CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2022-2025
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Land & Equity Recognition

ASLA 2018 Professional General Design Honor Award. Iqaluit Municipal Cemetery. Iqaluit, NU, Canada. LEES + Associates / TSC Photography
The American Society of Landscape Architects recognizes that Indigenous peoples are the original sovereign nations and the stewards of these lands. The work of the Society and its members occurs on the unceded lands of many Native nations and is built on displacement and dispossession. It is with respect that we seek to honor and collaborate with today’s 574 federally recognized Native nations, 64 State-recognized Native nations, and the more than 200 nonrecognized Native nations to better understand the relationship between Indigenous peoples and the land.

We also recognize that the United States has been built on the forced labor of African descendants. Our Society and its landscapes are the heirs and benefactors of their coerced struggle, which we recognize and seek to rectify.

Through our actions, we wish to move toward creating collaborative, accountable, and respectful relationships.

“We must shift our thinking away from short-term gain toward long-term investment and sustainability, and always have the next generations in mind with every decision we make.”

—Deb Haaland, Pueblo of Laguna, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior
Vision for 2040 – All landscape architecture projects will simultaneously:

- Achieve zero embodied and operational emissions and increase carbon sequestration
- Provide significant economic benefits in the form of measurable ecosystem services, health co-benefits, sequestration, and green jobs
- Address climate injustices, empower communities, and increase equitable distribution of climate investments
- Restore ecosystems and protect, conserve, and enhance biodiversity

ASLA has developed this Climate Action Plan in the spirit of great optimism. We envision communities becoming healthier and economically stronger because they have committed to drawing down carbon, restoring ecosystems and increasing biodiversity, and reducing reliance on vehicles – all while ensuring everyone in their community has equitable access to these benefits.
Landscape architects are already partnering with communities to achieve this vision. But as we increasingly experience the impacts of the climate and biodiversity crises, we know we need to act faster. We are the only design professionals who can bring all the pieces together and plan and design what communities need to prepare themselves for a changing world.

We envision landscape architects on their own; in small, medium, and large firms; in non-profit organizations and community groups; in public practice; and in academia leading the way to a healthier, more resilient future.

We envision landscape architecture firms enjoying greater economic success because of their early embrace of ambitious zero emission goals. Landscape architects can grow their practices faster once they commit to a path to zero emissions and help others get there too. And they can help transform the landscape architecture product marketplace, creating demand for healthier, lower-cost, and zero-emission products.

We understand that achieving our vision will depend on creating change in our own business operations and the entire supply chain of products and services that are a part of designed landscapes. We envision leveraging our collective power and growing new partnerships with industry partners that will help us achieve a zero-emission profession by 2040.

The path forward will not be easy, but by leading now we can ensure this transformation is rooted in nature, equity, and zero-emission growth. This plan represents the values of all landscape architects who want to see communities thrive far into the future. And it also reflects the goal of every landscape architect to successfully capture new opportunities.
ASLA is grateful for all the contributions that made this plan possible and extend appreciation to:

**ASLA Climate Action Plan Team**
- Torey Carter-Conneen, ASLA Chief Executive Officer
- Katie Riddle, ASLA, PLA, SITES AP, Director of Professional Practice
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- Roxanne Blackwell, Hon. ASLA, Director of Federal Government Af airs
- Elizabeth Hebron, Hon. ASLA, Director of State Government Af airs
- Matthew Gallagher, Government Af airs Grassroots Coordinator
- Tom McCrary, Strategic Advisor

**Allied Organizations**
- Architecture 2030
- Australian Institute of Landscape Architects
- Canadian Society of Landscape Architects
- Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture
- Green Business Certification Incorporated
- International Federation of Landscape Architects
- International Living Futures Institute

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We acknowledge the efforts of the International Federation of Landscape Architect’s Climate Action Commitment, the Landscape Institute’s Landscapes for 2030, and the Australian Institute of Landscape Architecture’s Climate Positive Design Member Action Plan as key documents that have informed this work.
Introduction
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has found that humanity can only put a maximum of 340 more gigatons of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere if we want a good chance of only increasing temperatures by 1.5° C (2.7° Fahrenheit), instead of 2° C (3.6° Fahrenheit).

To get on a pathway to zero emissions, ASLA is taking a significant step forward with this Climate Action Plan. The document outlines ambitious goals and actions that will be taken now and through 2025. Goals and actions will be revisited and updated in 2025 and every five years until 2040.

The Climate Action Plan will guide the development of policies and programs through 2040 by the ASLA Board of Trustees and its Executive Committee; other member committees; Chief Executive Officer and Professional Team; and ASLA Chapters. It also supports members embedding climate positive approaches into their projects and practices.

To support global advocacy, in 2021, ASLA was a signatory to the IFLA Climate Action Commitment, which was presented at the UN Conference of the Parties 26th (COP26) convening in Glasgow, Scotland. The Commitment represents support from over 70,000 landscape architects around the world from 77 nations committing to taking climate action.

The ASLA Climate Action Plan (CAP) is organized by the following goals, aligned with the IFLA Climate Action Commitment:
Practice

Carbon Drawdown

Achieve zero emissions and double sequestration by 2040

We will dramatically reduce operational and embodied carbon emissions produced by our work, harness the unique capacity of landscape to draw down carbon dioxide, and advocate for clean and multi-modal transport systems.

- IFLA Climate Action Commitment

All landscape projects will reach zero emissions by 2040 while providing economic, environmental, social, and cultural co-benefits, including increased sequestration and biodiversity.

ASLA will support members, firms, and organizations in achieving:

• Zero emission business operations
• Zero emission landscape architecture projects
• Zero emission economic growth
• A zero-emission landscape architecture product marketplace

Landscape architects can accelerate carbon drawdown with nature-based strategies and smart planning, design, and specification. We will provide guidance, education, training, and research to support our members’ efforts.

Climate Resilience

Enhance capacity, biodiversity, and resilience of liveable cities and communities

Implementing green infrastructure approaches, landscape architects will work to mitigate urban heat island effect, and reduce the risks associated with fire, drought, and flood.

- IFLA Climate Action Commitment

ASLA will provide education and examples to support landscape architects in preparing communities to adapt to a changing world.

ASLA will develop and connect members with resources to learn about the projected climate impacts of today and the future, helping them to evolve practices to better respond to the climate emergency through planning and design.
**Equity**

**Climate Agency**

*Advocate for climate justice and social well-being*

*Landscape architects will increase support for equity and equality, rights of nature, food security, and the right to clean water, air, green spaces, housing, affordable and accessible transportation options for all.*

*IFLA Climate Action Commitment*

For centuries, policy decisions about land use, zoning, transportation, and other aspects of the built and natural environments have resulted in negative health, safety, and economic impacts on Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. Advancing equitable community development is core to all climate action by 2040. ASLA will provide training and guidance to landscape architects on:

- Engaging and empowering communities
- Developing equitable outcomes that rely on equitable processes.
- Supporting increased investment in community-based climate solutions.

ASLA will work with organizations to identify and help reverse historic inequities. Efforts will include:

- Facilitating partnerships with Indigenous, underserved, and historically marginalized communities to address past and current inequities.
- Planning and designing climate solutions that fairly distribute benefits of climate-related investments.

**Cultural Empowerment**

*Learn from cultural knowledge systems and practices of care*

*Respecting and working with Indigenous cultural land management knowledge to mitigate climate crisis impacts and continue work towards reconciliation is our priority.*

*IFLA Climate Action Commitment*

ASLA will support and respect Indigenous-led movements that aim to reclaim ancestral lands along with the cultural, spiritual, ecological, and healing benefits that come with the land. As the climate crisis escalates, Indigenous cultures, underserved, and under-represented communities will be disproportionately impacted.

When working on projects and issues that intersect with underserved cultures, landscape architects can support community-led processes and self-determination, beginning with deep listening and knowledge sharing.
Advocacy

Climate Leadership

*Galvanize climate champions*

*Landscape architects are uniquely placed to galvanize and lead a built-environment response to this crisis. We will continue to collaborate with clients, suppliers, and allied professions to champion Climate Positive Design.*

*IFLA Climate Action Commitment*

ASLA will raise the visibility of the unique qualifications of landscape architects to:

- Provide climate and biodiversity crisis solutions through collaborations and outreach
- Build strategic partnerships to strengthen collective action.

The plan will amplify relationships and communicate how landscape architects mitigate carbon and adapt to a changing environment, elevating the role of landscape architects into higher levels of decision making. Through communications efforts, we will build support for nature-based solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises.

Education and training for ASLA members will increase our effectiveness in strategically advocating for climate-positive policies while also advancing equity and economic development.

Global Alliance

*Advance the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and expand international collaboration*

*Through each of the 77 nations represented by the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA), landscape architects within our member associations (including ASLA) accelerate our work to repair global ecosystems.*

*IFLA Climate Action Commitment*

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015, as an urgent call to action for all countries with specific goals to be accomplished by 2030.

While traditional landscape architecture is built on the philosophy of sustainability, it focuses on a few of the SDGs, including clean water, sustainable cities and communities, life on land and water, and good health and well-being. As the profession evolves, landscape architects can also support the remaining SDG goals such as supporting equity, increasing food security, responsible consumption and production, and taking climate action. By doing this, we can advance the global effort to create a more peaceful and just world, placing a priority on progress for those who are the most in need.
Note: These summary actions represent the intent of the IFLA Climate Action Commitment. However, minor modifications have been made to the language to add specificity for ASLA’s commitments.
ASLA Climate Action Plan

Actions Summary

The following goals were developed in direct response to survey member feedback. Beyond informing the framing of this document, many suggestions have also been included within the specific actions and/or are included within the supporting Member Action Field Guide.

**Goal 1: Practice - Scale Up Climate Positive Approaches**

*Carbon Drawdown – We commit to zero emissions and doubling sequestration by 2040*

**Objective 1:** Provide curated resources to inform, guide, and support members’ Climate and Biodiversity Positive Design and planning practices

**Objective 2:** Provide advocacy, guidance, and support on meeting the Climate Positive Design Challenge and using the Pathfinder tool

**Objective 3:** Communicate and ensure we are held to account on these commitments

**Objective 4:** Leverage ASLA’s own commitment to achieve zero emission in all of its business operations by 2040 for advocacy and education

*Climate Resilience – We commit to enhancing capacity, biodiversity, and resilience of livable cities and communities*

**Objective 5:** Deliver continued professional development specific to the climate and biodiversity crises, zero-emission market development, and climate justice

**Objective 6:** Understand and communicate about the evaluation of climate risks to business operations and project futures

**Objective 7:** Set goals on avoiding and reducing transportation-related emissions through urban and community planning and design
**Goal 2: Equity - Empower Communities**

*Climate Agency – We commit to advocating for climate equity and social well-being*

**Objective 1:** Learn from, collaborate with, and support underserved communities in alignment with the ASLA Racial Equity Plan of Action  
**Objective 2:** Create stewards of climate resilient future communities  
**Objective 3:** Support local community action on climate equity  
**Objective 4:** Center equity in all objectives of the Climate Action Plan

*Cultural Empowerment – We commit to learning from cultural knowledge systems and practices of care*

**Objective 5:** Learn from Indigenous cultures, and marginalized communities, recognizing, and valuing lived experience that will be increasingly impacted by the climate crisis  
**Objective 6:** Expand cultural awareness of Indigenous people and landscape projects on unceded lands  
**Objective 7:** Increase knowledge and resources for supporting community self determination

**Goal 3: Advocacy - Build Coalitions**

*Climate Leadership – We commit to galvanizing climate champions*

**Objective 1:** Influence and advocate for policies for climate positive, climate justice, and biodiversity outcomes  
**Objective 2:** Facilitate discourse with a wide range of environmental, social, and business entities to collaborate on climate action solutions and communications  
**Objective 3:** Connect with economic analysts on zero-emission growth opportunities for the landscape architecture profession  
**Objective 4:** Encourage discussion, dialogue, and collaboration within the profession

*Global Alliance – We commit to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and expanding international collaboration*

**Objective 5:** Align our business plans and everyday actions to the UN SDGs to accelerate the work of repairing global ecosystems  
**Objective 6:** Communicate landscape architects’ unique role in the climate crisis externally, increasing visibility and understanding of the profession’s contributions  
**Objective 7:** Engage with and share knowledge with allied associations, organizations, businesses, related sectors, universities, professionals, and subject matter experts in the field of climate science
Framework

The guidance is outlined in this Climate Action Plan with supporting implementation resources, and a Member Climate Action Field Guide to provide advocacy, policy, and practice actions and detail. The Field Guide is built upon prior guidance from the ASLA Climate Action Committee, and outlines strategies to advance equitable policies and collaboration throughout the landscape architecture profession. It includes steps to follow and implement in order to achieve equitable adaptation and mitigation goals for both practice and business operations.

The structure of climate action resources is as follows:

**ASLA Climate Action Plan**
- Charts out the path of action for ASLA. Provides guidance and timeframes to roll out initiatives for the organization and members.

**Climate Action Field Guide for Members**
- Sets out steps for the design and planning of projects along with business operations to achieve equitable adaptation and mitigation goals.
- Outlines strategies to advance equitable policies, oversight, and collaboration.
Climate Action Field Guide for Members

- Sets out steps for the design and planning of projects along with business operations to achieve equitable adaptation and mitigation goals.
- Outlines strategies to advance equitable policies, oversight, and collaboration.
Next Steps

ASLA will first determine the appropriate parties responsible for action implementation. The following groups may be included:

**ASLA Professional Team**
- ASLA CEO
- ASLA Finance Professional Team
- ASLA Communications Professional Team
- ASLA Climate Action Professional Team
- ASLA Government Affairs Professional Team
- ASLA Membership Professional Team

**ASLA Chapters, Committees, and Task Force Groups**
- ASLA Chapters
- ASLA Climate Action Committee
- ASLA Policy Committee
- ASLA Government Affairs Advisory Committee
- ASLA SKILL | ED Practice Management Committee
- ASLA Annual Conference Education Advisory Committee
- Honors and Awards Advisory Committee
- ASLA Climate Action Plan (CAP) Task Force
- ASLA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Network
- ASLA CAP Advisory Group
- ASLA Climate Action Network
- Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture
- Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards
- Climate Positive Design organization
- Black Landscape Architects Network (BlackLAN)

**ASLA Corporate Members**
- Landscape Architectural Accreditation Board
- Landscape Architecture Foundation
- International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA) Professional Team
- IFLA Working Group on Climate Change
- IFLA Working Group on Climate Change Landscape architects, firms, and organizations

**Allied Organizations**
- Member academics and university programs
- Student members
The process for updating the Climate Action Plan will include a review of progress and will be revised based on the latest climate science and evolving demands of the profession. The next review will occur in 2024 and conclude with an updated plan in 2025. The document will be revisited and updated every five years thereafter.

Ensuring the review and updates occur is the responsibility of the ASLA Chief Executive Officer, and the updating Task Force will be determined at the time of the review cycle.

To ensure that progress is made and accountable, the success criteria will be evaluated and documented at the close of each 5-year review cycle by the following:

**PROGRESS RATINGS**

- **Emerging**: little or no work is evident
- **Developing**: work is evident, but no tangible results
- **Moderate**: progress is beginning to show
- **Significant**: half or more of the indicators are in progress or completed
- **Successful**: most or all of the indicators are in progress or completed
To understand the intent of this document, some frequently referenced terms include:

**B**

**Biodiversity / Biological Diversity**
Refers to the variation among all species and all forms of life on Earth. The three levels of biodiversity include genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.

**C**

**Carbon Drawdown**
Removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, ultimately to the point that global warming starts reversing.

**Carbon Neutral**
Describes an activity that removes as much carbon dioxide (CO2) from the atmosphere as it emits.

**Carbon Positive**
Describes an activity that sequesters more carbon than it emits.

**Climate Action**
Taking steps to proactively help solve or lessen the impacts of the climate crisis.

**Climate Equity**
Ensuring that those affected disproportionately by the climate crisis—in particular underserved, underrepresented, or historically marginalized communities—will benefit the most from the transition to a zero-emissions society.

**Climate Justice**
Addresses the just division, fair sharing, and equitable distribution of the benefits, burdens, and responsibility of dealing with the climate crisis.

**Climate Positive Design**
Design that reduces emissions and increases sequestration over a project’s life span while also providing environmental, cultural, and economic co-benefits such as biodiversity, equity, and resilience.

**E**

**Embodied Carbon**
Emissions released during the extraction, manufacturing, transportation, and construction of buildings, infrastructure, or landscapes.

**M**

**Marginalized Communities**
Individuals or groups that are ignored, excluded, pushed to the margins, given lesser importance, and stripped of power.

**O**

**Operational Emissions**
Carbon released from the ongoing operation of the building or site.

**P**

**Project Emissions**
Embodied and operational greenhouse gas emissions from a site.

**S**

**Sustainable SITES Certification**
SITES verifies the ecological performance and human health benefits of landscape design, construction, and operations within a site, administered by Green Business Certification, Inc. (GBCI), a third-party certification body.

**Sustainable SITES Rating System**
A complete set of prerequisites and credits used to measure site sustainability. It provides guidance on practices that conserve, restore, and improve the carbon storage capacity of landscapes and encourages project teams to minimize energy consumption and use low-carbon and renewable energy sources.

**u**

**Underserved Communities**
Harder-to-reach populations that have been consistently under-resourced, often due to linguistic, economic, and/or political barriers or racism.

**Underrepresented Communities**
Communities whose representation is not commensurate with its percentage of total population. “Historically underrepresented” refers to groups for whom this has become a pattern due to exclusion and discrimination over time.

**N**

**Nature-based Solutions**
Climate solutions that incorporate the processes and functions of nature.

**Net Zero**
An activity that removes as much greenhouse gases (inclusive to all, such as carbon dioxide, methane, or sulfur dioxide) from the atmosphere as it emits.

**T**

**Transactive Engagement/Design**
A process of give and take between community and landscape architects through which each learns and teaches the other while designing together.

**Z**

**Zero Emissions**
An activity that releases no greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. As opposed to net-zero emissions, which allows for setting of emitted carbon to reach a balance of zero, the zero emissions approach focuses on the absolute emissions.
Emission Scopes

These terms come from the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, which is the world's most widely-used greenhouse gas accounting standard.

**Scope 2 emissions** are those that a company causes indirectly when the energy it purchases and uses is produced. For example, energy purchased to heat and cool offices.

**Scope 1 emissions** come from sources that an organization owns or controls directly – for example, from burning fuel in company vehicles.

**Scope 3 emissions** are not produced by the company itself, but by those that are indirectly responsible for. Project emissions fall into the Scope 3 category.
**Goal 1: Scale Up Climate Positive Approaches**

**Success Indicators for 2040**

- All practicing landscape architects and organizations achieve zero emissions—in scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions for projects and business operations—and double carbon sequestration as a profession by 2040.
- ASLA launches a Climate Award category, and the number of entries to the ASLA Awards increases year after year.
- ASLA members understand climate positive, equitable, and biodiverse design, and can communicate it effectively to their clients, peers, and allied professionals.
- ASLA members are measuring the climate impacts of their projects, and actively seek to improve their designs against current benchmarks.
- ASLA members have easy access to effective and instructive climate and biodiversity training resources for continuing professional development.
- ASLA is recognized as a leading source of guidance and support for landscape practitioners on how landscapes can be designed, planned, and managed to respond to the climate and biodiversity emergencies.
- Member projects provide multiple ecological, social, and cultural co-benefits through Climate Positive Design that are appropriate per region.
- ASLA members and associated practices set targets for their carbon emissions and wider sustainability-related impacts and begin reporting.
objectives

1. Provide curated resources to inform, guide, and support members’ Climate and Biodiversity Positive Design and planning practices.

2. Provide advocacy, guidance, and support on meeting the Climate Positive Design Challenge and using the Pathfinder tool.

3. Communicate and ensure we are held to account on these commitments.

4. Leverage ASLA’s own commitment to achieve zero emissions in all of its business operations by 2040 for education and advocacy and incorporate the LAF case studies and Green New Deal Super Studio projects.

5. Understand and communicate about evaluation of climate risks to and opportunities for business operations and projects product supply chain, including an EPD database.

6. Deliver continued professional development specific to the climate and biodiversity crisis, zero-emission market development, and climate justice.

7. As a profession, set goals on avoiding and reducing transportation-related emissions through urban and community planning and design and feedback.
Carbon Drawdown

We commit to zero emissions and doubling sequestration by 2040

ASLA 2020 Professional Research Honor Award. Climate Positive Design. Pamela Conrad/ CM G Landscape Architecture
Provide support on meeting the Climate Positive Design Challenge and using the Pathfinder tool

Working with ASLA and other landscape architecture organizations, launch Climate Positive Commitment to support members measuring the impacts of their work. Such work will align with and go beyond the IFLA Climate Action Commitment /COP26 Communique targets of projects and business operations achieving 50-65% emissions reduction operations by 2030 and zero CO2 emissions by 2040. It will also include the commitment to improve additional environmental, social, cultural and economic co-benefits such as increased biodiversity.

Investigate and provide guidance and support on elevating the means of calculating carbon, equity, and biodiversity impacts

ASLA members and associated firms and organizations take the Climate Positive Design (CPD) Challenge and meet its targets:

- By end of year 2023: 50% firm/organization participation in CPD Challenge
- By end of year 2025: 100% landscape projects logged in Pathfinder
- By 2030: logged projects achieve 50-65% emission reductions and double sequestration
- By 2040: logged projects achieve 100% emission reductions and double sequestration

Support collaboration, development of tools, guidance and resources, and outreach with the Climate Positive Design initiative, including funding for future growth and updates. Expand education and climate action guidance for members to reach beyond carbon calculating and measure other co-benefits such as biodiversity, water management, resilience, green jobs, equity etc.
03 Communicate and ensure we are held to account on these commitments

Promote this action plan to our members and wider stakeholders as a statement of intent

Report against carbon reduction targets and sustainability publicly. Begin with calculating baseline budgets and improving upon it, both for the ASLA organization and firms

Support sustainability champions among the ASLA Professional Team and chapter volunteers at a local level with resources and to advance goals and document progress

Annual report out at conferences both for ASLA and firms/other LA organizations

Develop broader Sustainability Action Plan for ASLA and work towards triple-bottom-line accounting

04 Leverage ASLA’s own commitment to achieve zero emission in all of its business operations by 2040

Hire a sustainability consulting firm to conduct a sustainability audit of the 2022 ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture in San Francisco and ASLA 2022 business operations to establish a baseline for meeting long-term goals

Once a baseline has been established, develop an organization-wide emission reduction plan to realize reductions in our carbon footprint of 20% by 2024

Partner with sustainability consultants to provide educational sessions and training at the ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture and online to share best practices learned from ASLA’s experience and support goals of achieving zero emissions by 2040 among the landscape architecture profession

Publicly share results of a sustainability audit routinely in a transparent manner, including all data collected and analyzed, through an emissions report, with members and partners

Commit to continuous learning and knowledge sharing with association and events planning organizations in order to further advance best practices to reduce carbon emissions in business operations

Purchase high-quality, verified carbon offsets in underserved communities of ASLA Conference host cities to mitigate climate impact of the Conference while emissions are reduced according to established goals

ASLA 2019 Professional Honor Award. Chulalongkorn University Centenary Park. Bangkok, Thailand. LANDPROCESS/ Panoramic Studio
Climate Resilience

We commit to enhancing capacity, biodiversity, and resilience of livable cities and communities.
05 Deliver continued professional development specific to the climate and biodiversity crisis, zero-emission market development, and climate justice

- Develop a coordinated program of climate-related continued professional development, delivering a minimum number of points each year
- Develop a program and resources to support meeting the following biodiversity targets:
  - Achieve Biodiversity positive / 10 percent biodiversity net gain and support the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration.
  - Advance the global movement to protect at least 30 percent of terrestrial, coastal, and ocean ecosystems by 2030 (30x30).
  - Develop biodiverse urban forests and aim for 40 percent canopy cover for cities by 2030.

06 Understand and communicate about the evaluation of climate risks to and opportunities for business operations and projects

- Form new partnerships that will provide guidance for business and project climate impact evaluation, including practitioner and academic joint working groups to explore legal risk and insurance issues
- Form new partnerships with practitioners, related professions, economists, and market analysts to determine low- and zero-emission market growth opportunities according to various decarbonization scenarios and scope 1-3 emission reduction targets for 2040
- Form partnerships with market analysts of low- and zero-emission products and services in landscape architecture projects and business operation supply chains

07 Conduct market research to determine zero-emission growth areas for landscape architects in housing, urban development, transportation infrastructure, and related client sectors

- Conduct research into voluntary and regulated carbon offset markets to determine models for transforming carbon stored in designed landscapes into verifiable sets that can earn revenue

- As a profession, set goals on avoiding and reducing transportation-related emissions through urban and community planning and design

- Form new partnerships with organizations promoting sustainable transportation—including pedestrian and bicycle networks, greenways and trails, electric vehicles charging stations, and public transit systems—and densification, walkable communities, and transit-oriented development to determine existing transportation emission reduction goals and opportunities for landscape architects

- Develop a guide on how to partner with and influence federal and state departments of transportation, community-level project sponsors, planning departments, and developers to reduce transportation-related emissions
Success Indicators for 2040

- ASLA has built internal capacity to cultivate relationships with underserved communities disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis.
- ASLA is a world leader in the advancement of the rights of nature and protection of all forms of life from the impacts from the climate crisis.
- ASLA’s CAP efforts support the creation of new green businesses and jobs across all communities, both rural and urban.
- ASLA CAP is a trusted reference and guide for underserved, Indigenous, and communities undertaking environmental justice and climate issues.
- ASLA and its members have good relationships with, are looked to, and are trusted by local, underserved, underrepresented, and Indigenous community members when it relates to equity and climate justice by first asking for permission to engage.
- ASLA is a trusted organization when reporting and seeking comment on climate and environmental equity, the public realm, and climate-related journalism.
- ASLA has strong collaborative relationships with local communities around the world and is known for helping communities to self-determine solutions and become environmental stewards.
- Landscape architects are represented on key decision-making, leadership and strategic groups related to environmental and climate equity in the US and internationally.
- ASLA is recognized as an industry leader amongst professional bodies in sustainable practice, influencing the behavior of others and providing the big picture that links up all allied built-environment professionals.
- Landscape architects are having a profound impact in interdisciplinary problem solving by prioritizing equity and justice in climate solutions.
objectives

1. Learn from, collaborate with, and support underserved communities in alignment with the ASLA Racial Equity Plan of Action

2. Support local community action on climate equity

3. Create stewards of climate resilient future communities

4. Center equity in all goals of the Climate Action Plan

5. Expand cultural awareness of Indigenous people and landscape projects on unceded lands

6. Learn from Indigenous cultures, and marginalized communities, recognizing, and valuing lived experience that will be increasingly impacted by the climate crisis

7. Increase knowledge and resources for supporting community self determination
Climate Agency

We commit to advocating for climate equity and social and ecological well-being
Learn from, collaborate with, and support underserved communities in alignment with the ASLA Racial Equity Plan of Action

Develop a series of workshops with organizations focused on equitable zero-emission growth to develop collective strategies for building relationships between designers and community-based organizations.

Advance equitable community development as part of all climate action goals by 2040. Support federal programs such as Justice40 and other local programs in the implementation of this action.

Support growth of stewards of climate resilient future communities

Within the Field Guide, support climate action through a repository of techniques and information from residents and community-based climate activists.

Identify appropriate technology and connection to issues and problems that are visible and understandable to communities. Document resources including those for community-based tools for landscape literacy in Field Guide.

Support education that provides people with the knowledge to participate in potential jobs and skill training programs that will be increasingly needed due to climate risks and opportunities.

Support local community action on climate equity

Within the Field Guide, identify how to access financial resources for climate action that can be controlled and used by the community and community-based organizations. Update resources regularly.

Within the Field Guide, provide a toolkit for action to help small communities begin implementation.

Link Field Guide climate actions to ASLA’s Racial Equity Plan of Action.

Center equity in all goals of the Climate Action Plan

With guidance from the ASLA Racial Equity Plan and other allied organizations, develop an equity measure or metric that must be checked or applied when executing all goals of the action plan.
Cultural Empowerment

We commit to learning from cultural knowledge systems and practices of care
05 Learn from Indigenous cultures, and marginalized communities, recognizing, and valuing lived experience that will be increasingly impacted by the climate crisis

Develop and provide tools within the Field Guide for understanding the cultural and environmental history of a community

Support indigenous science and design knowledge creation and empower Indigenous citizen scientists and activists with data collection and visualization efforts that will help address the climate crisis in Tribal communities

06 Expand cultural awareness of Indigenous people and landscape projects on unceded lands

Provide environmental expertise, and organizational and technical support for Indigenous communities to mitigate climate change on sovereign lands

07 Increase knowledge and resources for supporting community self determination

Within the Field Guide, provide a toolkit for addressing climate and environmental injustices in underserved communities that is focused on community self determination

Provide training and mentorship for landscape architecture practitioners and educators and coordinate LAAB Standards for accredited LA programs that are focused on community self-determination, understanding reparations, justice and privilege, trans-active engagement, and empowerment techniques, to include cultural literacy training
Success Indicators for 2040

• ASLA policy and CAP objectives influence and shape local, state, and federal policy on climate action.

• ASLA and its members are sought out as experts by key policy and regulation decision makers at the federal, state, and local levels for guidance related to climate, equity, and biodiversity issues.

• ASLA is a trusted organization for the media reporting and seeking comment on infrastructure, community design, water, and climate change.

• ASLA is a leading climate solutions collaborator, providing the big picture that links up all allied built environment professionals.

• ASLA has strong collaborative relationships with landscape architecture associations around the world.

• ASLA is a leading convener of landscape architecture product manufacturers and is spearheading efforts to achieve a zero-emission supply chain.

• Landscape architects are represented on key decision-making, leadership and strategic groups related to climate and biodiversity in the US and internationally.

• ASLA builds a network of relationships with climate justice leaders and organizations and is viewed as a trusted ally.

• Global sustainable development, biodiversity, and climate goals and targets continuously shape the goals and business plan of ASLA.
Influence and advocate for policies for positive climate and biodiversity outcomes

Facilitate discourse with a wide range of environmental, social, and business entities to collaborate on climate action solutions and communications

Communicate landscape architects’ unique role in the climate crisis externally, increasing visibility and understanding of the profession’s contributions

Connect with economic analysts on zero-emission growth opportunities for the landscape architecture profession

Align our business plans and everyday actions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals to accelerate the work of repairing global ecosystems

Engage and share knowledge with allied associations, related sectors organizations, businesses, universities, professionals, and subject matter experts in the field of climate science

Encourage discussion, dialogue, and collaboration within the profession

objectives
Climate Leadership

We commit to galvanizing climate champions
01 Influence and advocate for policies for climate positive, climate justice, economic, and biodiversity outcomes

Review and recommend changes to ASLA’s public policies in key areas that do not currently address climate, equity, and biodiversity issues and develop new or update existing ASLA public policies as needed.

Develop, update, and maintain a database of local, state and federal policy examples that address the climate and biodiversity crises while advancing growth.

Organize, review, and update policy guidance as needed on an annual basis, including the ASLA website, the Field Guide, and related documents.

Fold ASLA Smart Policies for a Changing Climate and related documents into the Field Guide and utilize it for outreach. Expand upon and update the guide to address specific climate impacts and regional issues. Collect and promote best practice models of policies from local and state governments.

architecture strategies to reduce emissions and help communities adapt to various climate impacts. Partner with landscape architecture educational programs, forming networks to source research and conduct reviews. Use papers as a basis for regional ASLA webinars and workshops that will encourage additional local research and knowledge sharing.

Secure foundation support to commission studies documenting research by academic members on specific climate impacts to be released over multiple years.

Target and engage with landscape architects in government and direct studies to them to advocate for change at the policy level and connect between private and public sector actions.

Coordinate with ASLA Chapters on an agreed set of language, use of terms, definitions, and meanings around climate issues to better communicate about climate issues and actions.

Work with CLARB and LAAB to include addressing the climate and biodiversity crises as a component of Health, Safety and Welfare in preparation for the next round of LAAB accreditation standards and CLARB Task Analysis, including consultation with university programs and CELA.

Further expand ASLA Professional Team and resources to implement the CAP. Upskill our ASLA employee team on climate and sustainability issues, including knowledge sharing with members.

02 Facilitate discourse with a wide range of environmental, social, and business entities to collaborate on climate action solutions and communications

Facilitate discourse with a wide range of environmental, social, and business entities to collaborate on climate action solutions and communications.

Develop a network of member academics and university programs focused on climate solutions and research.

Collaborate with allied and partner organizations and resilience and social justice organizations on a Climate Summit to support knowledge sharing, dialog and climate action.

Develop series of brief studies analyzing latest global peer-reviewed scientific research on the benefits of landscape.
03 Connect with economic analysts on zero-emission growth opportunities for the landscape architecture profession

Develop a network of economists and market analysts from related markets and economic sectors that can support member education and advocacy on supply chain transformation

04 Encourage discussion, dialogue, and collaboration within the profession

Apply a climate and biodiversity focus to all ASLA conferences and incorporate into ASLA professional and student awards

Partner with allied organizations to explore practitioner peer review for documentation to ensure knowledge outputs are relevant or can be applied in projects

Develop and establish communication within regions and nationally through establishment of Chapter Climate Action Committees and Chairs and University faculty and student representatives

Create a climate focused media/communications toolkit on how to communicate climate messages, approach media, etc. that can be used broadly to members as well as Chapter Climate Action Committees

Convene and partner with landscape architecture product manufacturers to determine goals and targets for achieving a zero-emission supply chain for landscape architecture projects by 2040
Global Alliance

We commit to advancing the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and expanding international collaboration.
Align our business plans and everyday actions to the UN Sustainable Development Goals to accelerate the work of repairing global ecosystems.

Map our business activities against the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and embed these into planning efforts and daily actions.

Communicate landscape architects’ unique role in the climate crisis externally, increasing visibility and understanding of the profession’s contributions.

Leverage ASLA / IFLA Climate Impact Award, a new award in the ASLA Professional Analysis and Planning category to be launched in 2023, as an advocacy, communications, and media tool for promoting transformative action, scalable solutions, and adherence to ASLA’s and IFLA’s climate action commitments.

Promote ASLA’s commitment to addressing the climate and biodiversity crises to key audiences, including federal, state, and local policymakers, allied organizations, and the climate justice community.

Promote sharing of research on climate solutions, including promoting the policy impact of work by academic members, accredited university courses, and practitioners.

Within the Field Guide, provide outreach mechanisms that further define and communicate positive climate, equity, and biodiversity outcomes.

Engage with and share knowledge with allied associations, organizations, businesses, related sectors, universities, professionals, and subject matter experts in the field of climate science.

Undertake a brief review of the different approaches of allied professions towards implementing climate action.

Develop an engagement and climate leadership strategy for the ASLA organization, members, and chapters to engage with allied partners, coordinating with the Field Guide.

Coordinate with and connect ASLA climate action to objectives from LEED, SITES, the Living Building Challenge, and other existing certification systems and frameworks.

Develop a database of climate scientists curated relative to specific climate impacts and regions.

Develop and support a regional network of landscape architects, scientists, and climate experts in the US and globally through IFLA.