MISSION
Architects are positioned to be leaders with regard to an expanded view of health, safety and welfare that include many of the broader issues of sustainability. As an Institute we must provide the access to knowledge, research, and professional collaborations that are critical to ensure our members become more informed and better prepared to lead. The AIA will advance, disseminate, and advocate—to the profession, the building industry, the academy, and the public—design practices that integrate built and natural systems and enhance both the design quality and environmental performance of the built environment.

2011-2012 PROGRAM GOALS
Over the course of the next two years, the AIA Sustainability program will continue to develop and refine the AIA 2030 Commitment to demonstrate measurable progress towards the AIA’s 2030 goals; develop the necessary technical resources to prepare every member and every firm for the widespread impact the IgCC will have on the profession; foster improvements in the quality and accessibility of sustainable design education and continuing education available to members; support and nurture critical collaborative relationships with allied organizations like USGBC, ASHRAE, and NIBS; and demonstrate how architects are uniquely qualified to address significant environmental challenges through design that integrates architecture, technology, and natural systems through the COTE Top Ten Awards.

2030 COMMITMENT: An AIA National initiative for firms to voluntarily make a pledge to advance the AIA’s 2030 goals. The purpose is to drive change in practice by focusing on the entire design portfolio rather than exemplary projects and asks for firms to track annual progress. Reporting tool debuted at the 2010 AIA National Convention. | www.aia.org/2030commitment

COTE TOP TEN: Regarded as the profession’s best known recognition program for sustainable design excellence, the Top Ten demonstrates how architects are uniquely qualified to address environmental challenges thought design that integrates architecture, technology, and natural systems. Beyond an awards program, the Top Ten has a strong focus on knowledge delivery in the form of case studies. Top Ten measures both qualitative and quantitative aspects of sustainable design. www.aiatop10.org

ENERGY MODELING PRACTITIONER’S GUIDE: Working to deliver a paper that outlines the current landscape of energy modeling software. The purpose of the paper is to define the current scope of energy modeling tools available to practitioner, identify the gaps that exist which keep software tools from being used by architects, and will recommend and outline the necessary steps that should be taken to begin filling the knowledge gap.

AIA CONTRACT DOCUMENTS: In May, the AIA released AIA Document D503-2011, Guide for Sustainable Projects, including agreement amendments and supplementary conditions. The guide is free and was developed to assist users of AIA Contract Documents in understanding contractual considerations unique to sustainable design and construction projects. The guide also provides model language that can be used to amend or supplement key AIA Contract Documents in the A201 Family for use in these types of projects. www.aia.org/sustainableprojectsguide

AIAS/COTE STUDENT SCHOLAR: One selected student researcher will evaluate, using a case study method, the economic and carbon implications of the deep green renovations of two historic commercial office buildings within the Seattle 2030 District. The report – to be released in early 2012 – will use a case study analysis to examine the issues, challenges and opportunities surrounding adaptive reuse. www.aia.org/cote

INTERNATIONAL GREEN CONSTRUCTION CODE (IgCC): Once adopted by local jurisdictions, it will have a game-changing impact on the practice of architecture by taking what has been a best practices approach to design and making it the minimum requirement for every project. The AIA will focus in the next year on developing the resources needed to prepare every member and every firm for the impact IgCC will have on the profession once it is published in March 2012. www.aia.org/igcc

SUSTAINABLE AIA: 2031 Monthly Column (every other issue) in AIArchitect summarizing the work and collaborations of the AIA on a variety of sustainability topics with other groups including ASHRAE, BECs, NIBS, USGBC, ICC, GBCI and others. Recent columns include: Embracing Coopetition, Is a Good Building a Cheap Building?, Why Energy Models Don’t Predict Actual Use; and Sustainability: Can We Evolve?

DESIGN: ART + SCIENCE EDUCATIONAL VIDEO SERIES: A series of 60 minute educational video that will present a variety of building science driven technical/high performance design code requirements connecting them back to today’s architectural design and standard practices. They will examine how the presented issue/item will effect or potentially change: overall project scope, project team selections/needed skills, contract documents, design process, permitting, bidding, specifications, construction and/or building operations. The first two proposed video are on energy modeling and high performance façade design.

www.aia.org/sustainability