



Mayor Jenny Durkan
City of Seattle
P.O. Box 94749
Seattle, WA 98124-4749

February 27, 2018

Dear Mayor Durkan,

Thank you for making climate change a top priority for your administration. This is an issue that resonates strongly with architects. Architects are leaders in sustainability, designing more sustainable, resilient and energy efficient buildings and places that reduce emissions and transform the way communities use energy.

AIA Seattle

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AIA Seattle, a chapter of the American Institute of Architects, has been pleased to partner with the Office of Sustainability and Environment on strategies to address climate change as part of a number of initiatives: Seattle's Climate Action Plan, its Paris Agreement commitments and green building incentives related to the Living Building Pilot program. Most recently, we supported the City's proposal to allow local governments to develop stricter residential energy codes than currently allowed by state law.

To achieve Seattle's sustainability goals and maintain the City's role as a national leader on climate, AIA Seattle offers the following recommendations:

Climate policy must address high-performance buildings.

Buildings account for around 40 percent of carbon emissions worldwide. Unless we reduce the climate impact of buildings, we will not be able to achieve Seattle's bold climate goals. Architects stand ready with the skills to achieve more energy efficient buildings, but we need a regulatory framework that incentivizes their design and construction. We applaud your proposed pilot program to construct 20 highly sustainable buildings and support efforts to intensify energy codes and put a price on carbon emissions.

Climate goals must lead the agenda across departments.

To achieve Seattle's carbon objectives, we believe climate goals must be at the top of every department's agenda and outcomes must be measured by these goals. For example, Seattle City Light calls itself the "Nation's Greenest Utility"; we'd like to see a new City Light CEO whose experience is aligned with the utility's stated goals for carbon neutrality.

Early incentive programs must be implemented to spur innovation and change.

Seattle has led the nation in achieving progressive levels of sustainability by developing incentive programs that foster long-term changes in the private sector. For example, the City's early incentive programs for LEED projects created not only an impressive portfolio of LEED buildings, but also a cadre of

design and construction professionals who understand sustainability and now export that business knowledge far beyond our region. Similar programs to advance zero carbon buildings are needed to meet Seattle's aggressive climate goals.

Ultimately, the buildings we are developing during this period of rapid growth will impact our environment for decades to come. We appreciate your work to ensure a stronger, more sustainable city for the future, and we look forward to partnering with the City to achieve its climate and energy efficiency goals.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'LR', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lisa Richmond
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Sidney Scarboro', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Sidney Scarboro AIA
President