



ADVOCACY PLATFORM

*Architects ... more than
designers of buildings*

AIA Iowa's advocacy agenda supports our societal role and embraces issues important to the economic viability of Iowa. Our agenda contains three broad themes:

1. SUSTAINABILITY

Implementation of sustainable design principles in the built environment will have a profound effect on the economic, social and cultural viability of Iowa, as well as the nation, and is strongly supported by the members of **AIA Iowa**.

Preserving Iowa's rich natural resources for future generations requires a conscientious, holistic approach to integrating energy efficiency, utilizing resources responsibly, and creating a harmonious relationship between the built and natural environments.

One way to accomplish this goal is to support the principles of **SustAINability 2030** advocated by the AIA and the US Conference of Mayors. This effort urges the adoption of a goal to achieve a 50% reduction in carbon emissions in new buildings by 2010 and carbon neutral buildings by 2030, beginning with public buildings to set a positive example.

New standards of sustainable design should apply to all public architecture in Iowa, including state-owned buildings and public schools, to ensure that all Iowans are the benefactors of the resulting socio-economic, cultural and environmental benefits.

2. LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Well planned and designed communities should:

1) provide a physical environment that is safe and promotes inclusiveness and accessibility; 2) offer affordable, appropriate, and accessible housing; 3) provide reliable, accessible, and affordable alternative transportation systems; 5) provide access to key health and support services; and, 6) offer and encourage participation in civic, cultural, community and recreational activities.

Within each of these six areas, a livable community strives to maximize people's independence, assure safety and security, promote inclusiveness and provide choice. The end goal is an extraordinarily satisfying quality of life for all Iowans.

Opportunities for legislative and regulatory actions that address this goal are broad and pervasive. The best way to advance actions in support of livable communities is to weigh proposed laws and regulations in terms of whether and how they will enhance the lives of Iowans.

3. QUALITY DESIGN

Design is both a process and a product. In the context of architecture and the built environment, design has a significant impact on the quality of life issues that touch where we live, work and play.

Investment in a well-designed Iowa benefits all Iowans, attracting new businesses, residents and visitors to Iowa by creating a positive impact on our communities and by sustaining economic growth and vitality through cost-effective, responsible design solutions.

Quality design invites engagement of individual users and stakeholders in a collaborative approach to planning and design to produce quality architecture. Design excellence is the foundation of successful and healthy communities.

AIA Iowa encourages these legislative and regulatory actions:

- establish both voluntary and mandatory guidelines to instill principles of Green Architecture promoting sustainability and the responsible uses of our resources
- provide for the research and development of alternative and renewable energy resources for use throughout Iowa
- allocate tax credits and incentives to support and stimulate historic preservation, rehabilitation, community revitalization and energy efficiency
- create a state-wide comprehensive building and energy code that is a force for energy conservation and responsible design
- establish an energy fund providing financial assistance in the form of grants or low interest loans to help offset the additional costs of public projects that meet minimum criteria for energy efficiency and ecologically responsible design and construction.

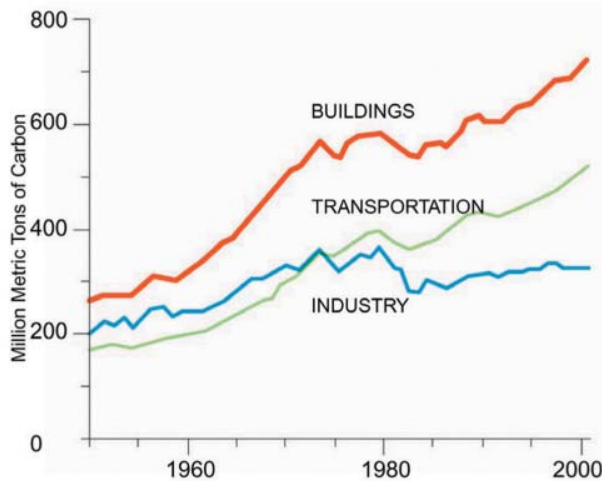
AIA Iowa requests your support of any proposed legislation that addresses sustainability and the responsible use of state resources.

AIA Iowa is a resource...

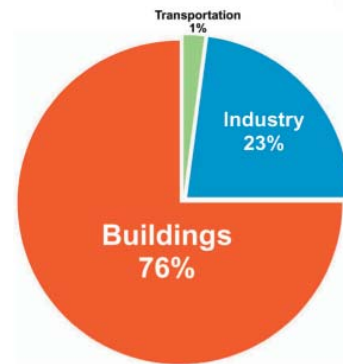
Please consider **AIA Iowa** as a resource if you have questions or concerns or need information about the built environment.

Through professional education and training, architects are perceptive listeners, planners, problem solvers, creative thinkers and pragmatic visionaries. As advocates for their clients, architects are facilitators of a planning and design process focused on creating better spaces in which to live, work and play. As organizers of both internal and external space, architects feel a duty to create a memorable Sense of Place in the communities they serve.

Buildings are the biggest source of emissions and energy consumption both in this country and around the globe. AIA Iowa Architects know that buildings can be designed to operate with less than half of the energy of today's average U.S. building at little or no added cost.



76% of all power plant generated electricity is used just to operate buildings, illustrated by the graph below.



Buildings and their construction account for nearly 48% of all greenhouse gas emissions and 68% of electricity consumption in this country each year. This includes energy used in the production and transportation of materials to buildings sites, as well as the energy used to operate buildings. The graph above illustrates CO2 emissions in the U.S. used in buildings and their construction.