



May 2006

United States Conference of Mayors
Chicago, Illinois

The American Institute of Architects (AIA) recognizes a growing body of evidence that demonstrates current planning, design, construction, and real estate practices contribute to patterns of resource consumption that seriously jeopardize the future of this nation's cities. Consistent with our obligation to advocate for the public health, safety, and welfare, the AIA and its members accept responsibility for their role in working with this nation's leaders to create more safe, healthy, productive, and beautiful communities by:

- ✓ Promoting sustainable design including resource conservation to achieve a minimum 50 percent reduction from the current level of fossil fuel use to construct and operate new and renovated buildings by the year 2010;
- ✓ Collaborating with other national and international organizations, the scientific research community, public health community, and industry leaders engaged in issues related to sustainable design;
- ✓ Sharing knowledge that accelerates the rate of change for all those seeking to improve the design and construction industry's current practices;
- ✓ Developing standards for the architectural profession that incorporate greater sustainability into design, education, management, and license standards;
- ✓ Promoting research by industry, scientific, and governmental entities to provide full life cycle assessment data for all products and assemblies used in the construction of the built environment in order to facilitate decision-making and communicate the benefits to all.

Speaking on behalf of the members of one of this nation's oldest professional organizations, representing 77,000 architects, we invite this nation's Mayors to join the

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AIA in setting and implementing action plans that will result in significant reductions in the use of natural resources, non-renewable energy sources, and waste production, and promote the regeneration of our natural resources to ensure for our children a sustainable future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kath Schwennsen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.

Katherine L. Schwennsen, FAIA
President