the General Services Contractor's (GSC's) regional distribution centers. In 2024, a round trip between the venue and the distribution center was only 26 miles, compared to an average round-trip distance of 1,108 miles from the three regional centers that served the 2025 Conference. However, much of this increase was offset by a 70% reduction in total miles to and from the GSC's AV warehouses. The location of partner facilities is not directly within ASLA's control but can be a factor to consider when selecting future Conference destinations.

## Waste

ASLA continued its waste-reducing best practices, resulting in low total waste weight consistent with the 2024 Conference. Key factors in reducing and diverting waste include designing Conference components for reuse, ordering accurate quantities of food & beverage, choosing recyclable signage materials, and partnering with the venue to divert additional waste streams.

|                              | 2022        | 2023        | 2024        | 2025        |
|------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>Total Waste (US tons)</b> | 44.08       | 57.31       | 25.93       | 25.5        |
| <b>Waste Not Diverted</b>    | 14.30       | 16.41       | 5           | 6.4         |
| <b>Recycled</b>              | 2.29        | 18.46       | 3           | 4.9         |
| <b>Composted</b>             | 2.74        | 7.5         | 2.93        | 0.6         |
| <b>Donated</b>               | 24.75       | 14.93       | 15          | 13.6        |
| <b>Waste Diversion Rate</b>  | 68%         | 71%         | 81%         | 75%         |
| <b>Total (MTCO2e)</b>        | <b>6.28</b> | <b>3.20</b> | <b>2.26</b> | <b>2.88</b> |

Only convention center waste data is reflected here. Waste data from a secondary venue/hotel was collected in 2023 and can be viewed in HIVE.

### Practices at the Ernest M. Morial Convention Center

The sustainability team at the Morial Convention Center fosters a waste-wise culture throughout the venue's various teams and departments. Upon ASLA's request, front-of-house compost bins were added to the Atrium concessions area and food & beverage areas on the expo floor, supplementing the in-house caterer's back-of-house composting program to recover additional organic material. The venue also piloted an innovative carpet padding recycling program with ASLA, diverting 600 pounds of carpet padding from the landfill. Prominent signage guided attendees, staff, and Conference vendors to dispose of waste in the appropriate areas.

*Front-of-house waste station including composting for organics*  
Photo credit: Honeycomb Strategies



### Lanyard Donation

ASLA diverted approximately 1,000 Conference lanyards from the landfill by donating them to STEM Library Lab, a New Orleans nonprofit that fosters high-quality learning by providing teachers with access to equipment, programs, experiences and STEM instructional support to drive student success.

*Photo credit: Honeycomb Strategies*



## Habitat for Humanity

ASLA once again offered exhibitors the opportunity to donate materials and plants from their booths to the local Habitat for Humanity. Habitat for Humanity has been ASLA's valued, long-standing donation partner in the organization's Conference destinations across the country for many years.

Twenty-five exhibitors donated a total of 27,136 pounds of materials with a retail value of more than \$50,000. Many donated items will be used in the development of Rising Oaks, a workforce housing and mixed-use community showcasing national best practices for economic and social outcomes. Remaining items will be sold at the ReStore, a discount home improvement supply store whose proceeds support Habitat for Humanity's mission.



*The team from New Orleans Area Habitat for Humanity collected multiple semi-truckloads of donated landscaping materials from exhibitors.*

*Photo credit: Honeycomb Strategies*



*Photo credit: Honeycomb Strategies*



Photo credit: ASLA



Photo credit: ASLA

## Energy

The energy consumption of the Conference can be challenging to measure accurately due to different measurement capabilities and methodologies at each year's venue. Other events happening at the venue at the same time as the Conference can also affect energy measurements.

In 2025, electricity consumed by the ASLA Conference was reported by the venue as a proportion of the building's total electricity consumption, which is measured on a daily basis. Natural gas consumption was reported as a proportion of the prior year's monthly average. Both the dates of ASLA occupancy and the square footage occupied by ASLA were factored into the proportioned totals.

Only 2% of total energy consumption came from the Hilton Riverside, the Conference's host hotel and secondary venue.

### Energy Consumption in kWh

|                    | 2022          | 2023           | 2024           | 2025           |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Electricity</b> | 78,368        | 258,128        | 112,465        | 309,333        |
| <b>Natural Gas</b> | 6,102         | 4,195          | 11,562         | 18,016         |
| <b>Steam</b>       | 24            | 205,548        | 0              | 0              |
| <b>Total kWh</b>   | <b>84,494</b> | <b>467,871</b> | <b>124,027</b> | <b>327,349</b> |

*Energy data shown for each year includes the Conference convention center as well as a secondary venue/hotel.*

In addition to variations in measurement methodology, the emissions factors for energy consumption vary by state. In Louisiana, one MWh of electricity consumption emits approximately 763 lb CO<sub>2</sub>e, compared to 395 lb CO<sub>2</sub>e in Washington, D.C., the site of the 2024 Conference. Secondary energy sources like natural gas and steam also have different emission factors.

### Renewable Electricity at Main Venue

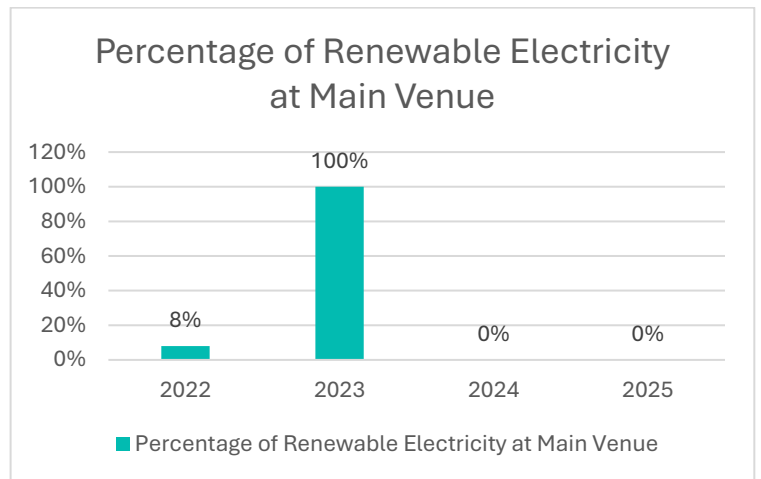
2022: 8% renewable

2023: 100% renewable with purchase of RECs

2024: 0%

2025: 0%

*(note: this represents only electricity, not total energy)*



For the second year in a row, 0% of the electricity consumed at the Conference's main venue was from renewable sources, resulting in significantly higher greenhouse gas emissions from venue energy. The availability of renewable energy within the local grid mix, as well as through purchasing arrangements by the specific venue, are important considerations when selecting future Conference destinations.

## Food and Beverage

ASLA partnered with the Morial Convention Center to implement compost collection in key food and beverage zones. 100% of the serviceware for catered meals was compostable, with the exception of the Business Executive Lunch, which was served on reusable serviceware and glassware. A high percentage of packaging from on-site concessions was compostable as well.

### Plant-Based Options

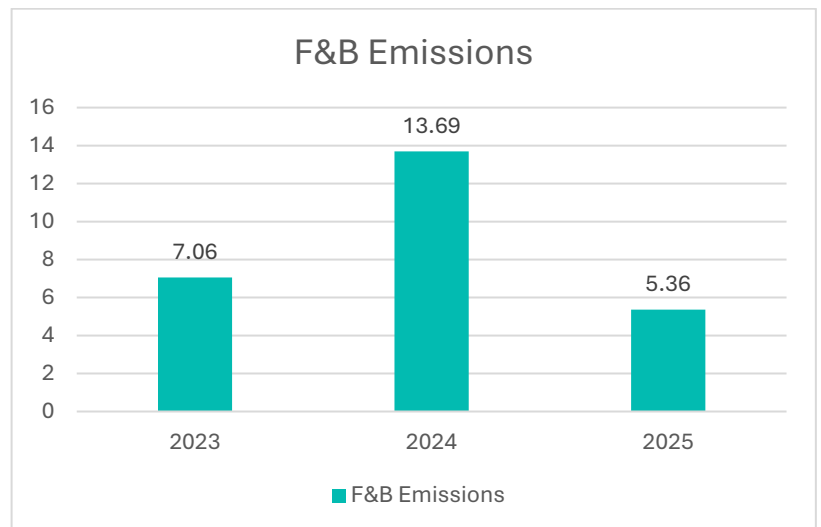
Reducing the consumption of animal products results in lower carbon emissions from food and beverage. Plant-based options are those that are completely free of animal products, also known as vegan, and these choices yield the greatest reduction in carbon emissions. Vegetarian menu items may include animal products other than meat, such as eggs and dairy. Vegetarian meals typically have lower carbon emissions than meals containing meat, but not as low as plant-based meals.

54% of the meals served at the Conference were either vegetarian or vegan. ASLA intentionally offered substantial plant-based menu items for several of the Conference's largest food functions, such as the Lunch & Learn buffet and the LABash Block Party. Opportunities to improve plant-based offerings include the exhibit hall breakfast and the Business Executive Lunch, the menus for which included vegetarian items but no plant-based items.

In addition to reducing carbon emissions, offering plant-based options makes meals more inclusive and accessible for those who are avoiding animal products.

### F&B Emissions

2023: 7.06 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e  
 2024: 13.69 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e  
 2025: 5.36 MTCO<sub>2</sub>e



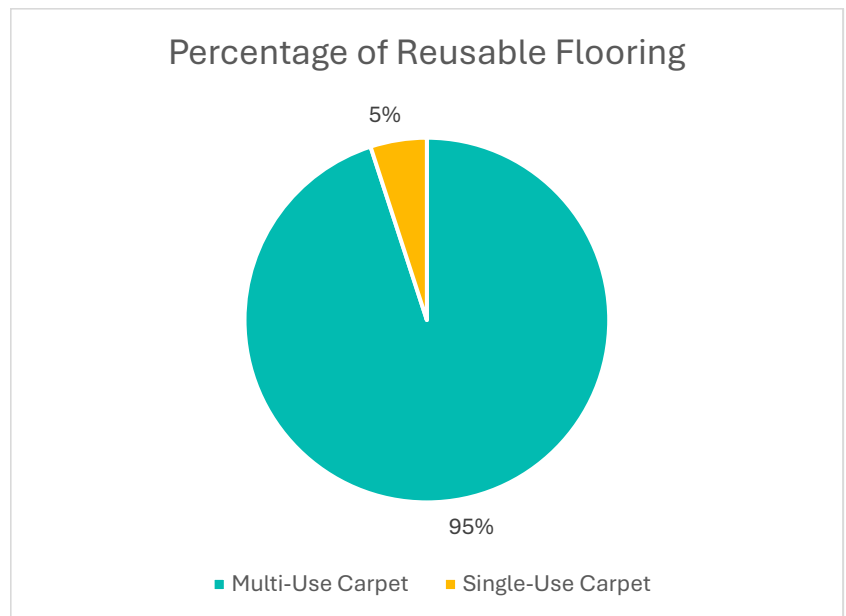
## Carpet and Flooring

The ASLA Conference does not carpet the aisles of the expo hall, a sustainable choice to minimize emissions from carpet production and shipping. However, exhibitors are required to have floor coverings in their booths.

In a significant win, the percentage of multiple-use flooring increased from only 38% the 2022 baseline year to 95% in 2025. This figure represents flooring ordered through Freeman, the show's General Services Contractor (GSC). Freeman saves and reuses many of its flooring types multiple times before disposal. Choosing materials that can be reused cuts down on the environmental impact of new production.

The Conference also reduced the use of Visqueen by 83% compared to 2024, returning to 2022 levels of use. Visqueen is a heavy-duty plastic sheeting that is used to protect flooring. Visqueen is not consistently recyclable, though it was recycled at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

95% multi-use flooring  
5% single-use flooring



## Graphics & Signage

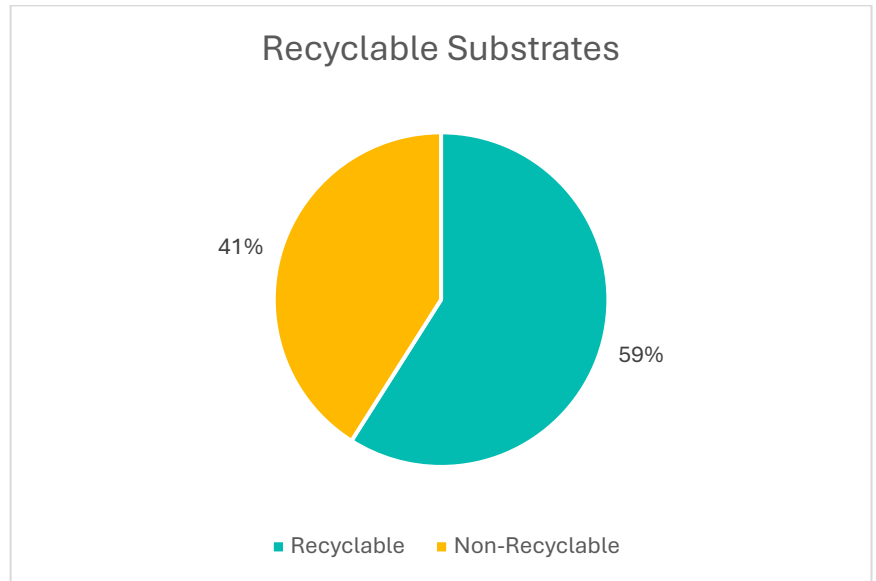
ASLA reduced the square footage of printed graphics by 15% compared to the 2022 baseline year and reused approximately 2,640 square feet of graphics from prior years, reducing the need for new production.

ASLA also increased its use of recyclable substrates from only 29% in 2022 to 59% in 2025. In the process, ASLA virtually eliminated the use of PVC panels, a resource-intensive and non-recyclable material, substituting it with recyclable and renewable paperboard.

### Graphics Substrates

59% recyclable substrates

41% non-recyclable substrates



| Substrate (Square Feet) | 2022          | 2023          | 2024          | 2025          |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Decals/Clings           | 418           | 348           | 682           | 437           |
| Fabric                  | 2,126         | 1,929         | 6,676         | 3,082         |
| Honeycomb               | 3,937         | 1,620         | 2,046         | 2,727         |
| Paper Material          | 424           | 105           | 2             | 4,865         |
| Foamcore                | 264           | 132           | 206           | 120           |
| PVC                     | 6,630         | 6,052         | 4,442         | 9             |
| Vinyl Banners           | 1,500         | 1,500         | 1,340         | 1,630         |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>15,300</b> | <b>11,686</b> | <b>15,394</b> | <b>12,869</b> |

## Social Sustainability

### ASLA Legacy Project

The 2025 ASLA Legacy Project was led by the ASLA Louisiana Chapter in collaboration with Waterwise Gulf South Collective, Greater Tremé Consortium, and Healthy Community Services. Together, they created a green infrastructure plan, identifying installations to reduce flooding along the I-10/Claiborne Avenue corridor within the Tremé and Seventh Ward Neighborhoods.

### Accessibility

- ASLA offered closed captioning for education sessions via Wordly, improving accessibility for attendees who are deaf or hard of hearing.
- Education sessions and the SKETCH! Studio on the expo floor featured spaces for wheelchairs or scooters.
- ASLA's well-appointed Lactation Room makes the Conference more accessible for nursing parents. Large vacant/occupied signs ensured user privacy, and on-site refrigeration allowed for fewer interruptions to conference participation.



Photo credit: ASLA

### Equity & Inclusion

- ASLA provided Conference scholarships to Council of Fellows scholarship recipients, student and professional award winners, LA Bash Alumni Tailgate winners, WxLA scholarship winners, ASLA Member student volunteers, participants in the United Houma Nation Indigenous Youth Workshop, and leaders from local environmental justice leaders from the New Orleans area. Additionally, discounted registration rates were offered to students and Federal public practice employees impacted by workforce challenges.
- The Conference schedule featured gatherings for various affinity groups within the landscape architecture profession including El Merequetengue, WxLA, the Asian Diaspora, BlackLAN, the Disabled Designer Network, PRIDExASLA, and the Indigenous Collective Group.
- ASLA's anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policy was printed on the back of all name badges, including a phone number to report incidents.
- On Indigenous Peoples' Day, which fell during the Conference, ASLA announced its adoption of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). By adopting the Declaration, ASLA is strengthening its support for Indigenous rights, Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK), the protection and restoration of ecosystems, and climate equity.



*The Conference's educational programming included multiple sessions highlighting underrepresented cultures, groups, and viewpoints, as well as a complete Equity and Inclusion track.*

Photo credit: Indigenous Collective Group

## Wellness

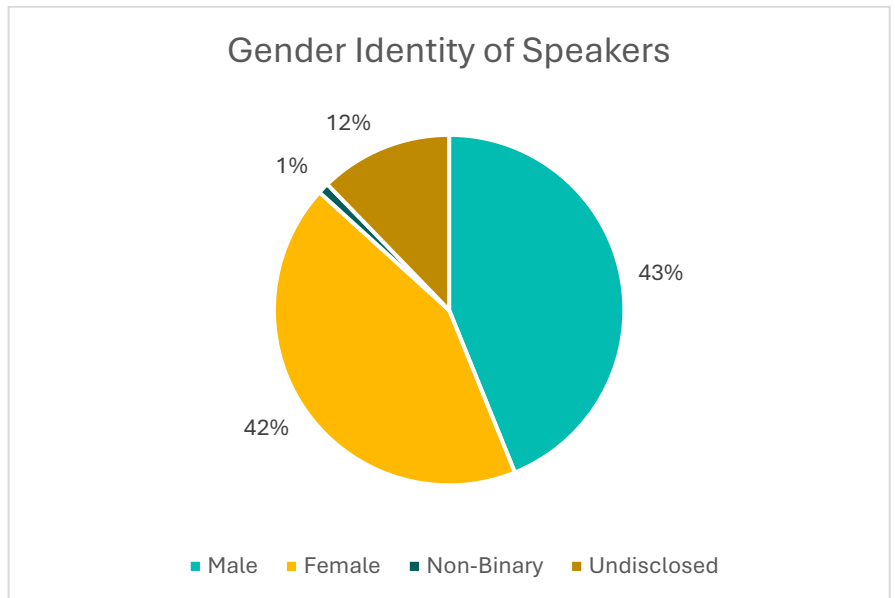
- The 5-Minute Fitness Break zone sponsored by Greenfields Outdoor Fitness offered attendees the opportunity to get their blood flowing between education sessions.
- The Quiet Room provided a tech-free space to rest and recharge, and the Reflection Room offered a space for prayer and meditation. These rooms provide a vital refuge from the busy conference schedule.

## Diversity in Speakers

ASLA strives to be representative and reflective of the communities it serves. ASLA is committed to fostering equity and inclusion within the profession, membership, staff, and leadership. In alignment with ASLA's organizational commitments, the Conference also strives to have diverse speakers. In 2025, 23% of speakers self-identified as Black, Indigenous, or people of color.

### Gender Identity of Speakers

43% male, 42% female, 1% non-binary  
*~12% of speakers declined to answer demographic questions*



## Recommended Next Steps

### Strategy & Planning

- **Procurement Guidance:** Establish a sustainable procurement policy for the Conference including climate, biodiversity, and equity considerations in alignment with the ASLA Climate Action & Biodiversity Plan. Include guidelines for destination and venue selection, as these decisions have significant impact on Conference greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Focus on Biodiversity:** Incorporate a greater focus on biodiversity as a consideration in Conference planning, particularly in venue selection and food & beverage procurement.
- **Multiply Impacts through Education:** Share knowledge about sustainable conference planning with the broader events industry. Provide guidance to Conference sponsors and partners to improve the sustainability of ancillary events.

### Waste

- **Intentional Placement:** Assign locations for waste stations on the event floor plan to ensure adequate space and effective placement.

### Energy

- **Venue Engagement:** Select venues with a high percentage of renewable energy in their supply. In venue agreements, require the venue to procure Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) equivalent to all non-renewable energy consumption for the Conference.

### Food & Beverage

- **Plant-Based Options:** Increase the percentage of plant-based entrees in catered meals to reduce food-related carbon emissions.

### Graphics, Substrates & Flooring

- **Formalize Best Practices:** Entrench this year's achievements in a procurement policy specifying design for reuse, recyclable graphic substrates, and reusable flooring options.
- **Recover Hard-to-Recycle Materials:** Upcycle fabric and vinyl graphics into bags that can be sold in the ASLA store.

### Social Sustainability

- **Enhance Design of Quiet Room and Reflection Room:** Introduce softer lighting and furnishings to create more comfortable environments for rest and contemplation. Introduce a feedback mechanism or comment sheet to ensure these rooms meet attendees' needs.

## Conclusion

As ASLA embarks on the journey of embodying its new Climate & Biodiversity Action Plan, the Conference will continue to serve as a highly visible representation of the organization's goals and values. After four years of measuring and reporting sustainability performance, the Conference team is equipped to take on the next phase of action.

In alignment with the plan, partnerships will be a critical tool in achieving the plan's ambitious goals. Conference planning is inherently a partnership-based endeavor. Collaborating with destinations, venues, transportation providers, food vendors, community organizations, and other partners will be vital for reaching ASLA's targets.

Procurement is a key area of opportunity for the Conference to scale up climate-positive approaches, enhance biodiversity, and amplify the power of people and communities. Additionally, as experienced leaders in sustainable event production, ASLA has the opportunity and responsibility to share knowledge with its partners and sponsors for the Conference as well as the broader events industry to multiply positive impact even beyond the landscape architecture field.

## Boundaries and Quantifications

### ENERGY USE

The energy boundary consists of energy consumed during the ASLA Conference and corresponding move-in/move-out periods.

- Total energy consumption includes purchased electricity and fuel burning for heating and cooling which is reported through proportioned utility bills.
- Energy use from hotel accommodations, fuel burning from participant travel to/from the destination, and mobile fuels from other vehicles operated by the venues or third parties were not included in the energy footprint (but are included in the GHG emissions calculations).

### CARBON EMISSIONS

Included in the total carbon footprint number reported. GHG emissions from:

- Energy use from the Morial Convention Center and Hilton Riverside
- Travel to/from the destination by participants. Participants reported their primary mode of travel (plane, driving, carpooling, bus, train) in event registration. If no mode of travel was reported, an assumed mode was assigned based on their point of origin. Airport transfers are included for participants traveling by plane.
- Occupied rooms of hotels within the contracted room block provided by ASLA
- Waste streams as provided by Morial Convention Center
- Mobile fuel combustion of freight provided by Freeman
- Fuel for forklifts by Freeman
- Fuel from ground shuttle usage provided by Kushner & Associates
- Printed paper consumption reported for on-site materials.
- The number of vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals order by show management through Sodexo

### QUANTIFICATION

- Energy emission factors obtained from US EPA "Emission Factors for GHG Inventories" (March 2023 update)
- Electricity emission factors obtained from EPA eGRID Year 2023 summary tables
- Fuel emission factors obtained from US EPA: Emission Factors for Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Table 8 (March 2023 version)
- Waste emission factors obtained from UK Govt. GHG Conversion Factors for Company Reporting (2023 version)
- Lodging emission factors obtained from Cornell Hotel Sustainability Benchmarking Index. Emissions are based on the energy use of an average hotel room
- Food emission factors obtained from "NZCE Measurement Methodology (draft version, pg. 26)" cited from USDA MyPlate program
- Paper emission factors obtained from the Environmental Paper Network Paper Calculator
- Honeycomb Strategies partner, Aclymate, calculates travel based on DEFRA standardized data in accordance with ICAO and the GHG Protocol. The nearest commercial airport is automatically calculated for the attendee and the event, and then a great circle route is calculated with a 10% variance factor for terminal flight operations. Altitude-based radiative forcing is not included.
- Other attendee carbon offsets were calculated separately from the total GHG emissions value.