

A large, modern building with a glass facade and a courtyard at night. The building has multiple floors with visible interior spaces, including offices and a common area. The courtyard in front of the building features green lawns, trees, and outdoor seating areas with tables and chairs. The sky is dark blue, and the building's interior lights are on, creating a warm glow.

# 2030 BY THE NUMBERS

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The 2018 summary of  
the AIA 2030 Commitment

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The question of combating climate change through the built environment has long ceased to be one of “whether?” “why?” or “when?” Instead, the real question is “who?”

Architects, engineers, and owners all have critical roles to play in fighting climate change and the opportunity to become leaders in the movement. Every single one of us can—and should—align our work with efforts to fight climate change. This recognition of individual responsibility underpinned the passage of a resolution for “urgent and sustained climate action” by an overwhelming margin of voting members at the 2019 AIA Conference on Architecture.<sup>1</sup>

The 2030 Commitment, at its core, is a response to our climate crisis and a platform for architects, engineers, and owners—whether in small practices or international organizations—to demonstrate climate action through energy-efficient design. Signatories of the 2030 Commitment report annual progress against increasingly aggressive targets for energy reduction in projects, culminating in a goal of zero net carbon buildings by 2030.

For 2018 alone, 252 firms reported data to the 2030 Commitment’s Design Data Exchange (DDx) on projects totaling nearly 3 billion square feet across 92 countries. These projects accounted for an overall predicted energy use (pEUI) reduction equivalent to avoiding 17.7 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions—and operating savings of more than \$3.3 billion—relative to 2030 baseline-equivalent buildings.\*

*\*See [appendix](#) for the method used to calculate these savings.*

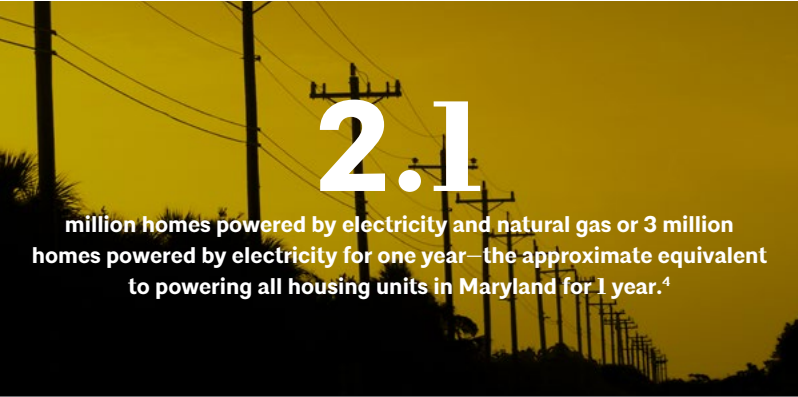
Nevertheless, it’s clear that we must double down on efforts to meet our 2030 targets. This year’s average weighted pEUI reduction—46%—is the best in 2030 history, but less than the current 70% target. To reach a zero net carbon future, we must vastly increase the number of 2030 signatories and the project’s performance data by working together to:

- Increase incorporation of energy modeling especially during early design phases to set reduction targets and focus on incorporating passive design strategies. In 2018, modeled projects reported about 25% better pEUI reduction than non-modeled projects, but only about half of all reported projects were modeled—leaving untapped a powerful tool to drive design and improve performance.
- Embrace both on- and off-site renewable energy in design. Innovative design and passive strategies alone cannot bring every project to zero net carbon emissions.
- Advocate for more stringent codes that continue to push the bottom up. For instance, universal adoption of the ZERO Code, championed by Architecture 2030 and AIA, could make zero net carbon buildings the norm.
- Encourage more signatories and collaborators to share their data. Reporting project data is the only way to show accountability and progress toward the 2030 goals. It also helps firm leaders better understand the performance and impact of their portfolios in the industry context and strengthens the case for zero net carbon solutions.





In 2018, 2030 Commitment projects accounted for an annual overall energy savings equivalent to avoiding 17.7 million MT CO<sub>2</sub>e. Over a year, this equates to:





SECTION 1.

2030  
SIGNATORIES  
ARE LEADERS



THESE 16 FIRMS ACHIEVED A 70% OR GREATER  
pEUI SAVINGS ACROSS THEIR ENTIRE PORTFOLIO!

Arkin Tilt Architects

Bergmeyer Associates

COULSON

ehdd

Green Hammer

Kaplan Thompson Architects

Lehrer Architects LA, Inc.

LPA, Inc.

McLennan Design

Placetaylor

Pyatok Architecture + Urban Design

Sam Rodell Architects AIA

TBDA

Vermont Integrated Architecture

YGH Architecture

ZeroEnergy Design

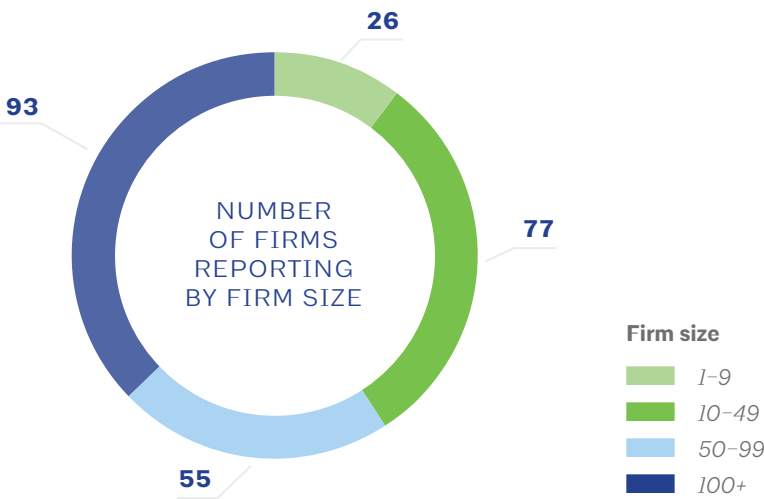
In 2018, 252 signatories—45% of all 2030 signatories—reported nearly 3 billion square feet of project data. The data presents a striking picture of climate leadership globally, locally, and across the profession.

LEADERS / Reporting firms in 2018

THESE FIRMS REPORTED PROJECT DATA IN 2018.

100 Fold Studio  
5G Studio Collaborative  
AC Martin  
Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture  
Albert Kahn Associates, Inc.  
Alliance  
Ankrom Moisan Architects, Inc.  
Ann Beha Architects  
ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge, Inc.  
Archimania  
Architectural Nexus, Inc.  
Arkin Tilt Architects  
Arrowstreet  
Ashley McGraw Architects  
Atelier Ten  
Ayers Saint Gross  
Ballinger  
BAR Architects  
Bassetti Architects  
Bergmeyer Associates  
Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, LLP  
bKL Architecture LLC  
BKV Group  
Blair + Mui Dowd Architects, PC  
BLT Architects  
BNIM Architects  
Bohlin Cywinski Jackson  
Bora Architects  
Boulder Associates, Inc.  
Braun and Steidl Architects

Brininstool + Lynch, Ltd.  
Brooks + Scarpa Architects, Inc.  
Browning Day Mullins Dierdorf  
Bruner/Cott & Associates  
BuroHappold Engineering  
BWBR  
CallisonRTKL  
CambridgeSeven  
Cannon Design  
Carleton Hart Architecture  
CBT Architecture  
Clark Nexsen  
CO Architects  
Coldham & Hartman Architects  
COOKFOX Architects  
Cooper Carry  
Corgan  
COULSON  
CS&P  
CTA Architects Engineers  
Cunningham Group Architecture, Inc.  
Dake Wells Architecture  
Dattner Architects  
David Baker Architects  
Davis Partnership Architects  
DBR Engineering Consultants, Inc.  
Dekker/Perich/Sabatini  
Design Collective, Inc.  
designLAB architects  
Dewberry



DIALOG  
DIGSAU  
DiMella Shaffer  
DLR Group  
DRAW Architecture + Urban Design  
DS Architecture, LLC  
DSK Architects + Planners  
DWL Architects + Planners Inc.  
Ehdd  
Ehrlich Yanai Rhee Chaney Architects  
Elkus Manfredi Architects  
Ellenzweig  
Elness Swenson Graham Architects, Inc.  
ELS Architecture and Urban Design  
emersion DESIGN

LEADERS / Reporting firms in 2018

Engberg Anderson Architects  
English + Associates Architects, Inc.  
Ennead Architects  
Eskew+Dumez+Ripple  
EwingCole  
EYP  
Farr Associates  
Feldman Architecture  
FFA Architecture and Interiors, Inc.  
Finegold Alexander Architects  
Flad Architects  
Frederick + Frederick Architects  
FXFOWLE  
gbA Architecture & Planning  
GBD Architects Incorporated  
Gensler  
GFF  
GLHN Architects & Engineers, Inc.  
Goody Clancy  
Gould Evans  
GREC  
Green Hammer  
Gresham, Smith and Partners  
Grimm and Parker  
GSBS Architects  
Guidon Design  
Hacker  
Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford  
Hanbury Evans Wright Vlattas + Company  
Handel Architects, LLP  
Harley Ellis Devereaux

HarrisonKornberg Architects  
Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture  
Hastings Architecture Associates, LLC  
HDR  
Helix Architecture + Design  
Hennebery Eddy Architects, Inc.  
HGA Architects and Engineers  
High Plains Architects  
HKS  
HMC Architects  
HMFH Architects, Inc.  
HOK Inc.  
Holst Architecture  
Hord Coplan Macht  
Howeler + Yoon Architecture, LLP  
ICON Architecture, Inc.  
IKM Incorporated  
In Balance Green Consulting  
Jacobs Global Buildings Design  
Jer Greene, AIA + CPHC  
John Ronan Architects  
Johnson Roberts Associates, Inc.  
Jones Studio, Inc.  
Jones Whitsett Architects  
JSA, Inc.  
Kaplan Thompson Architects  
KieranTimberlake  
Kipnis Architecture + Planning  
Kirksey  
KOO LLC  
Krueck + Sexton Architects

Kuhn Riddle Architects  
Lake|Flato Architects  
Landon Bone Baker Architects (LBBA)  
Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects  
Leers Weinzapfel Associates  
Legat Architects  
Lehrer Architects LA, Inc.  
LHB, Inc.  
Little Divsersified Architectural Consulting  
LMN Architects  
Lord Aeck Sargent  
LPA, Inc.  
LSW Architects  
Maclay Architects  
Mahlum Architects  
Marlene Imirzian & Associates Architects  
Mazzetti  
McGranahan Architects  
McLennan Design  
Miller Dyer Spears, Inc.  
Mithun  
MJMA  
mode associates  
Moody Nolan  
Moseley Architects  
MSR  
NAC Architecture  
NBBJ  
Neumann Monson Architects  
Olson Kundig  
OPN Architects



LEADERS / Reporting firms in 2018

Opsis Architecture  
Orcutt | Winslow  
Otak, Inc.  
Overland Partners Architects  
Page  
Pappageorge Haymes Partners  
PATH Architecture  
Paul Poirier + Associates Architects  
Payette  
Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Architects LLC  
Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects  
Perkins + Will  
Perkins Eastman  
Pickard Chilton  
Placetailor  
Precipitate, PLLC  
Pyatok Architecture + Urban Design  
Quattrocchi Kwok Architects  
Quinn Evans Architects  
Ratcliff  
RATIO Architects  
RB+B Architects, Inc.  
richärd + bauer  
RMW architecture & interiors  
RNT Architects  
Robert A.M. Stern Architects  
Ross Barney Architects  
RSP Architects

RVK Architects, Inc.  
Sam Rodell Architects AIA  
Sasaki Associates  
Schadler Selnau Associates PC  
SERA Architects  
Serena Sturm Architects  
Shepley Bulfinch  
SHKS Architects  
SHP Leading Design  
siegel & strain architects  
Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.  
SmithGroupJJR  
Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects  
SMMA  
Snow Kreilich Architects  
Solomon Cordwell Buenz  
SOM (Skidmore Owings & Merrill)  
Speranza Architecture  
SRG Partnership, Inc.  
Stantec Architecture  
Steinberg Architects  
Sternner Design  
Studio Ma  
STUDIOS architecture  
TBDA  
The Beck Group  
The Green Engineer, Inc.  
The Miller Hull Partnership

The Sheward Partnership  
The SLAM Collaborative  
Thornton Thomasetti  
TK-Architecture  
TLC Engineering Solutions  
TLCD Architecture  
TreanorHL  
Trivers Associates  
Urban Design Perspectives  
UrbanWorks, Ltd.  
Utile  
Valerio Dewalt Train Associates  
Vanderweil Engineers  
Vermont Integrated Architecture  
VMDO Architects  
WBRC Architects/Engineers  
WDG Architecture  
Weber Thompson  
Wight & Company  
William Rawn Associates  
WLC Architects, Inc.  
Wright Heerema Architects  
WRNS Studio  
WRT  
Yost Grube Hall  
ZeroEnergy Design  
ZGF Architects LLP  
Ziger/Snead

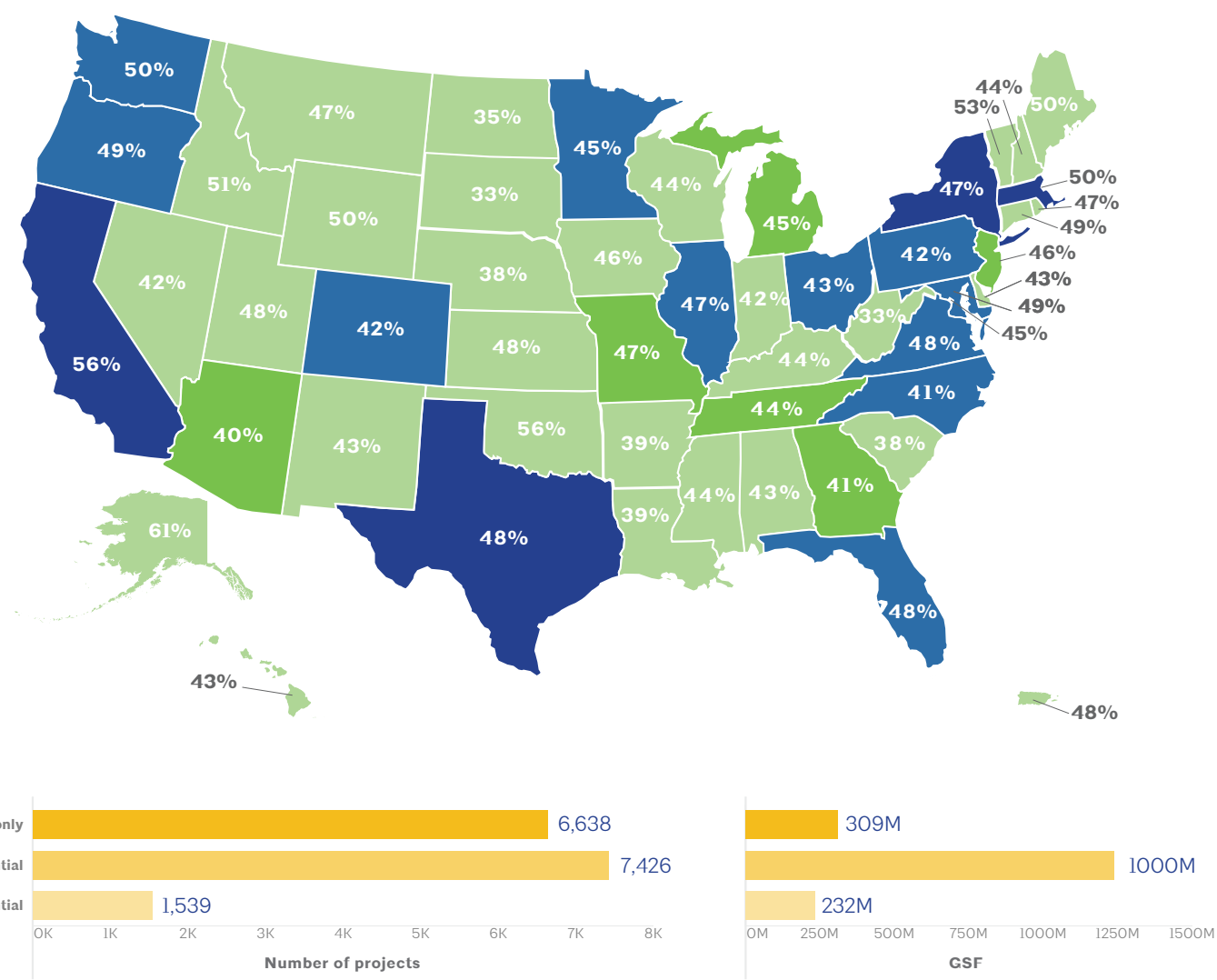
LEADERS / New firms in 2018

THESE FIRMS JOINED THE 2030 COMMITMENT IN 2018.

100 Fold Studio	Fergus Garber Young	Pappageorge Haymes Partners
Anmahian Winton Architects	FFKR Architects	PATH Architecture
Antunovich Associates	FGP Atelier International LLC	Pieri Architects
BBGM Architects & Interiors, Inc.	gbA Architecture & Planning	Placetailor
Behnisch Architekten	GLHN Architects & Engineers, Inc.	Prellwitz Chilinski Associates
Ben Rosenblum Studio	GO Logic	Pyatok Architecture + Urban Design
bKL Architecture LLC	Hart Howerton	RDG Planning & Design
BKSK Architects	HBRA Architects	Ross Architecture, Inc.
BKV Group	HKS Architects	Semple Brown Design, PC
Blackney Hayes Architects	Howeler + Yoon Architecture, LLP	Sillman Wright Architects
Brininstool + Lynch	John Ronan Architects	Sté Yaba and Kumba Intl.
CambridgeSeven	Johnson Roberts Associates, Inc.	Stantec Architecture
Carleton Hart Architecture	Jurassic Studio	Studio Dwell Architects
Corgan	KBZ Architects	Studio Gang Architects
Cowart Group PC	KOO LLC	Studio Twenty Seven Architecture
dbHMS	KSS Architects	STUDIO-E Architecture, PC
DBR Engineering Consultants, Inc.	Kuhn Riddle Architects	SWBR
DesignStudiosNUS	Lorcan O’Herlihy Architects	THRIVE Collaborative
DMAC Architecture	Machado and Silveti Associates	TLCD Architecture
Dominek Architecture, LLC	McLennan Design	Utile
DS Architecture, LLC	MEPCE, Inc.	Walker Architects
Duda Paine Architects	MJMA	Walter Street Architecture
Ellipsis Architecture	Native Son Design Studio	Weston C. Burrer, Architect
Encore Sustainable Design	Odile Compagnon Architect	Wheeler Kearns Architects
EXP	Optima, Inc.	Wright Heerema Architects
Felix DeVito Architect	Otak, Inc.	
Fennick McCredie Architecture, Ltd.	Oudens Ello Architecture, LLC	



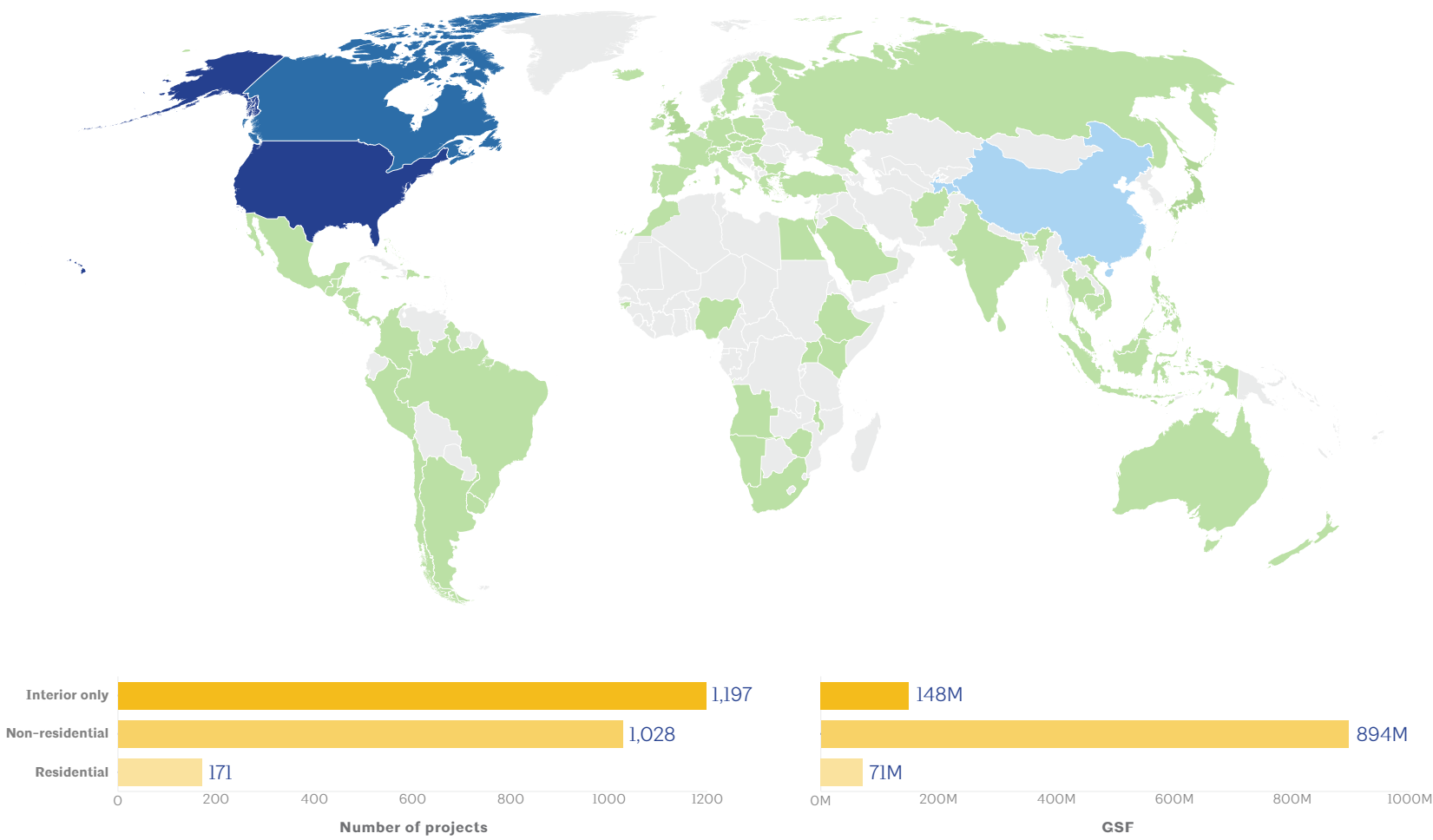
LEADERS / pEUI by state



2030 SIGNATORIES ARE LEADERS IN COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE THROUGH THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

In the US alone, they reported 1.7 billion square feet—a total of 15,603 projects—touching every US state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. California leads the nation in total number of projects and reporting pEUI savings.

The data shown on the map excludes interior only projects and shows only whole building projects (residential and non-residential).



A GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

Signatories also reported 2,396 projects outside of the US, totaling 1.1 billion square feet, or 35% of total GSF, across 92 countries.

Number of projects

- 1-249
- 250-499
- 500-749
- 750+
- N/A

The US is only added to the map for reference and not included in the bar graphs.



**“My local 2030 ‘huddle’ is a form of authentic support from others at signatory firms striving to design to reach the 2030 Commitment targets. It reminds me that we are all committed together to respond to climate urgency.”**

*Gwen Fuertes, AIA, LEED AP BD+C  
LMSA*

From Boston and New York, to Pittsburgh and Chicago, to Seattle and San Francisco, 2030 signatories are working to mobilize collaboration on a regional and local scale. These groups—whether informal peer-to-peer support networks or more formal AIA committees—are building a culture that promotes energy and emissions savings in design. In 2018, these groups worked to push zoning incentives for energy-efficient buildings, advocate for code improvements, support renewable energy, and participate in pilot programs.

Utilities and state-based energy organizations also recognize the value of 2030. In 2018, Energy Trust of Oregon piloted an internship program to assist five Oregon-based firms in reporting projects and hitting energy targets. As a result of the program, for these five firms the weighted average EUI reduction improved from 41% in 2017 to 43% in 2018 and the number of reported projects more than tripled.



**AIA ARCHITECTURE FIRM AWARD RECIPIENTS AND SIGNATORIES**

Payette – 2019

Snow Kreilich Architects – 2018

Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects – 2017

LMN Architects – 2016

Ehrlich Architects – 2015

Eskew+Dumez+Ripple – 2014

2030 signatories are proving that high-level technical performance is compatible with award-winning design. In 2018, more than 70% of AIA award-winning projects were designed by one or more 2030 signatory firms. Since the inception of the COTE® Top Ten Awards in 1997, every firm to receive the award has also been a 2030 signatory. For the sixth consecutive year, the AIA Architecture Firm Award recipient was a 2030 signatory.





AIA 2030 BY THE NUMBERS

PAYETTE

As AIA’s 2019 Architecture Firm Award recipient, Boston-based Payette has earned a reputation for its innovative, complex design work focused on academic science and health care facilities—building types known for high energy demands. The firm has long worked to integrate performance with design, which made joining the 2030 Commitment in 2011 an easy choice—and one that has helped the firm further embed sustainable design throughout its practice.

“It’s not just a few exemplar projects,” explains Andrea Love, AIA, principal and director of building science. “Everyone understands that we as a firm have made the commitment, and so in every project, they now have a responsibility to try to meet that target. It also helps us build energy literacy across the board and makes energy use a key part of how we talk about projects both internally and to clients.”

Payette has also shared the firm’s experience in operationalizing the 2030 Commitment with area peers via the Boston 2030 discussion group and mentoring. “We’ll all be better if we’re all participating in the 2030 Commitment,” says Love. “It’s a healthy sense of competition that pushes us to design high-performing, beautiful buildings and move toward the 2030 targets.”





SECTION 2.

PRACTICAL  
SOLUTIONS,  
TODAY











Along with stunning design and exceptional performance, owners and clients demand return on investment. In this respect, the 2030 Commitment delivers. In 2018, 2030 projects represented energy savings of more than \$3.3 billion over the baseline equivalent.

See [appendix](#) for the method used to calculate these savings.





COMMERCIAL SAVINGS

A typical 100,000-square-foot commercial office building in New York City designed to perform 70% better than the 2030 baseline would yield the following annual savings:

**~2,154 MWh**

less energy

**~\$199,600**

in projected energy cost savings

**~520**

metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction

RESIDENTIAL SAVINGS

Meanwhile, a typical 2,500-square-foot single-family home in Mobile, Alabama, designed to perform 70% better than the 2030 baseline would yield the following annual savings:

**~22.6 MWh**

less energy

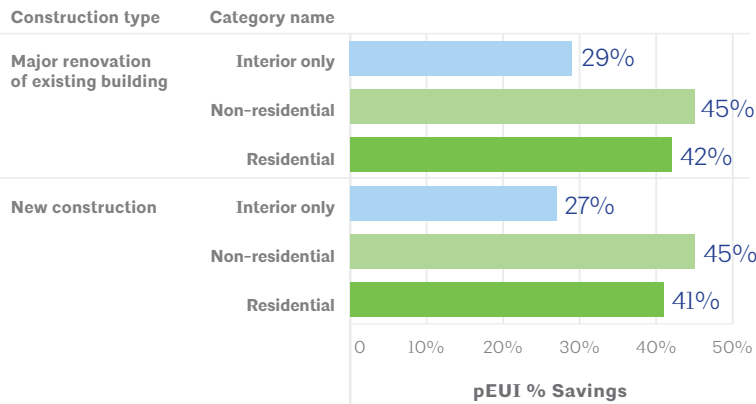
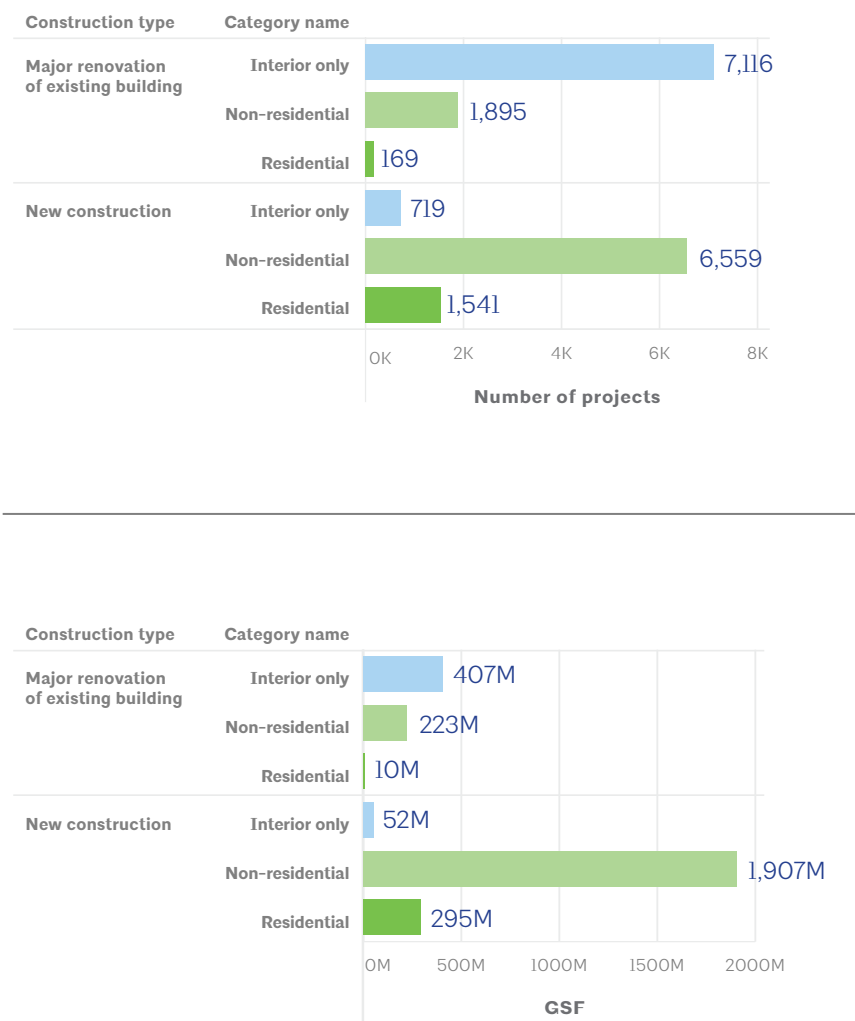
**~\$2,050**

in projected energy cost savings

**~9**

metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e reduction

SOLUTIONS / Impact of existing buildings

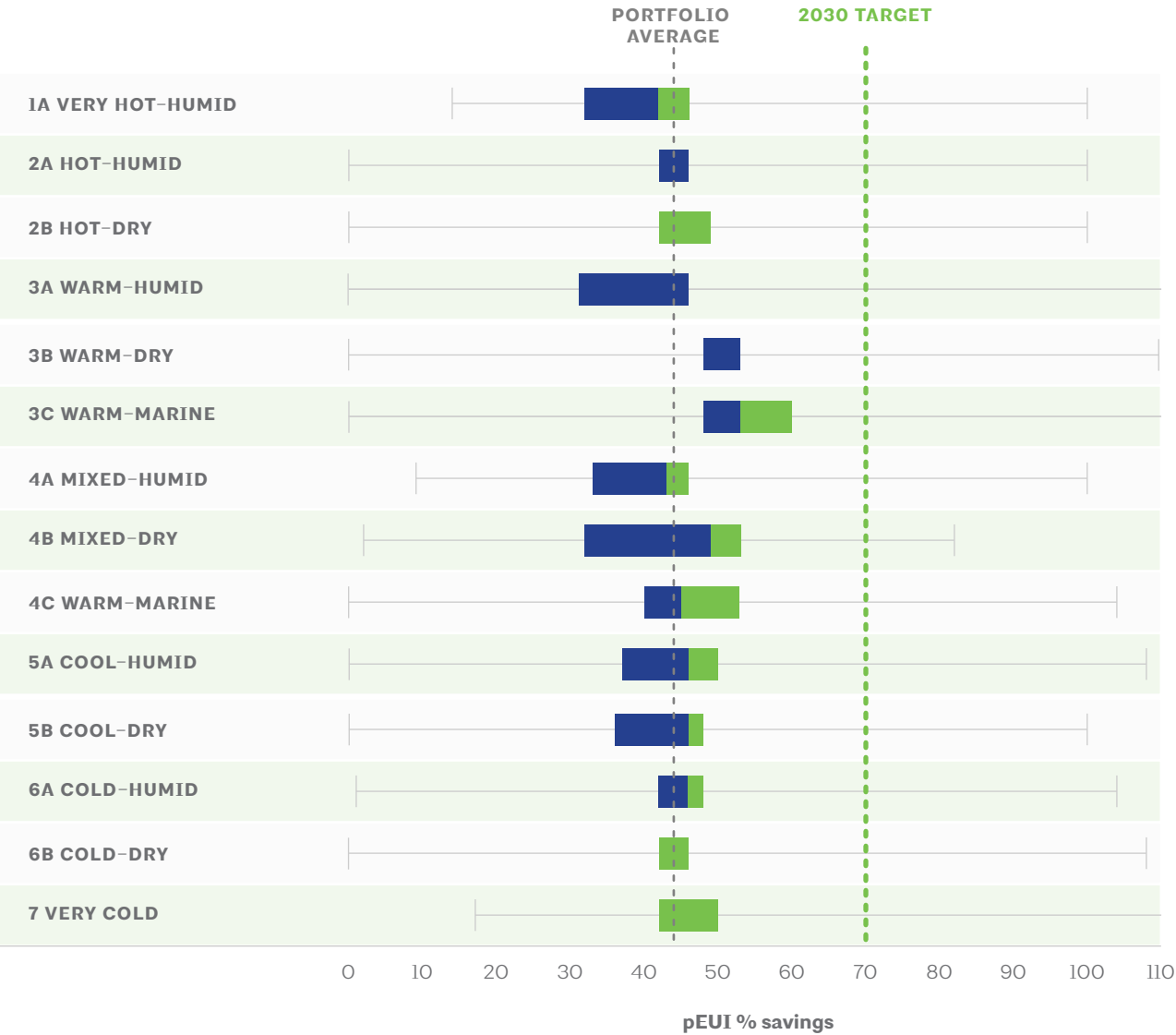


MAJOR RENOVATIONS OF NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS PERFORM SIMILARLY TO NEW CONTRIBUTIONS IN TERMS OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Recognizing the importance of improving our existing building stock, the 2030 Commitment began tracking major renovations of existing buildings in 2018. The results are compelling: At 45% pEUI, major renovations of nonresidential building perform similarly to new contributions in terms of energy efficiency.

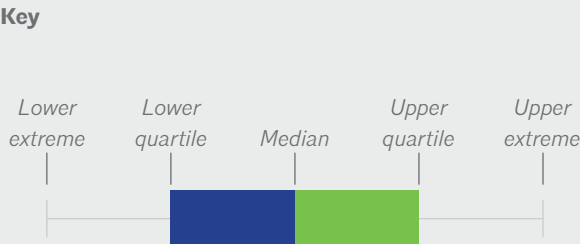
Existing buildings represent a considerable opportunity to minimize the effects of the built environment on climate change by reducing carbon emissions for building material manufacture, transportation, and construction.

SOLUTIONS / Impact of climate zones on pEUI savings



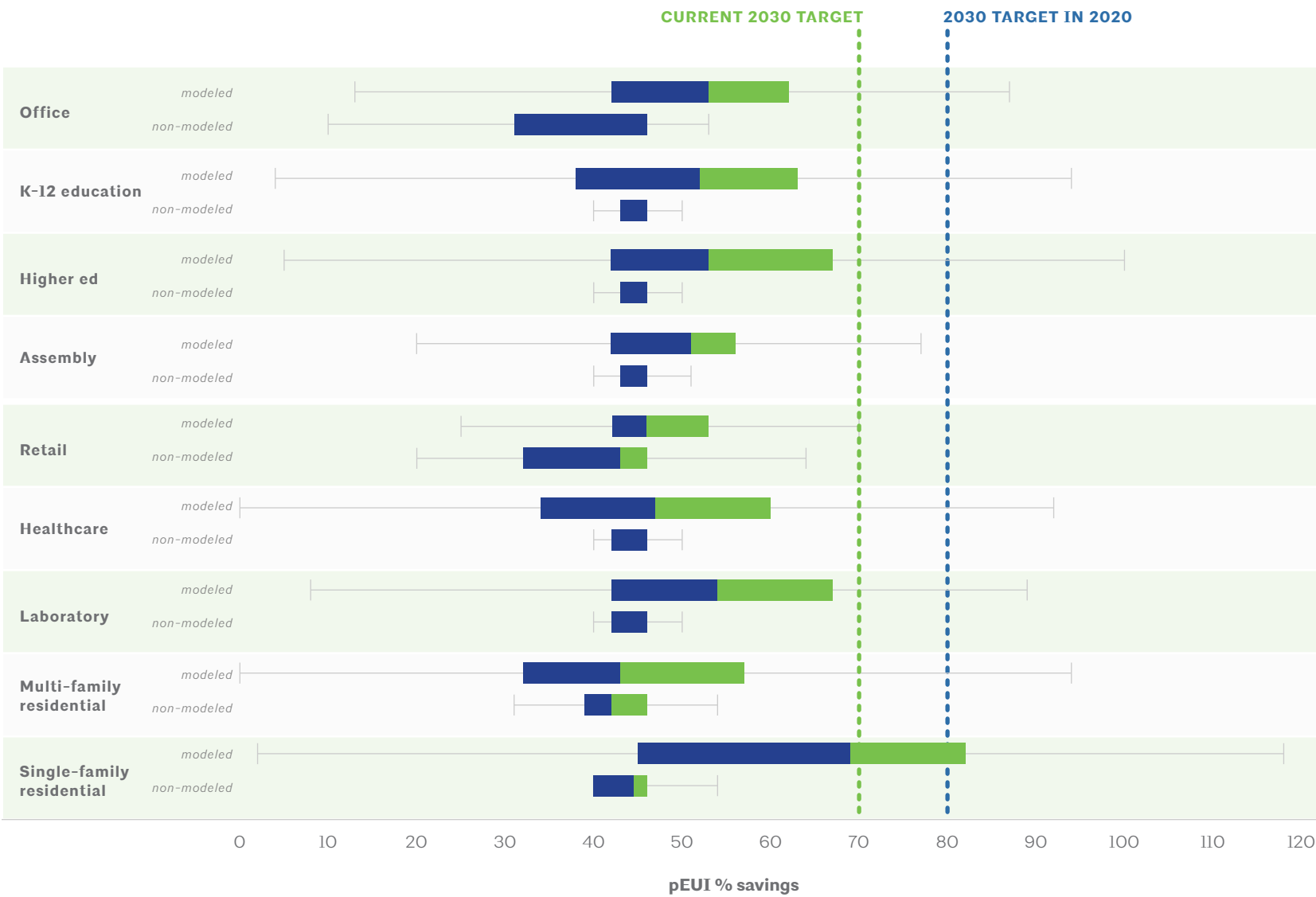
2030 TARGETS ARE ACHIEVABLE IN ALL ZONES

While every climate zone presents its own challenges to designers and architects, 2030 projects show that meeting and exceeding performance standards is possible.



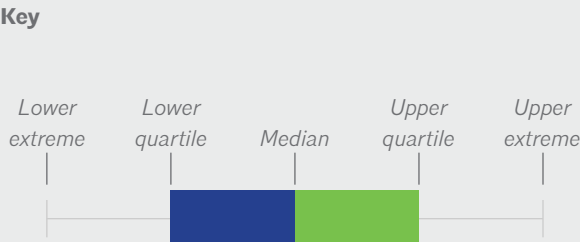


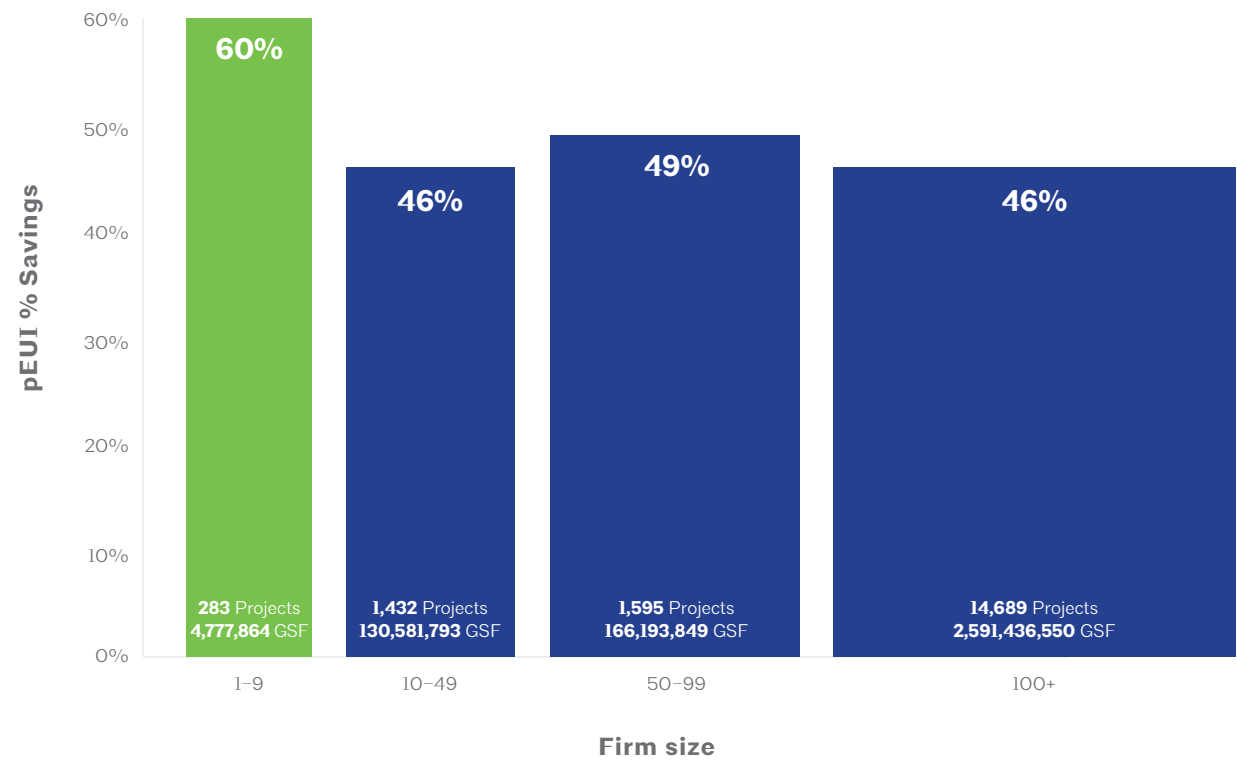
SOLUTIONS / Impact of energy modeling on pEUI savings



ALL USE TYPES CAN MEET THE CURRENT 2030 TARGETS, BUT ONLY WITH ENERGY MODELING

The 2018 data shows that most use types will be able to meet the more challenging 2020 target: 80% pEUI reduction. Energy modeling will become even more important as the targets become more challenging in 2020, 2025, and 2030.





**SMALL FIRMS AVERAGE  
60% pEUI REDUCTION**

While large firms contributed 90% of total GSF included in this year’s analysis, the 2030 Commitment is relevant for firms of all sizes. In 2018, 80% of the firms meeting the 70% pEUI target have fewer than 50 people, and firms with fewer than 10 people have the highest average percent pEUI reduction, a whopping 60%!



SECTION 3.

URGENCY IS  
INCREASING  
FASTER THAN  
THE MARKET IS  
RESPONDING





75%

share of global greenhouse gas emissions attributable to the urban built environment

2.5 billion

estimated increase in number of people living in urban areas by 2050

40%

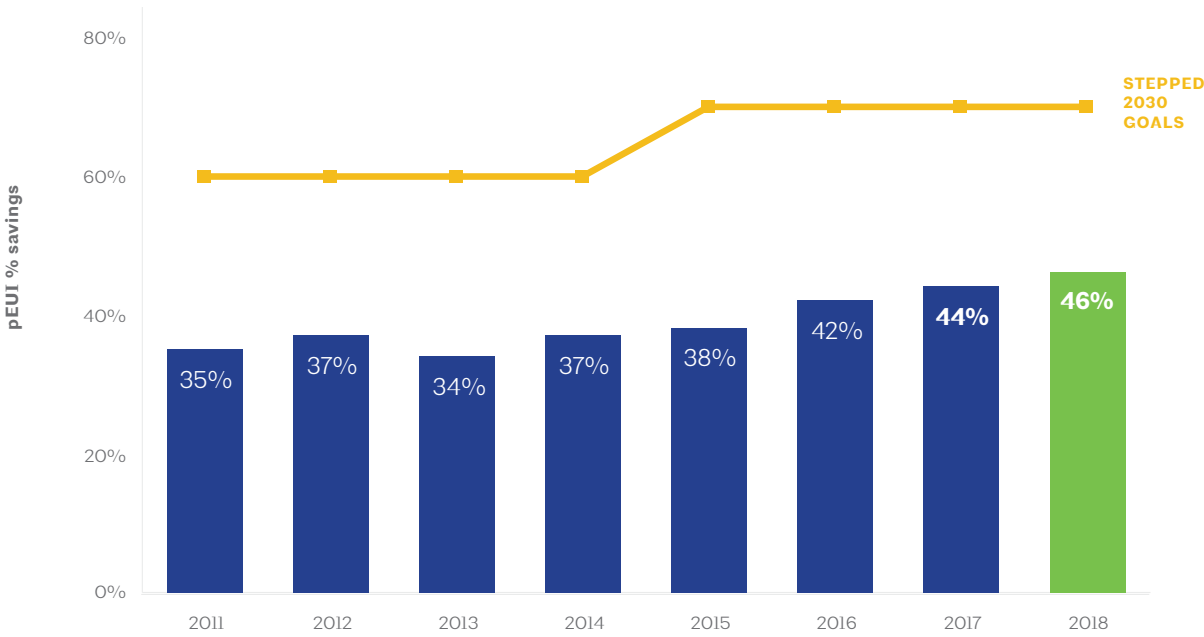
share of global greenhouse gas emissions that come from existing buildings

2.5 trillion

estimated GSF of new construction by 2060

The United Nations has projected that urban areas will add 2.5 billion people by 2050, moving from 55% of the world’s population today to 68%.<sup>6</sup> The fight against climate change will play out in our cities and their buildings as we double the current global building stock—making zero net carbon new construction an imperative, not an option.

URGENCY / Progress to 2030 goals



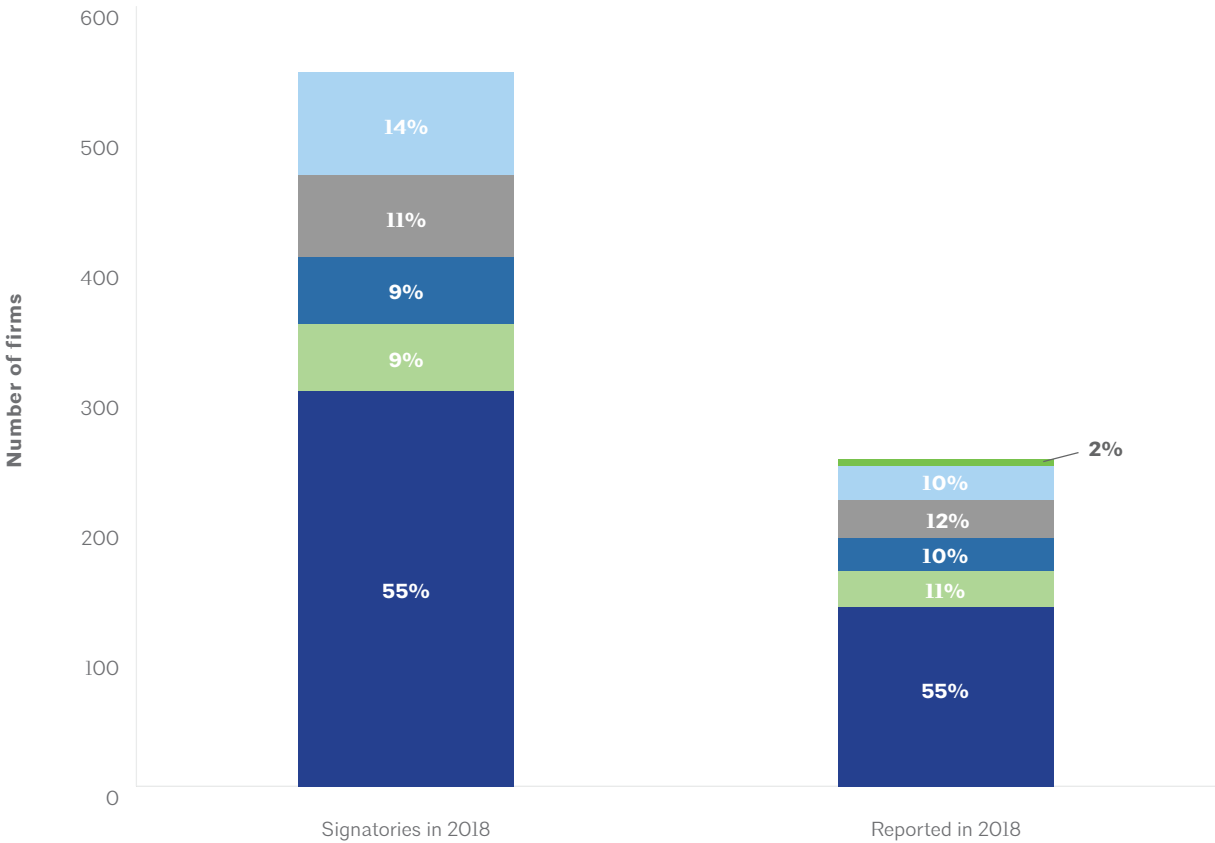
OUR PROGRESS IS NOT KEEPING PACE WITH THE GROWING URGENCY AND IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2006, Architecture 2030 set an ambitious roadmap to achieve carbon neutrality in new buildings by 2030 with incremental targets increasing every five years.

Although the average pEUI increased to 46% this year (the highest ever) from 44 in the prior year, this rate of improvement is unlikely to achieve 100% zero net carbon design by 2030 without exponential change. Along with continued incorporation of proven energy-efficient design strategies, we will also need to increase our use of energy modeling and incorporate on- and off-site renewable energy to reach these targets.



URGENCY / Percent of signatories who report

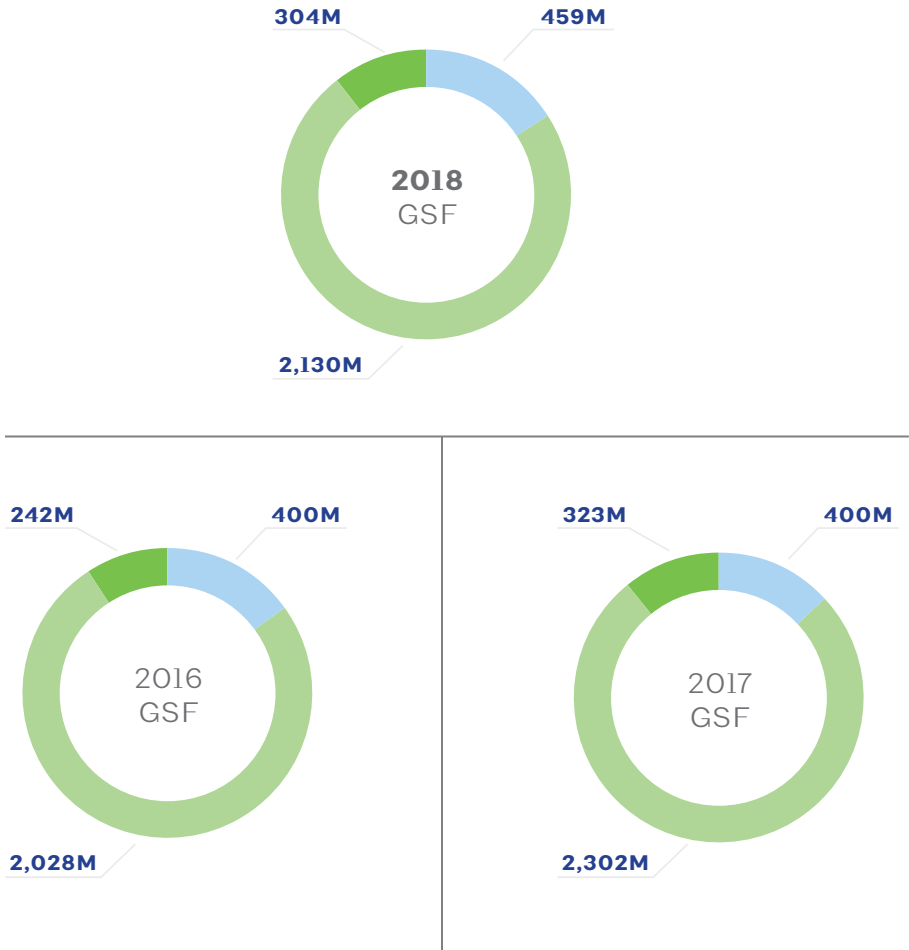
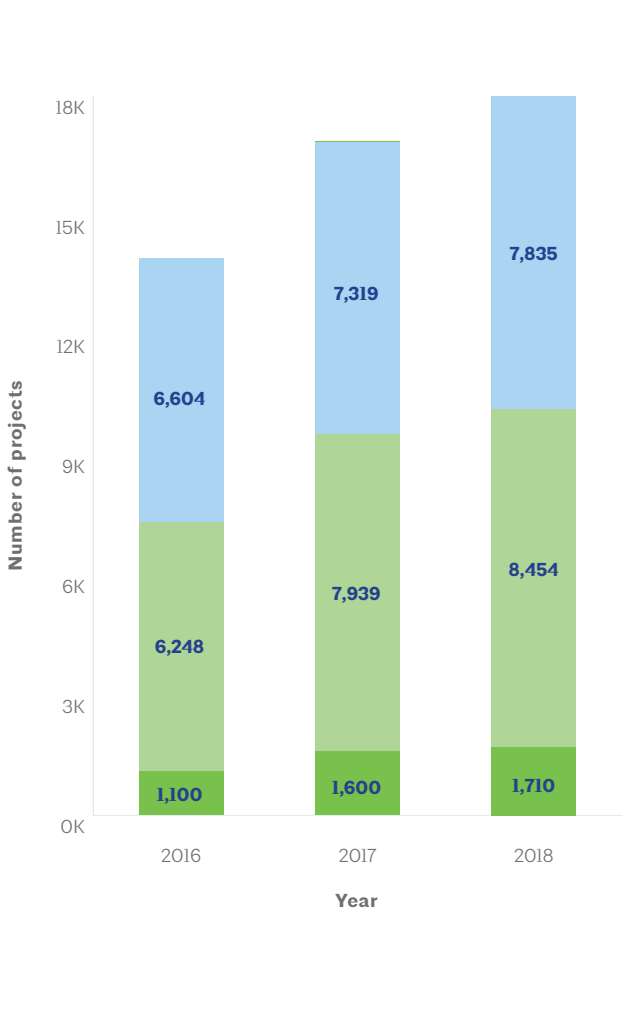


FEWER THAN HALF OF ALL SIGNATORIES ARE REPORTING, WHERE DOES YOUR FIRM STAND?

Seventy-nine new firms joined the 2030 Commitment in 2018, bringing the total number of active signatories to 549. Of those, 252 submitted portfolios in 2018 compared to 212 in 2017, an 18% increase. On average, 45% of signatories that joined in a given year are reporting, regardless of when they joined the 2030 Commitment. Encouragingly, six firms that joined the commitment in early 2019 were able to report before the 2018 reporting deadline.

- Year joined
- 2019
  - 2018
  - 2017
  - 2016
  - 2015
  - Before 2015

URGENCY / GSF shrinks



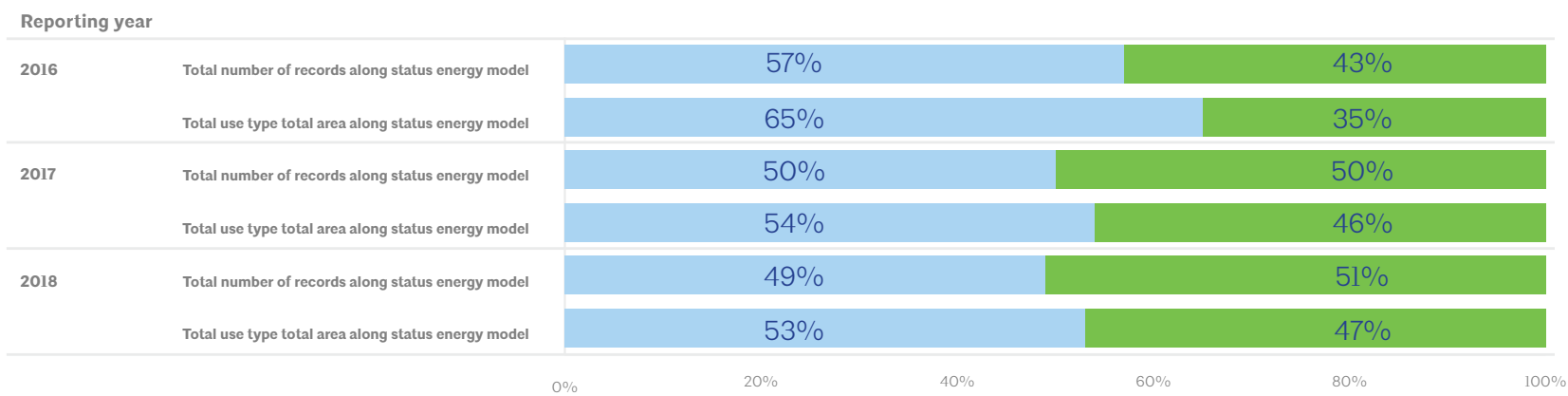
**GSF DROPS 4%**

For the first time, reported GSF shrunk compared to the previous year, dipping 4% to just under 3 billion GSF. At the same time, the total number of projects increased to 17,999—7% higher than 2017.

- Key
- Interior only
  - Non-residential
  - Residential



URGENCY / Percent of modeled projects



MODELED PROJECTS ARE FLAT AT AROUND 50%

In 2018, on average, modeled projects have an approximately 25% higher pEUI reduction than non-modeled projects. Yet, the percentage of projects being modeled has not significantly changed since 2017, hovering around 50% for both the number of projects and the percentage of total GSF. This represents a significant missed opportunity.

**Key**

Non-modeled

Modeled

SECTION 4.

DRIVING  
EXPONENTIAL  
CHANGE





FOUR STRATEGIES FOR  
ACCELERATING PROGRESS

Clearly, more aggressive measures are needed to reach both our intermediate and ultimate goals in facing the demands of climate change, meeting the needs of clients, and maintaining the relevancy of practice—all while evolving and innovating through design. Moving forward, four areas of focus can help drive exponential change: universal incorporation of energy modeling tools for optimizing design efficiency, greater use of renewable energy, stronger building codes, and increased data sharing by signatories and partners.

Harnessing the potential of energy modeling

Energy modeling tools “improve both the quality and performance of architectural design” as “an essential mechanism to achieve the holistic design architects are expected to deliver,” according to the [Architect’s Guide to Building Performance](#).<sup>7</sup> Based on 2030 data, significantly increasing the share of modeled projects must occur in order to meet established carbon targets. Not only does modeling allow firms to advise clients about annual expected energy use, it is the only way to quantify the impact of design decisions on energy use and costs.

Integrating renewable energy

Bridging the gap to zero net carbon will require architects to become well-versed in both on-site and off-site renewable energy options—enabling them to incorporate on-site renewables into projects and advise clients on off-site renewable procurement options. Currently, signatories have the option to track the use of on-site photovoltaic and other renewable energy sources in the DDx.

Understanding the power of codes

The potential of an energy code to influence building performance and combat climate change is immense. As part of the 2030 Commitment reporting process, all projects must enter a design code. Modeled projects then default to the pEUI calculated by energy models, while unmodeled projects default to the “code-equivalent” percent pEUI reductions established by the New Buildings Institute and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.<sup>8,9</sup> The good news is that many codes are continuing to evolve to yield better building performance.<sup>10</sup>

For example, the calculated pEUI reduction for ASHRAE 90.1-2007 is 31%, whereas the calculated pEUI reduction for ASHRAE 90.1-2016 is 50%. If all 381 unmodeled projects designed to ASHRAE 90.1 2007 in 2018 were instead designed to ASHRAE 90.1 2016, the average pEUI reduction for all 2018 projects would increase from 46 to 48% pEUI reduction—a 4.3% increase in pEUI.

This clearly demonstrates the need for increasing stringency in adopted codes, such as the ZERO Code<sup>11</sup> supported by Architecture 2030 and AIA. The ZERO Code not only raises the bar by requiring the energy efficiency requirements of the latest national model code, but also requires all new buildings to generate or procure renewable energy to reach zero net carbon goals. The AIA Code Network<sup>12</sup> can guide efforts to advocate for improved codes.

Sharing data and knowledge

For firms that have not yet joined the 2030 Commitment—or those that have joined but are not yet reporting project data—there are a host of reasons to take the next step. Joining the commitment signals to employees, clients, collaborators, and peers that your firm understands the power of sustainable design in combatting climate change.

Reporting project data is the only way to show accountability and progress toward the 2030 goals. The robust, easy-to-use, online DDx integrates with Autodesk, Sefaira, and other energy simulation programs to make reporting streamlined, simple, and accessible for firms of all sizes, especially small firms.

By quantifying building energy performance for projects using common metrics, the DDx allows firms of all sizes to measure how their approach to building efficiency is resulting in higher-performing projects individually and collectively. As firm leaders better understand the performance and impact of their portfolios, the case is strengthened for design decisions that improve energy performance and carbon reduction. Encouraging engineers and consultants—and even owners—to track their own design portfolios in the DDx brings more valuable data into the fold and helps grow the 2030 movement.



**RB+B ARCHITECTS, INC.**

For RB+B Architects, a small firm in Fort Collins, Colorado, focused on K-12 projects, sustainability means designing well-detailed buildings that will endure for generations to come. Whether their clients are inherently interested in environmental impacts or are more motivated by long-term operating costs, RB+B makes the case that pushing toward zero net carbon achieves both goals.

“Our message is, we can give you a high-performing school that will save operating dollars,” says Matt Arabasz, AIA, principal. Tracking performance data through the 2030 Commitment can aid in that discussion. “We can compare to similar buildings from the same time frames, showing annual savings of hundreds of thousands of dollars—which can be translated into a teacher’s salary or some other need.”

“The 2030 Commitment holds us more accountable and gives us a certain baseline to operate from,” says Brianne Smith, AIA, senior associate. “It’s one thing to say you’re going to do something and another to be part of a larger community across the country working toward a bigger picture. It also gives us a pathway to talk to clients about energy, whether from the economic or environmental side.”





SECTION 5.

# FORWARD, TOGETHER







The consequences of climate change are alarming, but they are by no means inevitable. As professionals continue to coalesce around shared values and common goals, the opportunities for meeting the challenge expand. To capitalize on such opportunities, members at the 2019 conference overwhelmingly passed a resolution for “urgent and sustained climate action”.

### THE TIME TO START IS NOW

No matter where you are right now, the enormity of the challenge demands we all commit to taking the next steps forward—together.

#### **Not yet a signatory?**

- Join the 2030 Commitment.
- Prioritize working with firms that are signatories.
- Become involved with codes advocacy.

#### **Already a signatory?**

- Recommit or continue reporting your project data.
- Start adding on-site renewable energy to your projects, and advise your clients about off-site renewable energy procurement options to reach zero net carbon.
- Connect with other practitioners through local groups or the online 2030 Peer-to-Peer Network.
- Make use of resources such as AIAU’s [AIA+2030 Online Series](#) (the first course is free for 2030 signatories), energy modeling tools and guidance, and the DDx to better understand how to make progress toward 2030 goals.



**Projected CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions reduction calculation**

- 1) The project use type was used to determine the percentage of electricity and natural gas for each project in the US and Canada.<sup>13</sup>
- 2) For US and Canadian projects, the eGrid subregion was determined based on the project ZIP code.<sup>14</sup>
- 3) The eGrid subregion was used to define the CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions factors for electricity and natural gas, which were multiplied by the fuel source energy savings.<sup>15</sup>
- 4) For international projects, the country name was used to determine the CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions factor, which was multiplied by the energy savings.

**Design energy projected cost savings calculation**

- 1) The project use type was used to determine the percentage of electricity and natural gas for each project in the US and Canada.<sup>16</sup>
  - 2) For simplicity, all project energy savings for international projects were considered electricity savings.
  - 3) For interior projects in all locations, all project energy savings were considered electricity savings.
  - 4) Projected energy savings for whole building and interior-only projects were totaled.
  - 5) The electricity and natural gas design energy savings for all projects were multiplied by the US average commercial rate for electricity<sup>17</sup> and natural gas.<sup>18</sup>
- CO<sub>2</sub>e and carbon sequestration equivalencies (such as acres of trees sequestered) were calculated using the EPA Greenhouse Gas Equivalencies Calculator.<sup>19</sup>

# RESOURCES & REFERENCES

## Resources

- [The 2030 Commitment](#)
- [Healthier Materials Protocol](#)
- [COTE® Top Ten Awards](#)
- [Architect’s Guide to Building Performance](#)
- [Modular and Off-Site Construction Guide](#)
- [Renovate, retrofit, and reuse](#)
- [Conducting Vulnerability Assessments](#)
- [Deep Energy Retrofits: An Emerging Opportunity](#)

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In cases where code-equivalent pEUI reductions are greater than a modeled project's pEUI reduction, the DDx uses the code-equivalent reduction, with the assumption that the project is actually meeting its associated code.

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AIA 2030 BY THE NUMBERS

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Architect: MSR Design  
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**71% Predicted reduction from national average EUI for building type.**

Page 23  
Project: North Transfer Station  
Architect: Mahlum Architects  
Photographer: Benjamin Benschneider  
**68% Predicted reduction from national average EUI for building type.**

Page 29  
Project: Tashjian Bee and Pollinator Discovery Center  
Architect: MSR Design  
Photographer: Richard Brine  
**71% Predicted reduction from national average EUI for building type.**

Page 32  
Project: Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Complex  
Architect: Payette  
Photographer: Warren Jagger Photography  
**78% Predicted reduction from national average EUI for building type.**



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