

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

2022-2025



American Society of
Landscape Architects



The American Society of
Landscape Architects Fund



Contents



ASLA 2021 Professional Residential Honor Award. Ghost Wash. Paradise Valley, Arizona. COLWELL SHELOR
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE / Caitlin Atkinson

Land and Equity Recognition	<u>05</u>
Foreword	<u>07</u>
Acknowledgments	<u>09</u>
Introduction	<u>11</u>
Actions Summary	<u>17</u>
Framework	<u>19</u>
Next Steps	<u>21</u>
Glossary	<u>23</u>
Climate Action Plan Initiatives	<u>25</u>
Practice	<u>27</u>
Carbon Drawdown	<u>29</u>
Climate Resilience	<u>33</u>
Equity	<u>35</u>
Climate Agency	<u>37</u>
Cultural Empowerment	<u>39</u>
Advocacy	<u>41</u>
Climate Leadership	<u>43</u>
Global Alliance	<u>47</u>

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

Foreword



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.



Eugenia Martin,
FASLA,
ASLA President



Torey Carter-Conneen,
ASLA CEO

Acknowledgments

ASLA is grateful for all the contributions that made this plan possible and extend appreciation to:

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TASK FORCE



Pamela Conrad, Chair ASLA, PLA, LEED AP

Founder, Climate Positive Design, Principal, CMG Landscape Architecture



Sarah Fitzgerald, ASLA

Landscape Designer, SWA Group



Vaughn Rinner, FASLA

Principal, VRLA



Diane Jones Allen, FASLA, D.Eng., PLA

Director/Professor, University of Texas at Arlington, Principal, Design Jones LLC



José M. Almiñana, FASLA, PLA, SITES AP, LEED AP

Principal, Andropogon Associates, Ltd.

ASLA Climate Action Plan Team

Torey Carter-Conneen, ASLA Chief Executive Officer
Katie Riddle, ASLA, PLA, SITES AP, Director of Professional Practice
Jared Green, Senior Communications Manager
Curtis Millay, ASLA, Corporate Secretary
Roxanne Blackwell, Hon. ASLA, Director of Federal Government Affairs
Elizabeth Hebron, Hon. ASLA, Director of State Government Affairs
Matthew Gallagher, Government Affairs Grassroots Coordinator
Tom McCrary, Strategic Advisor

Graphic Design

Ashley Ng, CMG Landscape Architecture
Cheryl Wang, CMG Landscape Architecture

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
Landscape Institute

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ADVISORY GROUP

Mia Lehrer, FASLA

President, Studio-MLA

Lisa Cowan, ASLA, PLA, SITES AP

Principal of StudioVerde

Pippa Brashear, ASLA, RLA

Resilience Principal, SCAPE Landscape Architecture & Urban Design

Hitesh Mehta, FASLA, FRIBA, FAAK, Associate AIA

President, HM Design

Scott Bishop, ASLA, RLA

Principal, BLD | Bishop Land Design

Jose de Jesus Leal, ASLA, PLA, IA

Native Nation Building Studio Director, MIG, Inc.

Matt Williams, ASLA

Planner, City of Detroit Planning & Development Department (PDD)

Monique Bassey, ASLA

Marie Bickham Chair, Louisiana State University

Meg Calkins, FASLA, FCELA

Professor of Landscape Architecture, North Carolina State University

Kate Orff, FASLA

Professor, Columbia University GSAPP & Columbia Climate School, Founder, SCAPE Landscape Architecture & Urban Design

Keith Bowers, FASLA, ASLA, RLA

Founding Principal, Biohabitats

Manisha Kaul, ASLA, PLA, CDT

Principal, Design Workshop, Inc.

Dou Zhang, FASLA, SITES AP, LEED AP BD+C

Director of Shanghai Office, Sasaki

Chingwen Cheng, ASLA, PhD, PLA, LEED AP

Program Head and Associate Professor of Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, and Environmental Design, The Design School, Arizona State University, President-Elect Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA)

Jean Senechal Biggs, ASLA

Transportation Planning Manager, City of Beaverton, Oregon

Greg Kochanowski, ASLA, AIA

Design Principal & Partner, GGA Founder, The Wild: A Research Lab

Adrian Smith, FASLA

Staten Island Team Leader, New York City Department of Parks & Recreation

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

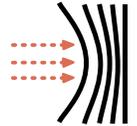
All landscape projects will reach zero emissions by 2040 while providing economic, environmental, social, and cultural co-benefits, including increased sequestration and biodiversity.

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, and 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

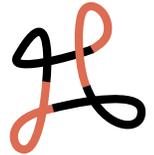
Learn from cultural knowledge systems and practices of care

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.



ASLA Climate Action Plan

Field Guide for Members

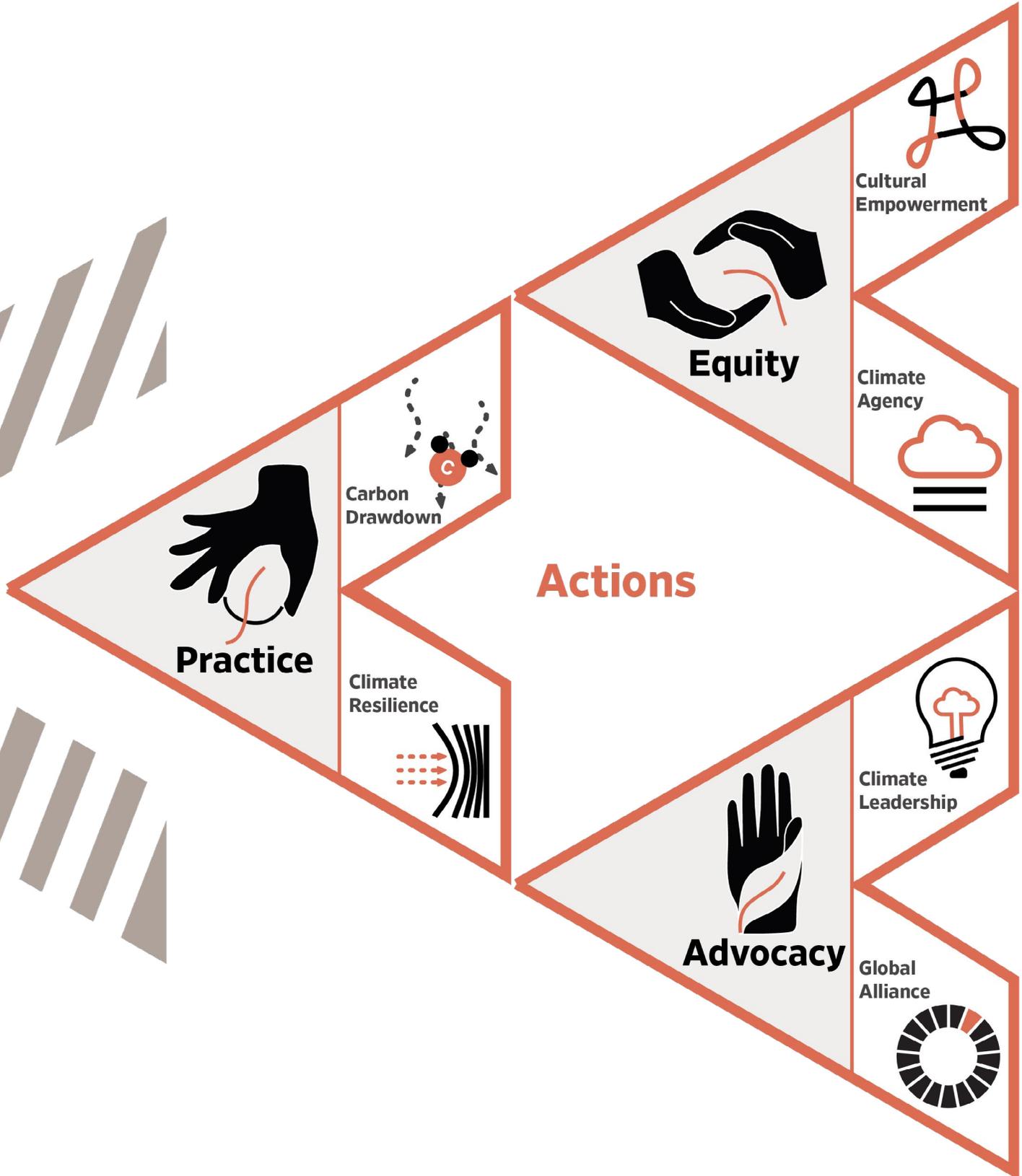
The structure of climate action resources is as follows:

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.



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

Allied Organizations

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

ASLA Members

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

Glossary

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 offsetting of emitted carbon to reach a balance of zero, the zero emissions approach focuses on the absolute emissions.

SCOPE 2

SCOPE 1

SCOPE 3

Emission Scopes

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



owned or controlled by a company

are indirectly responsible for

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.

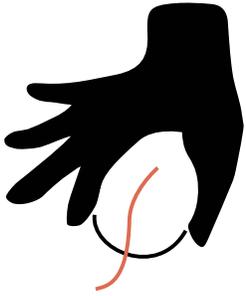
Scope 3 emissions are not produced by the company itself, but by those that are indirectly responsible for. Project emissions fall into the Scope 3 category.

Climate

Action

Initiatives





Practice

Goal 1: Scale Up Climate Positive Approaches

Success Indicators for 2040

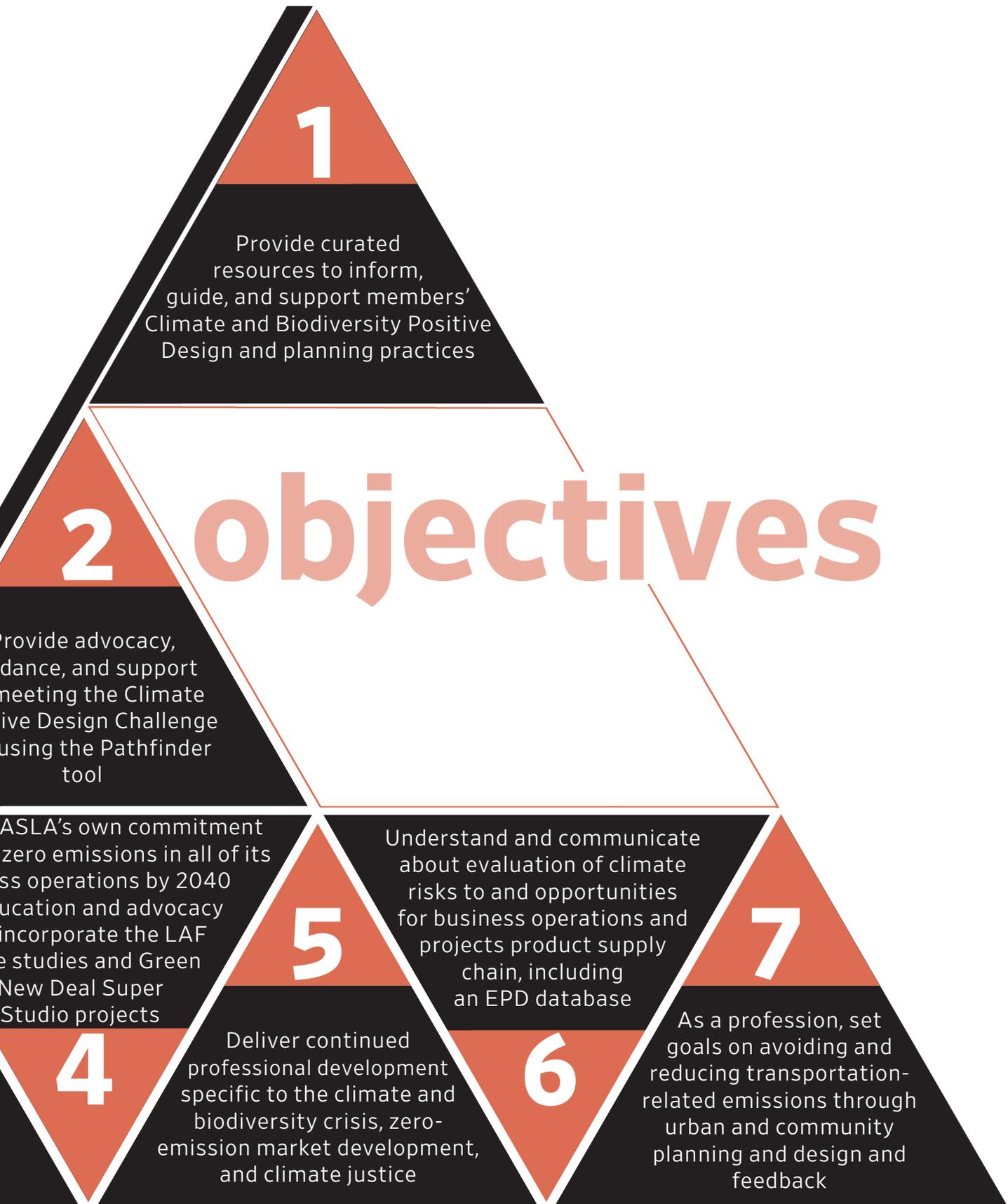
- All practicing landscape architects and organizations achieve zero emissions—in scope 1, 2, and 3 emissions for projects and business operations— and double carbon sequestration as a profession by 2040.
- ASLA launches a Climate Award category, and the number of entries to the ASLA Awards increases 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.

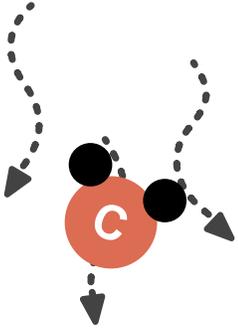
3

Communicate and ensure we are held to account on these commitments

P
gui
on n
Posit
and t

Leverage
to achieve
busine
for ed
and i
case





Carbon Drawdown

We commit to zero emissions and doubling sequestration by 2040



ASLA 2020 Professional Research Honor Award. Climate Positive Design. Pamela Conrad/ CMG Landscape Architecture

01 Provide curated resources to inform, guide, and support members' Climate and Biodiversity Positive Design and planning practices

Develop a Climate Action Member Field Guide that addresses climate and biodiversity positive project design and business operations practices

Improve and maintain the ASLA website and newsletters with climate crisis news and curated resources on how to address the climate and biodiversity crises

Develop a searchable database of case studies of exemplary projects. Case Studies to be coordinated with allied landscape architecture organizations and universities and incorporate the LAF case studies and Green New Deal SuperStudio projects

Develop a searchable database of member climate experts for media, organized by state, region, and expertise area. Database will include leadership profiles of ASLA members on climate action

Support the development of the economic case for a low- and zero-emission product supply chain, including Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) by landscape architecture product manufacturers and their inclusion in existing sustainability product databases along with an expanded Landscape Architecture Magazine / ASLA product directory

Evaluate demand for new and existing resources through member surveys and feedback

02 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

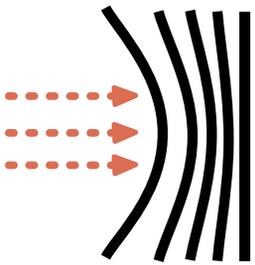
Partner with sustainability consultants to provide educational sessions and training at the ASLA Conference on Landscape Architecture and online to share best practices learned from ASLA's experience and support goals of achieving zero emissions by 2040 among the landscape architecture profession

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





Climate Resilience

We commit to enhancing capacity, biodiversity, and resilience of livable cities and communities



ASLA 2017 Professional Analysis and Planning Award of Excellence. Barrier Island Resiliency Planning for Galveston Island State Park. Galveston, TX, USA. Studio Outside.

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

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 offsets that can earn revenue

07 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



Goal 2: Empower Communities

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.

3

Support local
community action on
climate equity



- 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.

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

objectives

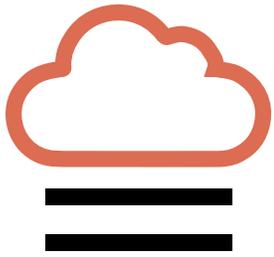
3
Create stewards of climate resilient future communities

4
Promote equity in all goals of the Climate Action Plan

5
Learn from Indigenous cultures, and marginalized communities, recognizing, and valuing lived experience that will be increasingly impacted by the climate crisis

6
Expand cultural awareness of Indigenous people and landscape projects on unceded lands

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



ASLA 2010 Professional Honor Award in General Design, Gary Comer Youth Center Roof Garden. Chicago, Illinois. Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects/John Ronan Architects / Scott Shigley

01 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

02 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.

03 Support local community action on climate equity

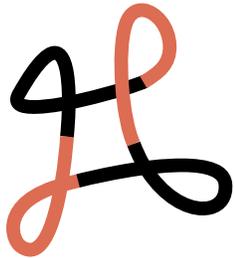
Within the Field Guide, identify how to access financial resources for climate action that can be controlled and used by the community and community-based organizations. Update resources regularly

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**

04 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



ASLA 2021 Professional General Design Honor Award. The Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve: A Showcase of Eleuthera's History, Native Plants, and their Medicinal Uses. Eleuthera, The Bahamas. Raymond Jungles, Inc. / Stephen Dunn Photography

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



Advocacy

Goal 3: Build Coalitions

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.

3

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





Climate Leadership

We commit to galvanizing climate champions



ASLA 2022 Professional Urban Design Honor Award. Shirley Chisholm State Park. Brooklyn, New York. Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates / Lexi Van Valkenburgh

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

02 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

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

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



ASLA 2016 Professional General Design Honor Award. Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park. Bishan, Singapore. Ramboll Studio Dreiseitl

05 **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

06 **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**

07 **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



Cover Image: ASLA 2019 Professional General Design Honor Award. Hunter's Point South Waterfront Park Phase II: A New Urban Ecology. Long Island City, NY, USA. SWA/BALSLEY and WEISS/MANFREDI with ARUP / copyright Vecerka/ESTO, courtesy of SWA/BALSLEY and WEISS/MANFREDI