



## Climate Action Committee

# Chapter Climate Action Plan

Adopted: 05.01.24

*The following recommendations are meant to interpret and build upon ASLA's Climate Action Plan and are meant as suggested practices and initiatives for the Chapter to adopt as the Executive Committee sees as appropriate. The Climate Action Plan and associated Field Guide set ambitious goals toward advancing climate action and identify key initiatives and actions that organizations can take toward those goals. The following document is meant to work with the Climate Action Plan and Field Guide.*

## PRACTICE

- I. All Chapter Events:
  - A. Do not serve red meat
    1. Pork and beef have significantly higher carbon footprints than do vegetables, turkey, or chicken
  - B. Eliminate single-use plastics, plastic waste, and styrofoam food containers
    1. Replace single-use plastic food service items with compostable or washable items
    2. Do not serve water from plastic bottles
    3. Do not use individually wrapped items
  - C. Utilize environmentally-conscious vendors and/or local vendors, where possible.
    1. Restaurants that source local organic foods
    2. Favor products and snacks from environmentally focused businesses.  
Look for third-party verification
      - a) 1% for the Planet, JUST, B Corp, FairTrade, Equal Exchange
  - D. Set a goal of net-zero carbon footprints for in-person chapter events
    1. Use a carbon footprint calculator to assess event footprint
      - a) TerraPass
    2. Consider purchasing offsets for the event
    3. Promote carpooling / public transit to event
    4. Partner with local organizations to plant trees as form of offsetting carbon emissions
      - a) SacTree Foundation/urban wood rescue
  - E. Consider undertaking a climate positive chapter event

1. Tree planting
  2. River clean up
  3. Biodiversity improvement project
  4. Urban farm / edible landscape
  5. Green schoolyards
  6. Wildfire restoration
- II. Golf Tournament
- A. Eliminate or minimize single-use or throw-away items in goodie bags
  - B. Eliminate or minimize plastic containers
  - C. Favor products and snacks from environmentally focused businesses.
  - D. Enact a return or recycle policy for unused or unwanted goodies to divert waste from the landfills.
  - E. Convert to purely digital registration
- III. Design Awards
- A. Consider creating a “Sustainability” or “Green Ribbon” Award (opportunity to name after a local sustainability champion from the chapter)
  - B. Require that project submissions include statements on how the project addresses one or more of the following:
    1. Climate / Resiliency
    2. Environmental Justice
    3. Equity
  - C. Require projects submit a plant list and statements on how they support biodiversity, native species, etc.
- IV. Chapter Operations
- A. Reduce carbon footprint for day-to-day operations (power use for computers, reducing junk mail)
  - B. Reduce printed items.
  - C. For paper items, use only FSC (or other third-party) certified or recycled materials with environmentally-responsible inks.
- V. Member Resources
- A. Provide local resources, tips, and tools. These may be education sessions, lectures, or HOTSHEET tips etc.
  - B. Promote national resources

## EQUITY

- I. Chapter Operations
- A. Bylaws:
    1. Maintain bylaws to be free of any language that may present barriers to participation or involvement or unfairly discriminate upon a group
  - B. Engagement:

1. Actively engage and encourage under-represented groups to get involved in chapter events and leadership
2. Expand events to support a broad range of cultures
3. Support local diversity groups like WxLA / DxLA, BlackLAN, Pride x ASLA, etc.

## II. Community

- A. Volunteer in underserved communities
- B. Align with external diversity groups
- C. Build relationships with local Native American tribes

## ADVOCACY

### I. Leadership

- A. Strengthen collaboration with UC Davis on advancing climate action and equity goals
- B. Create communications tools for chapter members / firms to promote their work and climate actions
  1. Press-releases
  2. Social media tips
  3. Frameworks
  4. Speaking at conferences (ASLA and others)
- C. Host climate related summit

### II. Strategic Partnerships

- A. Develop strategic partnerships with local organizations
  1. SACOG and other local governments
  2. NGOs
  3. Community organizations
- B. Sponsors
  1. Encourage sponsors to provide EPDs
  2. Pursue sponsors with stated climate goals
    - a) Consider requiring climate goals as prerequisite for sponsorship



## PRACTICE

- VI. All Chapter Events:
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    - 2. Do not serve water from plastic bottles
    - 3. Do not use individually wrapped items
  - C. Utilize environmentally-conscious vendors and/or local vendors, where possible.
    - 1. Restaurants that source local organic foods
    - 2. Favor products and snacks from environmentally focused businesses. Look for third-party verification
      - a) 1% for the Planet, JUST, B Corp, FairTrade, Equal Exchange
  - D. Set a goal of net-zero carbon footprints for in-person chapter events
    - 1. Use a carbon footprint calculator to assess event footprint
      - a) TerraPass
    - 2. Consider purchasing offsets for the event
    - 3. Promote carpooling / public transit to event
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  - E. Consider undertaking a climate positive chapter event
    - 1. Tree planting
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    - 5. Green schoolyards
    - 6. Wildfire restoration
- VII. Golf Tournament
  - A. Eliminate or minimize single-use or throw-away items in goodie bags
  - B. Eliminate or minimize plastic containers
  - C. Favor products and snacks from environmentally focused businesses.
  - D. Enact a return or recycle policy for unused or unwanted goodies to divert waste from the landfills.
  - E. Convert to purely digital registration
- VIII. Design Awards
  - A. Consider creating a “Sustainability” or “Green Ribbon” Award (opportunity to name after a local sustainability champion from the chapter)

1. Kevin Robert Perry, FASLA
- B. Require that project submissions include statements on how the project addresses one or more of the following:
  1. Climate / Resiliency
  2. Environmental Justice
  3. Equity
- C. Require projects submit a plant list and statements on how they support biodiversity, native species, etc.
- IX. Chapter Operations
  - A. Reduce carbon footprint for day-to-day operations (power use for computers, reducing junk mail)
  - B. Reduce printed items.
  - C. For paper items, use only FSC (or other third-party) certified or recycled materials with environmentally-responsible inks.
- X. Member Resources
  - A. Climate tools
    1. Monthly climate action tip
    2. Offer climate-focused webinars
    3. Promote national resources

## EQUITY

- III. Chapter Operations
  - A. Bylaws:
    1. Review bylaws and remove any language that may present barriers to participation / involvement or unfairly discriminate upon a group
    2. Update bylaws to align with National: Full-membership only required for Trustee position, all other officers can be Associate ASLA
  - B. Engagement:
    1. Actively engage and encourage under-represented groups to get involved in chapter events and leadership
    2. Consider expanding events to support a broad range of cultures
    3. Support local diversity groups like WxLA / DxLA, BlackLAN, Pride x ASLA, etc.
- IV. Community
  - A. Volunteer in underserved communities
  - B. Align with other diversity groups
  - C. Build relationships with local Native American tribes

## ADVOCACY

- III. Leadership
  - A. Strengthen relationship with UC Davis (and NAMLA)
  - B. Create communications tools for chapter members / firms to promote their work and climate actions
    - 1. Press-releases
    - 2. Social media tips
    - 3. Frameworks
  - C. Host Climate + Policy Summit
- IV. Strategic Partnerships
  - A. SACOG
    - 1. SACOG has climate adaptation and resiliency plans. Can ASLA provide resources to SACOG to further those plans or align actions with goals
      - a) Can we connect SACOG to Atlas Lab's work on urban heat
  - B. Miridae living lab
  - C. Sponsors
    - 1. Encourage sponsors to provide EPDs
    - 2. Consider removing sponsors that do not have stated climate goals

IDEA:

I had a dream last night (not a joke, actually had this dream), where we hosted a state climate summit in Sacramento and had sessions on Urban Heat (Kim Garza's work), drought (went out to a farm to talk with farmers about water availability and resourcing), wildfire (took a trip to Paradise to look at recovery efforts and learn about lessons there), and flooding (someone involved in management of flows on the Sacramento river). We invited state and federal legislators, experts in their fields, and landscape architects who were helping to address these issues to speak together.....I know we could pull something like this off, but the question would be timing, cost, bandwidth to organize, and how to structure it. Just wanted to memorialize this here.

From Texas ASLA Design Awards:

# The Climate Champion Green Ribbon

Professional Award applicants may choose to apply for the Climate Action Champion Green Ribbon as an additional recognition. Green Ribbons will be awarded at the discretion of the Texas ASLA Climate Action Committee, to recognize projects that demonstrate an exceptional effort towards designing for a better future in the areas of climate mitigation, climate resiliency, biodiversity, environmental equity, or environmental advocacy. In the application you will be asked to provide a narrative statement supporting how this project achieved these initiatives.

The ASLA Climate Action Plan calls for all landscape architecture projects to:

- 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 increase and protect biodiversity

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Refer to the full [ASLA Climate Action Plan for the initiatives](#)

## Initiatives:

- **Carbon Drawdown:** Attain zero emissions by 2040 and double carbon sequestration
- **Climate Resilience:** Enhance capacity, biodiversity, and resilience of liveable cities and communities
- **Climate Agency:** Advocate for climate justice and social well-being
- **Cultural Empowerment:** Learn from cultural knowledge systems and practices of care
- **Climate Leadership:** Galvanize climate champions
- **Global Alliance:** Advance the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and expand international collaboration



## Climate Symposium

### Big Questions

1. Who is this conference for? (LAs? Multidisciplinary)
  - a. As a member organization using membership fees to help support this, this should be primarily for our members. That's not to say others won't get anything out of it, but it should be for landscape architects.
2. What is the key message?
  - a. Landscape architecture's role in developing solutions to critical challenges created by climate change. (hope!)
3. Who do we want to present?
  - a. (Three person teams with a LA, gov't, and peer discipline like arborist, engineer, and/or non-profit)
  - b. An LA + someone else.
4. What are the main subject areas?
  - a. (Big picture clearly Climate Change with CA focus, but focus on solutions? adaptations? all? We then discussed for sub topics - trees, fire, water, justice, indigenous practice, soil, heat)
5. What is the format?
  - a. (One day at least for year one, welcome keynote, two morning panels - attendees have to choose between, lunch keynote, two afternoon panels - have to choose between, wrap up/happy hour?)
6. Where?
  - a. (Near capitol for political people? Climate Center said Sac State was lovely but politicians can't make it out then)
7. Who are key people?
  - a. Patsy's daughter? Darwin Moosavi - Deputy Secretary, Environmental Policy and Housing Coordination?
8. Number of attendees goal?
  - a. 100-150
9. How to advertise?
10. How to foster interaction and collaboration?