

## U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

### ADOPTING THE “2030 CHALLENGE” FOR ALL BUILDINGS

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Conference of Mayors has previously adopted strong policy resolutions for cities, communities, and the federal government to take actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption and global warming pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the international community’s most respected assemblage of scientists, has found that climate disruption is a reality and that human activities are largely responsible for increasing concentrations of global warming pollution; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Building Sector has been shown to be the major consumer of fossil fuel and producer of global warming causing greenhouse gases; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government through programs fostered within many of its key agencies and numerous state governments as well as municipalities across the U.S. have adopted high performance green building principles; and

**WHEREAS**, a recent study completed by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the most definitive cost-benefit analysis of green buildings ever conducted, concluded that the financial benefits of green design are between \$50 and \$70 per square foot, more than 10 times the additional cost associated with building green; and

**WHEREAS**, the large positive impact on employee productivity and health gains suggests that green building has a cost-effective impact beyond just the utility bill savings; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have indicated that student attendance and performance is higher in high performance school buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, recognizing that a building’s initial construction costs represent only 20-30 percent of the building’s entire costs over its 30 to 40 year life, emphasis should be placed on the “life cycle costs” of a public building rather than on solely its initial capital costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the construction industry in the U.S. represents a significant portion of our economy and a significant portion of the building industry is represented by small business and an increase in sustainable building practices will encourage and promote new and innovative small business development throughout the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the national professional organization representing architects has adopted a position statement calling for the immediate energy reduction of all new and renovated buildings to one-half the national

average for that building type, with increased reductions of 10% every five years so that by the year 2030 all buildings designed will be carbon neutral, meaning they will use no fossil fuel energy.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will encourage its members to adopt the following “2030 Challenge” for building performance targets: New construction of all buildings shall be designed to and achieve a minimum delivered fossil-fuel energy consumption performance standard of one half the U.S. average for that building type as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy. Renovation projects of all buildings shall be designed to and achieve a minimum delivered fossil-fuel energy consumption performance standard of one half the U.S. average for that building type as defined by the U.S. Department of Energy. All other new construction, renovations, repairs, and replacements of all buildings shall employ cost-effective, energy-efficient, green building practices to the maximum extent possible; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work to increase the fossil-fuel reduction standard for all new buildings to carbon neutral by 2030, in the following increments:

60% in 2010

70% in 2015

80% in 2020

90% in 2025

Carbon-neutral by 2030 (meaning new buildings will use no fossilfuel GHG emitting energy to operate); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will urge mayors from around the nation to join this effort by developing plans to fully implement the above mentioned targets as part of their procurement process and by establishing policies to insure compliance and measure results; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will urge mayors from around the nation to develop plans to fully implement the above mentioned targets for *all* new and renovated buildings within the City; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that the U.S. Conference of Mayors will work in conjunction with ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability and other appropriate organizations to join this effort to develop plans to fully implement similar targets as mentioned above.

*For more information about the “2030 Challenge” and the Building Sector, visit:*

[www.architecture2030.org](http://www.architecture2030.org)