



THE 2050 IMPERATIVE

A Blueprint for Dealing with Climate Change

Urban areas are responsible for more than seventy percent of global energy consumption and CO2 emissions, mostly from buildings. Over the next two decades, an area roughly equal to sixty percent of the total building stock of the world is projected to be built and rebuilt in urban areas worldwide.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to reduce fossil fuel CO2 emissions by setting the global building sector on a path to phase out CO2 emissions by 2050.

As architects, we recognize our responsibility to seize this unique opportunity to influence ethical and socially responsible development throughout the world. We will plan and design sustainable, resilient, carbon-neutral and healthy built environments that protect and enhance natural resources and wildlife habitats, provide clean air and water, generate on-site renewable energy, and advance more livable buildings and communities.

The UIA is acutely aware that failing to act now on climate change will put future generations and those already affected by extreme weather, natural disasters, and poverty, at great risk.

Recognizing the architects' central role in planning and designing the built environment, and the need to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2050 and provide equal access to shelter, we commit to promote the following actions:

- Plan and design cities, towns, urban developments and new buildings to be carbon neutral, meaning they use no more energy over the course of a year than they produce, or import, from renewable energy sources
- Renovate and rehabilitate existing cities, towns, urban redevelopments and buildings to be carbon neutral whilst respecting cultural and heritage values.
- In those cases where reaching carbon neutral is not feasible or practical, plan and design cities, towns, urban developments, new buildings and renovations to be highly efficient with the capability to produce, or import, all their energy from renewable energy sources in the future.
- We commit to the principle of engaging in research and setting targets towards meeting the 2050 goal.
- Advocate and promote socially responsible architecture for the community, develop and deliver equitable access to the information and tools needed to plan and design sustainable, resilient, inclusive and low-carbon and zero carbon built environments.

Signatories

UIA - International Union of Architects
ARCASIA - Architects Regional Council Asia
AUA - Africa Union of Architects
ACE - Architects Council of Europe
FPAA - Federacion Panamericana de Asociaciones de Arquitectos
CAA - Commonwealth Association of Architects
UMAR - Union Mediterraneenne des Architectes

CIALP - Conselho Internacional dos Arquitectos de Lingua Portuguesa
DoCoMoMo - Docomomo International
ICOMOS - International Council of Monuments and sites
FAU - Fondation des Architectes de l'Urgence
AHA - Active House Alliance
WGBC - World Green Building Council

Supporting organizations

Architecture 2030
UN-Habitat

