

2030 BY THE NUMBERS

The 2024 summary of
the AIA 2030 Commitment



ABOUT THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Founded in 1857, AIA consistently works to create more valuable, healthy, secure, and sustainable buildings, neighborhoods, and communities. Through more than 200 international, state, and local chapters, AIA advocates for public policies that promote economic vitality and public wellbeing.

AIA provides members with tools and resources to assist them in their careers and business as well as engaging civic and government leaders and the public to find solutions to pressing issues facing our communities, institutions, nation, and world. Members adhere to a code of ethics and conduct to ensure the highest professional standards.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

2030 By the Numbers: The 2024 Summary of the AIA 2030 Commitment measures annual performance of the architecture and design community toward its goal of carbon neutral buildings by 2030. It includes data from calendar year 2024 and suggestions for improving performance year to year.

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This analysis highlights project-level information pulled on April 2025 for projects included in RY2024 portfolio submissions.

Cover Image Name: Coliseum Place Affordable Family Housing
Architect Credit: David Baker Architects
Image Credit: Bruce Damonte
This project received a 2025 COTE® Top Ten Award

Recommended bibliographic listing: The American Institute of Architects (2024 September). [*2030 by the numbers: The 2024 Summary of the AIA 2030 Commitment*](#)

FOREWORD

By Stephen T. Ayers, FAIA, Interim EVP/CEO, The American Institute of Architects

Architects play a pivotal role in driving improvements in the performance of the built environment. Our profession is responsible for the design, coordination, specification, procurement, installation, and occasionally, maintenance of buildings. With this broad responsibility, we also strive to minimize any negative impact from our designs. Although the regulatory and policy landscape may shift, the design profession still has a responsibility to continue improving building practices to ensure a zero-carbon, equitable, healthy, and resilient future.

One way AIA supports this goal is through Climate Action Pledge Programs, with the AIA 2030 Commitment standing as the longest-running initiative. The UN Environment Programme’s Global ABC [Global Status Report](#) 2024 notes some recent progress, stating, “the buildings and construction sector saw a modest emissions reduction in 2023, despite a 3% rise in floor area, but a decline in energy efficient investment.” But we know we have much more to do as a profession, and this By the Numbers report shows the results of our collective and sustained action as well as the steps still to come.

2030 signatory firms are a large part of the solution and continue to move in the right direction. Signatories have shown great improvements this year in predicted energy usage intensity (pEUI) reductions towards the 2024 goal of 80% pEUI reductions from the 2003 CBECCs baselines, reaching a 56% reduction for the reporting year. While this is heartening, a major recommitment and renewed efforts are needed to realign building emissions with stated 2030 Commitment goals for the industry.

This year’s 2030 By the Numbers report delves into some of the details behind the numbers while setting the stage for future progress towards net-zero goals. It also prepares firms to aim for a “total carbon” emissions goal by including both operational and embodied carbon metrics for all projects. Towards this end, we are realigning with the 2030 Challenge’s initial originator, Architecture 2030, in order to tell a more holistic story of progress in the built environment and prepare for the years leading up to 2030. Progress will not stop in 2030, as we refresh our collective commitment and aim even higher to achieve more ambitious operational and embodied carbon reductions.



Founders Hall, Foster School of Business,
LMN Architects, photo credit: Tim Griffith
This project received a 2025 COTE® Top
Ten Award.

SETTING THE STAGE

The AIA 2030 Commitment is now in its 16th year since inception and less than five years from the target year of 2030. Global average temperatures [steadily rise](#), extreme weather events cost the United States [billions of dollars](#) each year, and the historic development of the built environment poses [climate justice](#) issues for past and present-day communities. In response, architects and designers continue to show that practice can be a catalyst for change—on an individual, project, and firm basis. AIA has been, and will continue to be, deeply engaged in building capabilities within the profession and providing [case studies](#) for architects to emulate as climate justice issues continue to compound.

To look forward and understand how the architecture and design (A&D) industry must rise to meet today’s challenges by 2030 and beyond, we must first look at the historical events that have led to the current moment.

The past

[Architecture 2030](#), established in 2003, was created to empower and transform the built environment from a major greenhouse gas (GHG) emitter into being a catalyst for change. In 2005, they issued the [2030 Challenge](#), which required incremental carbon reduction goals for new construction and major renovations over a 25-year timeline that were consistent with those called for by the global scientific [community](#) at the time.

Responding to the 2030 Challenge, The American Institute of Architects (AIA), the world’s largest network of architects and design professionals and a leader in the built environment industry, launched the [AIA 2030 Commitment](#) in 2009 as a call to action to its membership. The ask was for architecture and design firms to join the Commitment, as signatories, and track their portfolios’ progress through predicted Energy Usage Intensity (pEUI) data.

Since 2010, the AIA 2030 Commitment signatory community has grown from just over 100 firms in 2011 to over 1,400 firms in 2025. Firms are taking the initiative, from reporting their predicted energy data across their portfolios to creating firmwide Sustainability Action Plans (SAP)—with the goal of tracking progress towards a net zero carbon emissions future.

The present

With 16 years of cumulative predicted Energy Usage Intensity data from 2030 signatories, the AIA 2030 Commitment charts the A&D industry’s operational impact—showing where architects and designers are making significant strides toward a higher performing built environment and where improvement is still needed. In addition to operational energy reduction, embodied carbon reductions have been included in AIA 2030 Commitment tracking since 2020.

All the while, external factors have influenced the progress of the built environment’s climate impact and thus the evolution of the AIA 2030 Commitment. These include:

- **Federal, state and local policies**, as well as the improved economic viability of renewable energy solutions and products, which have incentivized a cleaner energy grid and in turn, lower-emission fuel sources to power buildings.
- **Stronger energy codes across** the United States that raise the bar for building performance, with the potential integration of embodied carbon and climate resilience measures.
- **Emphasis on firm culture** as a driver of high-performance design, with Sustainability, Climate, and Material Action Plans, return on investment (ROI) with data-driven key performance indicators (KPIs) and benchmarking placed front and center for architects and designers.

FOREWORD / Setting the stage

- **A steady increase** in natural disasters, from larger hurricanes, hotter fires, deadlier floods, and longer periods of drought—requiring more resilient building designs.
- **A growing awareness** that the reuse of buildings, materials, and building sites can be good for economic and climate issues which aiding in the creation of a circular material economy.
- **The industry’s increased focus** on embodied carbon accounting throughout the design and construction process, widening the focus beyond operational emissions.

The future

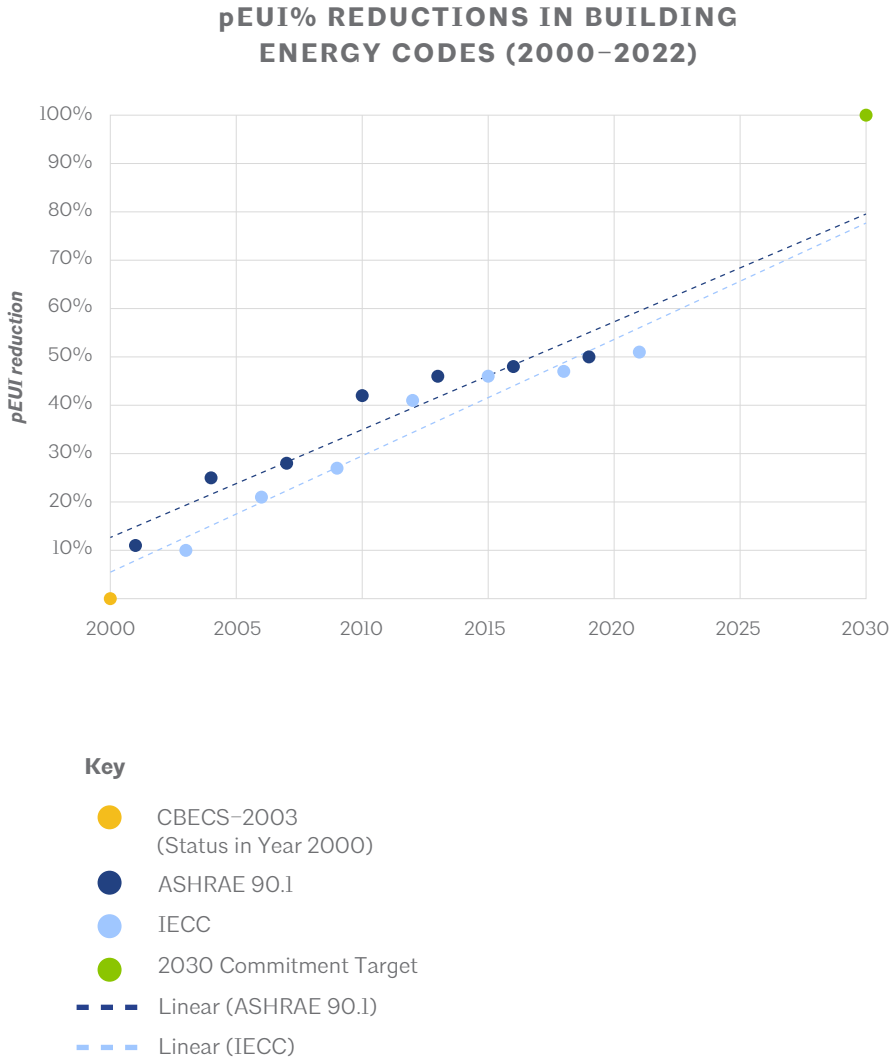
The AIA 2030 Commitment and its signatories’ work toward a net zero carbon future will continue well beyond the year 2030. As shown in this year’s data, reporting signatories are making steady progress with increases in pEUI reductions, renewable energy inclusion, and embodied carbon tracking. However, they are still falling short of the current program target of an 80% pEUI reduction for 2024. In the face of another pEUI reduction goal—a 90% pEUI reduction in 2025, leading to the commitment’s year 2030 goal of 100% reduction—there is much more work to be done. And while fuel source, renewable energy, and embodied carbon reporting are increasing and numbers are improving, this growth is not rapid enough to mitigate substantial future emissions.

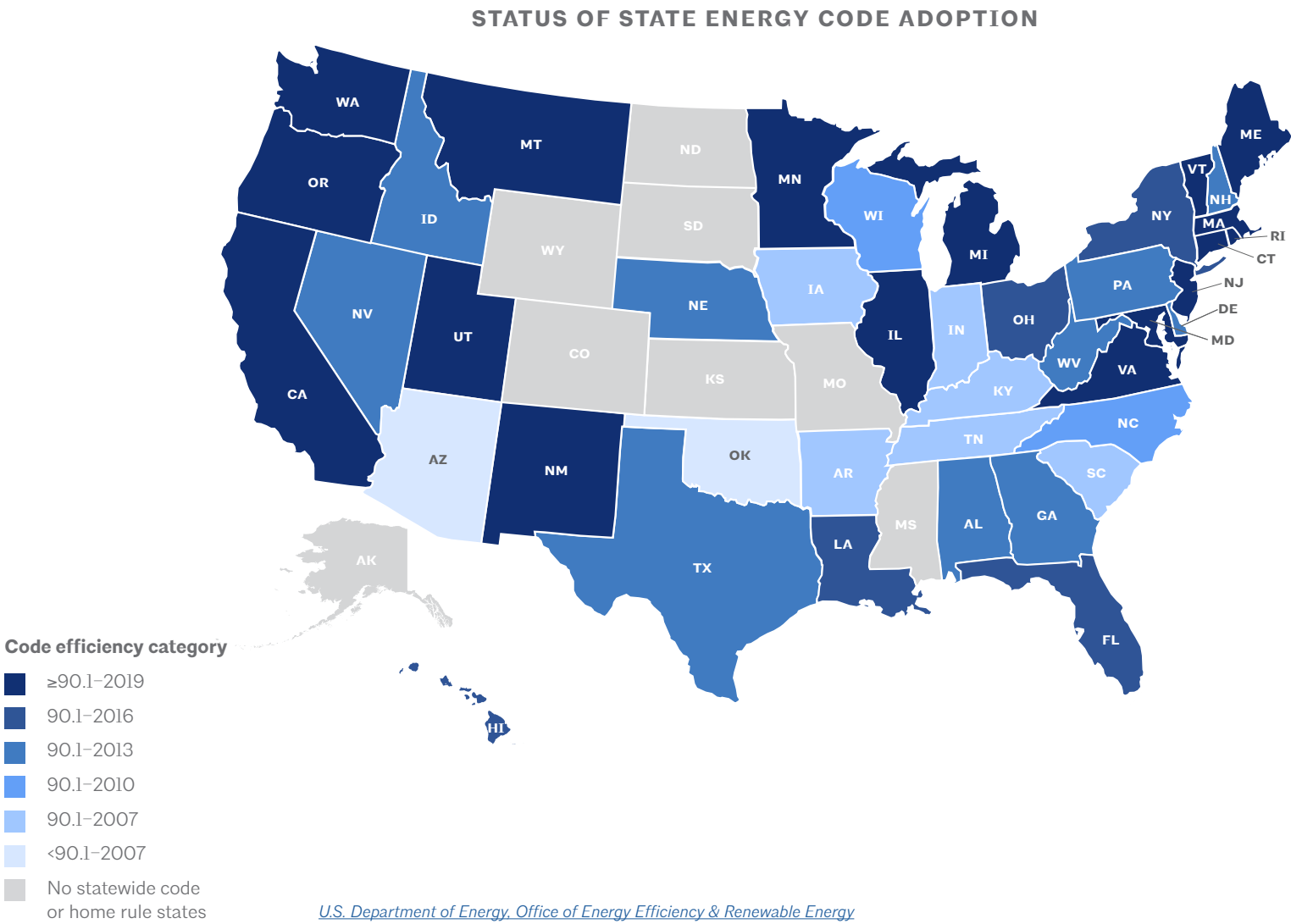
In this edition of the 2030 By the Numbers: AIA’s 2030 Commitment Reporting Year 2024 Summary, the report takes

a deeper dive into the reported data with contributions from AIA 2030 Commitment institutional partner, Architecture 2030. With momentous action needed to prevent the worst emissions scenarios, Architecture 2030 provides further insights that showcase progress in and beyond the commitment’s numbers and help guide action in both practice and policy toward the collective goals of the program.

Progress and action don’t stop at 2030. AIA and Architecture 2030 envision the milestone year of 2030 not as the beginning of the end of the commitment, but rather the end of the beginning. Over the past two decades, the priorities and objectives for our collective climate action have shifted in profound ways. AIA and its partners are actively planning for the future now. This includes evaluating current baselines, expanding embodied carbon reporting capabilities, encouraging more alternative fuel sources and renewable energy reporting, and making it easier to connect to platforms via external software. This is very much a work in progress, recognizing the urgency of safeguarding current progress while simultaneously preparing for a heavily climate-impacted future.

For projects in reporting year 2024 (RY24), there was a notable jump to a 56% pEUI reduction—the highest pEUI percent reduction in the program’s history—and a six-percentage point increase from the 50% pEUI reduction plateau experienced since 2019. This year’s data shows significant increases in both quantity and performance—a hopeful sign for signatory firms.





- A few of the factors contributing to this six-point jump in pEUI reduction include:
- **Higher performing energy codes.** 40% of whole-building gross square footage (GSF) does not have an energy model and therefore reflects the local energy code. Energy codes such as California Title-24 2022, ASHRAE 189.1-2020, and ASHRAE 90.1-2019 all exceed 50% pEUI reduction. For context, 75% of reported project square footage is commercial, 25% residential.
 - **The percentage of energy modeling** is declining slowly while also showing a large jump in pEUI reduction for modeled projects. Projects utilizing energy modeling continue to outperform non-modeled projects. In 2024, energy-modeled projects performed, on average, 7% better than non-modeled projects. However, over the past three reporting cycles, the percentage of gross square footage using energy modeling has hovered around 60%. (See page 21 for more details.)
 - **Non-U.S. based projects show** greater pEUI reduction percentages. Projects reported outside of the U.S. make up more than a third of the whole-building data, with China and Canada following the U.S. in number of reported projects and gross square footage. (See page xii for more details.)
 - **More projects are reporting** renewable energy inclusion. Compared with RY23, project square footage reporting renewables increased by 123 million square feet. (See page 26 for more details.)

2024 AT A GLANCE

56%
overall pEUI reduction.

460
companies reported data.

27/15
companies met the
80/90% predicted EUI
(pEUI) reduction target
across their entire portfolio.

41,639
projects reported.

630
whole-building projects
are predicted to be zero
net energy.

17%
of reported whole-building
GSF meets the 80% pEUI
reduction target.

80%
of reported interior-only GSF
meets the 25% predicted
lighting power density (pLPD)
reduction target.

113
countries represented.

60%
of reported whole-building GSF
has been energy modeled.

Photo by SHTTEFAN on Unsplash

OUR PATHS FORWARD

In 2024, 460 signatory firms reported over 4.4 billion gross square feet (GSF) across 41,640 projects in 113 countries through the AIA’s proprietary database, the Design Data Exchange (DDx). These projects accounted for an overall 56% predicted energy usage intensity (pEUI) reduction among whole-building projects and an overall 46% predicted lighting power density (pLPD) reduction among interior-only projects. This year’s data also demonstrates increases in the number of predicted net zero projects, renewable energy inclusion on projects, embodied carbon accounting, and specific fuel source reporting. Altogether, these improvements signify signs of progress toward reducing GHG emissions from the building sector.

AIA, its member volunteers, and its institutional partners continue to improve the DDx in response to user feedback and shifting priorities pursuant to AIA’s climate action goals and the tenets of the AIA 2030 Commitment. This past year, the DDx improvements included further alignment with the [Embodied Carbon Harmonization and Optimization](#) (ECHO) Project, collecting additional embodied carbon data aligned with the AEC industry framework provided by the ECHO reporting schema. Future DDx advancements will include final ECHO alignment through inclusion of the schema’s optional fields and continued improvements to user experience within DDx reporting pathways.

TOP 10 ENERGY CODES CITED FOR NON-MODELED WHOLE BUILDING PROJECTS

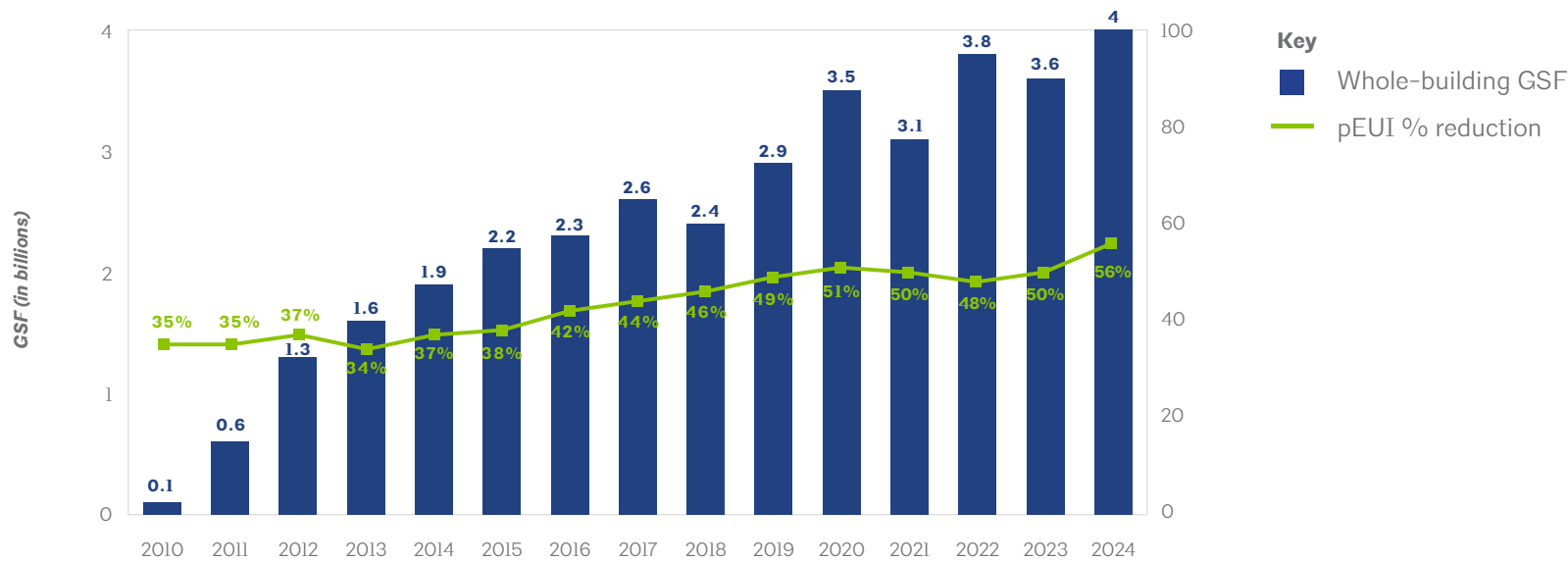
Tool	% of total Total Area	pEUI reduction %
ASHRAE 189.1-2020	12%	54%
IECC 2021	11%	50%
IECC 2018	11%	45%
IECC 2015	10%	44%
ASHRAE 90.1-2013	7%	46%
ASHRAE 90.1-2019	6%	52%
ASHRAE 90.1-2016	6%	50%
IECC 2012	6%	44%
California Title 24 2022	6%	81%
NECB 2017	5%	55%

ARCHITECTURE 2030 HIGHLIGHT
Policy drives progress: Codes drive performance

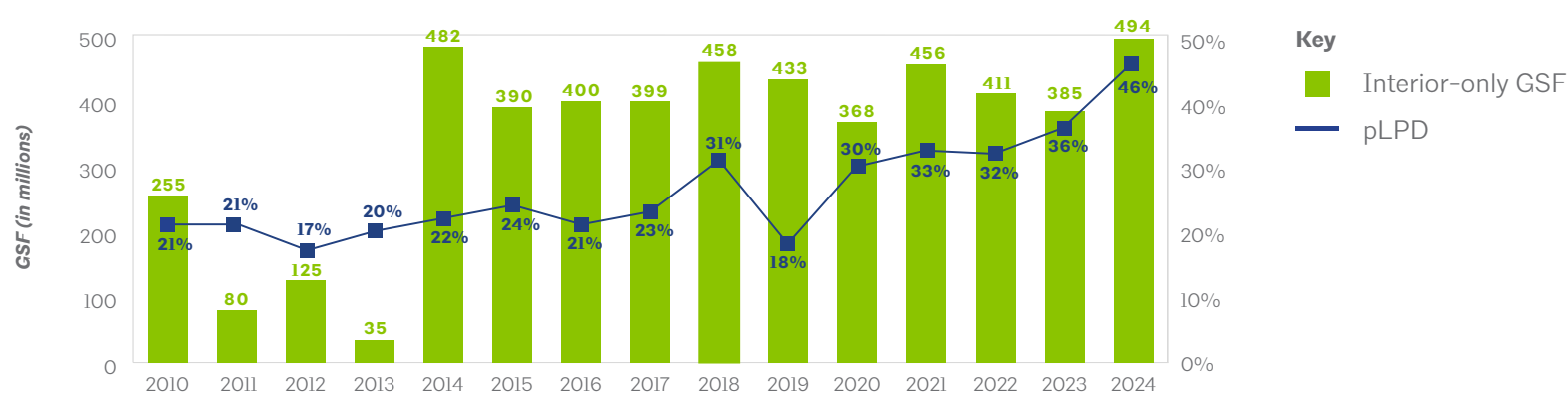
Higher-performing projects—those achieving more than a 50% pEUI reduction through efficiency measures alone (prior to renewable energy integration)—were consistently designed to meet the most stringent energy codes. Jurisdictions with advanced energy codes, such as California, Massachusetts, and Seattle, demonstrate significantly better energy performance across building typologies. To maximize efficiency, design according to the latest energy codes—even if not yet mandated in your area—and advocate for the adoption of current model codes to elevate industry standards.

FOREWORD / Our paths forward

WHOLE-BUILDING GSF & pEUI % REDUCTION



INTERIOR-ONLY GSF & PREDICTED LIGHTING POWER DENSITY (pLPD) % REDUCTION



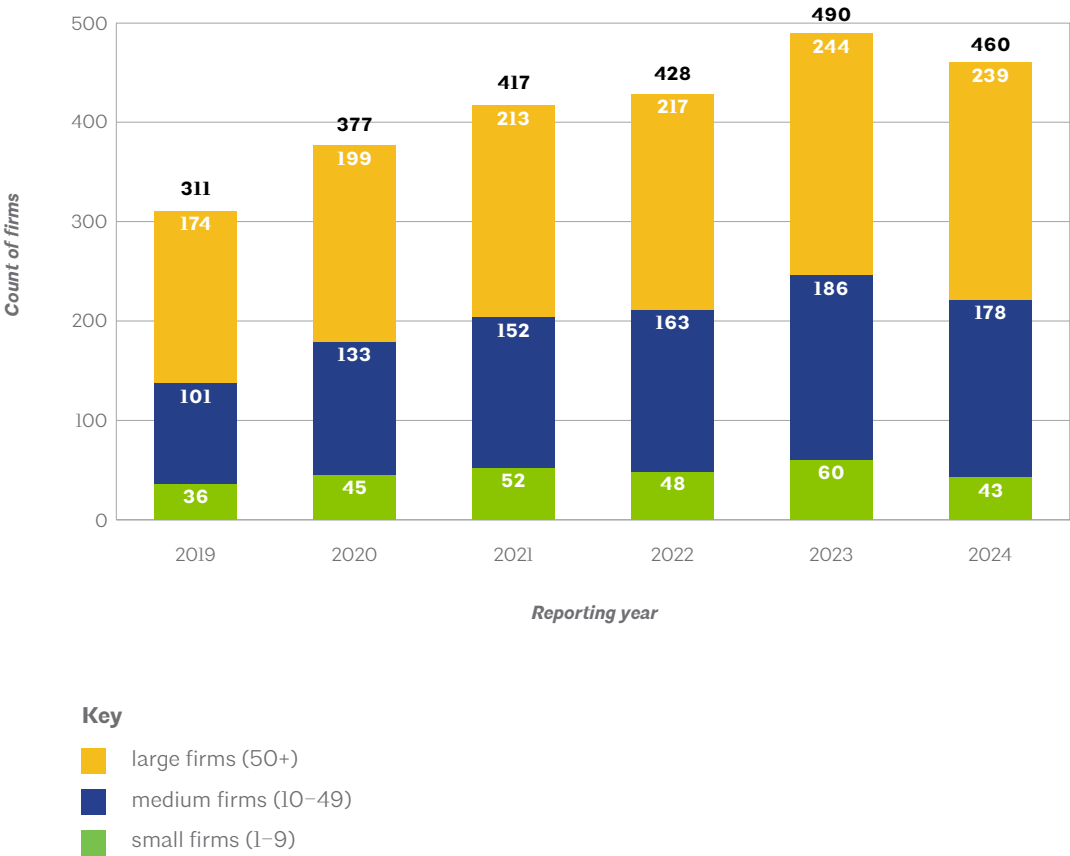
In a bid to keep this progress going, the AIA 2030 Commitment should be paired with advocacy from across the profession to proactively modify and update our codes and standards, establish building electrification policies, and support policies for renewable energy generation and procurement. By doing this, outcomes can be achieved far beyond what federal initiatives alone might accomplish. Codes and standards represent the bare minimum for compliance in construction, but they also offer a foundational lever for future building efficiency transformation. By raising these baselines via codes or policies like Building Performance Standards (BPS)—embracing stricter energy efficiency, eliminating on-site fossil fuel use, proliferating renewable energy, promoting healthier materials, and integrating more resilient design principles into the fabric of our building regulations—the profession can enact real market improvements and create tangible widespread progress toward a higher-performing built environment.

FOREWORD / Our paths forward

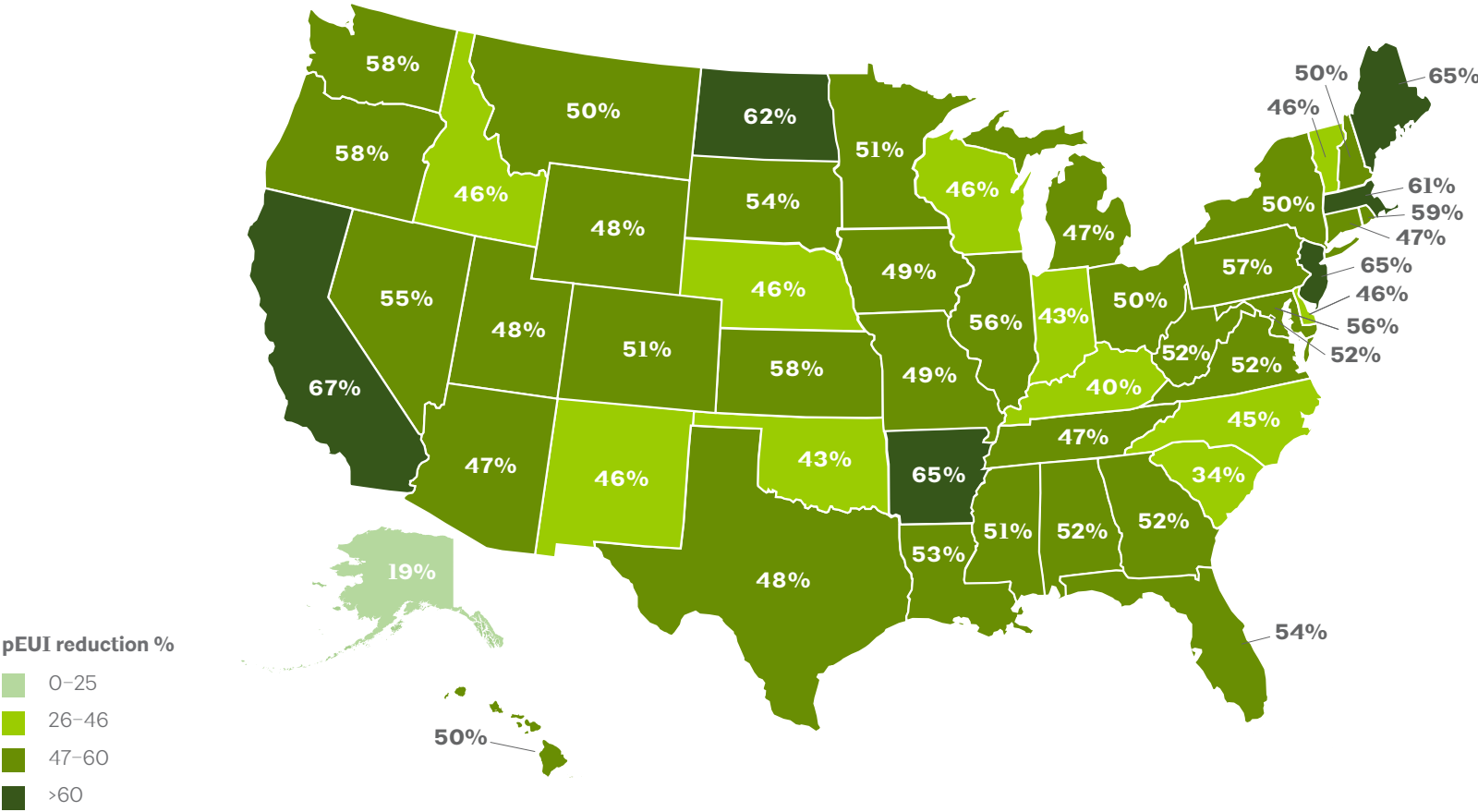
The AIA 2030 Commitment collects data and tracks progress across multiple strategies:

- **Energy modeling in every phase** of design to keep project teams focused throughout the process on passive design strategies and ambitious energy-efficiency measures;
- **Policies and codes that require** compliance energy modeling, which can take energy reduction even further;
- **Transitioning away from a need** for on-site combustion to all-electric, grid-interactive, and efficient buildings;
- **Encouraging on-site and/or off-site** renewable energy and fuel source tracking;
- **Reducing the embodied carbon** of buildings to help mitigate the GHG emissions from the extraction of raw materials, manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and disposal or recycling.

REPORTING FIRMS BY SIZE, 2019-2024

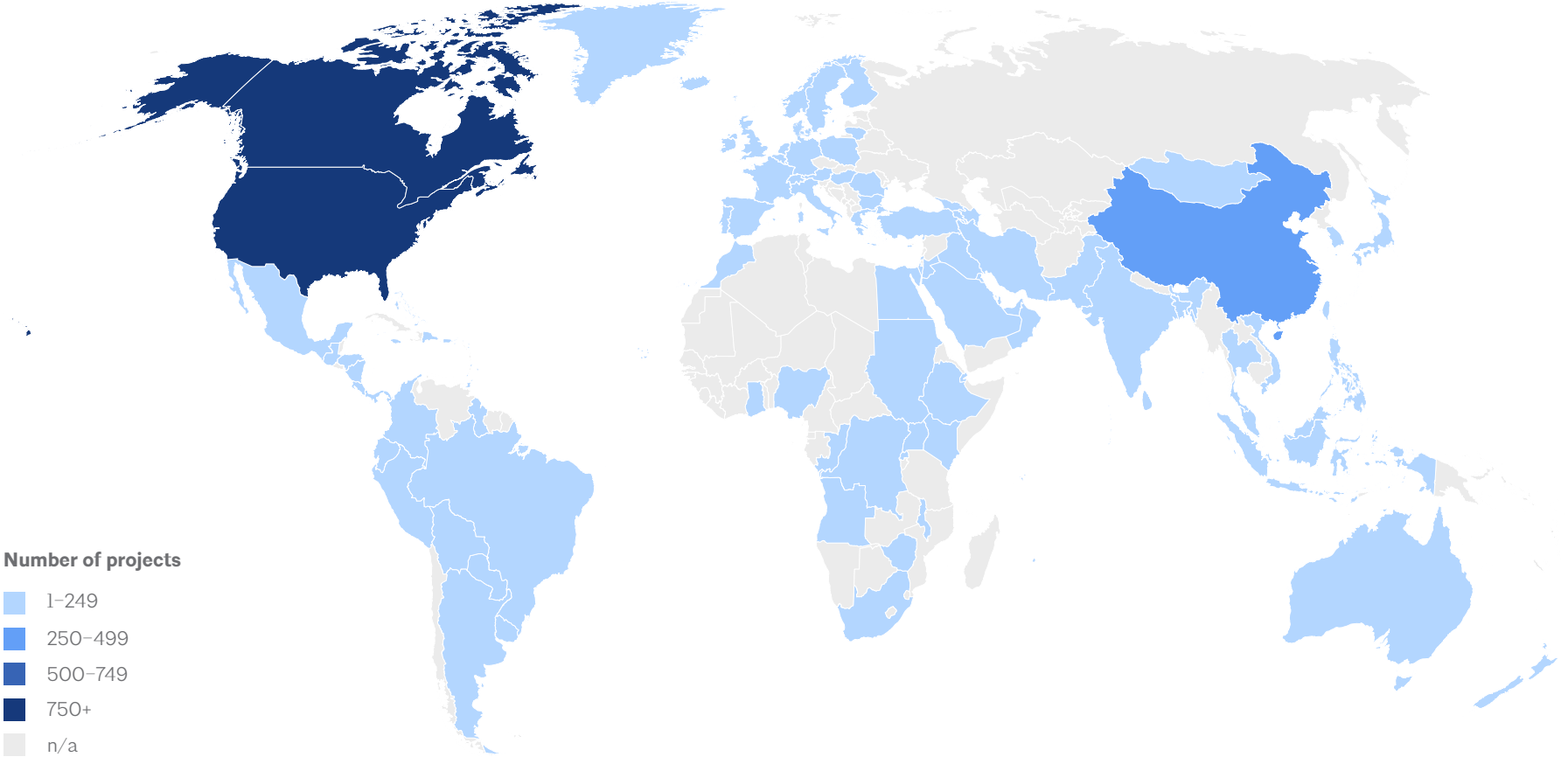


pEUI % REDUCTION BY STATE



In 2024 signatory firms reported 33,351 whole-building projects totaling 4 billion gross square feet. The US national weighted average pEUI reduction was 54%.

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT



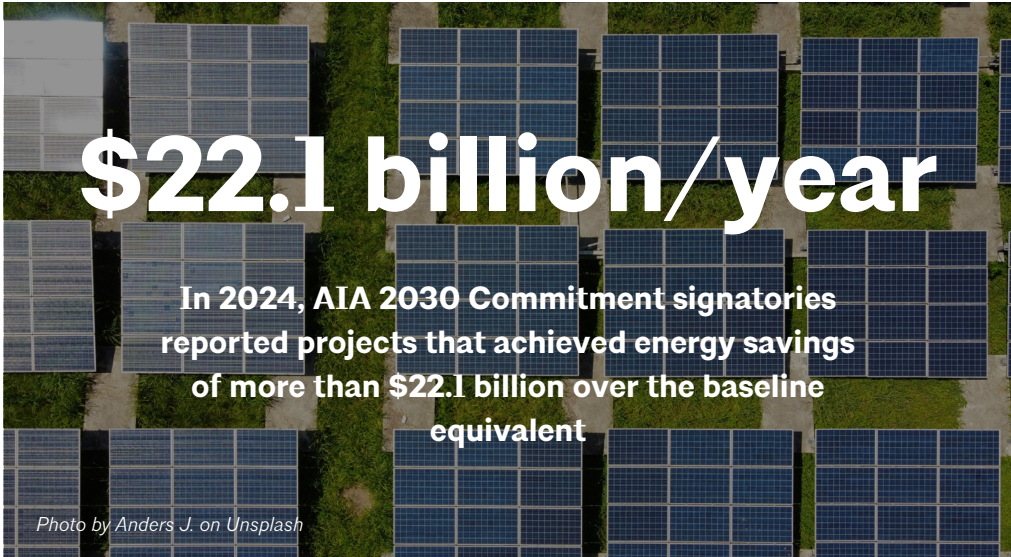
Outside of the U.S., signatory firms reported 2,274 projects totaling approximately 1.5 billion gross square feet across 113 countries.

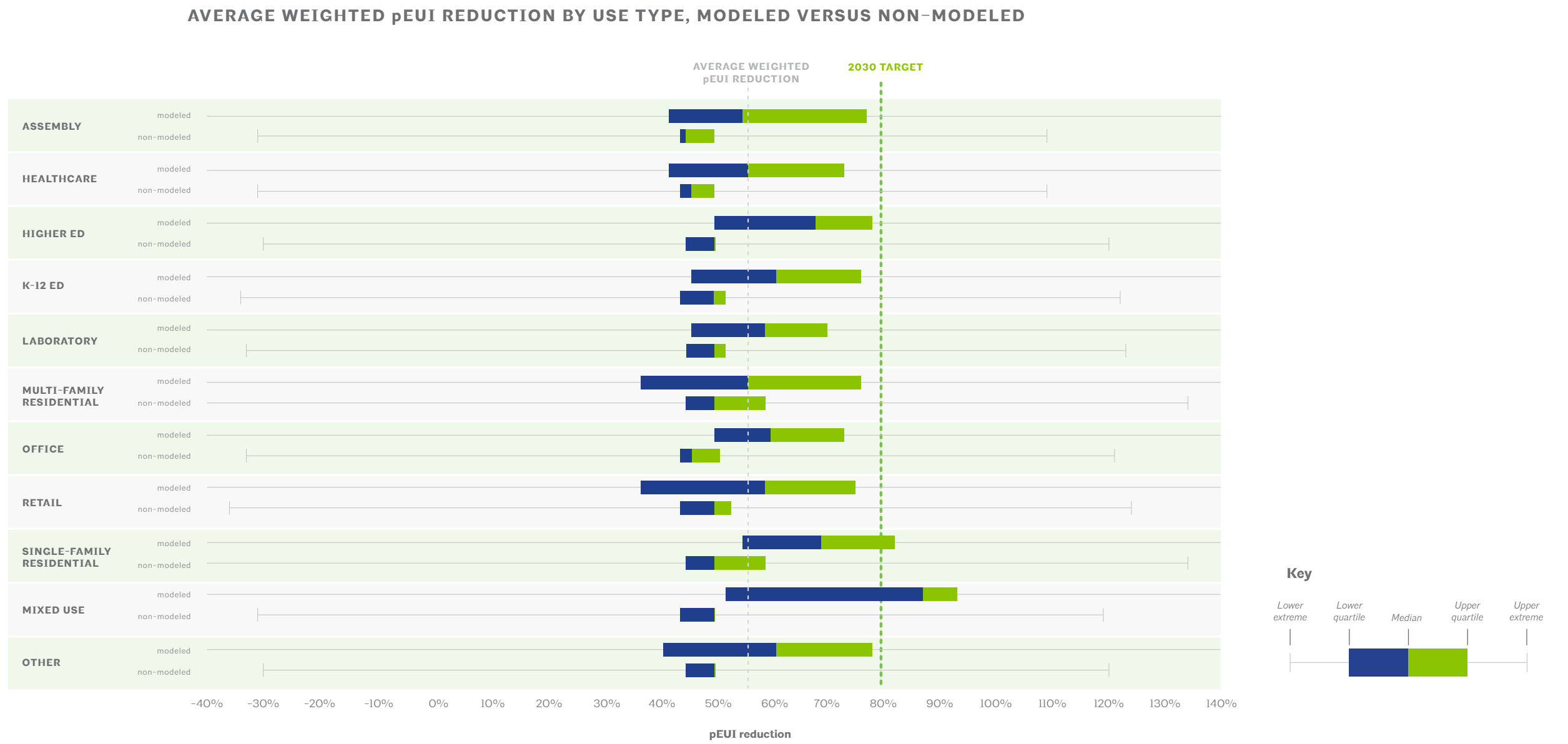
SECTION 1.

HOW 2030
SIGNATORIES
ARE MAKING
AN IMPACT

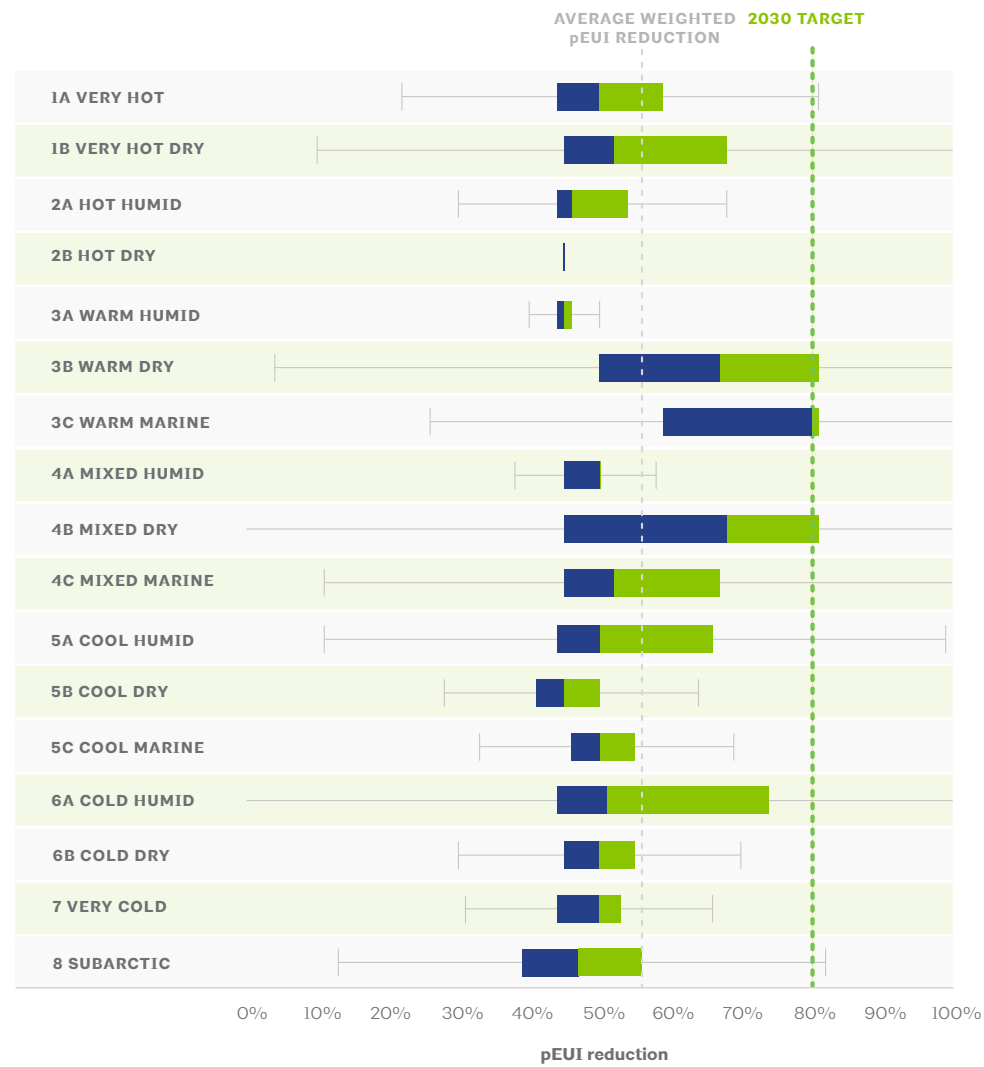


Photo by Integrated Studio

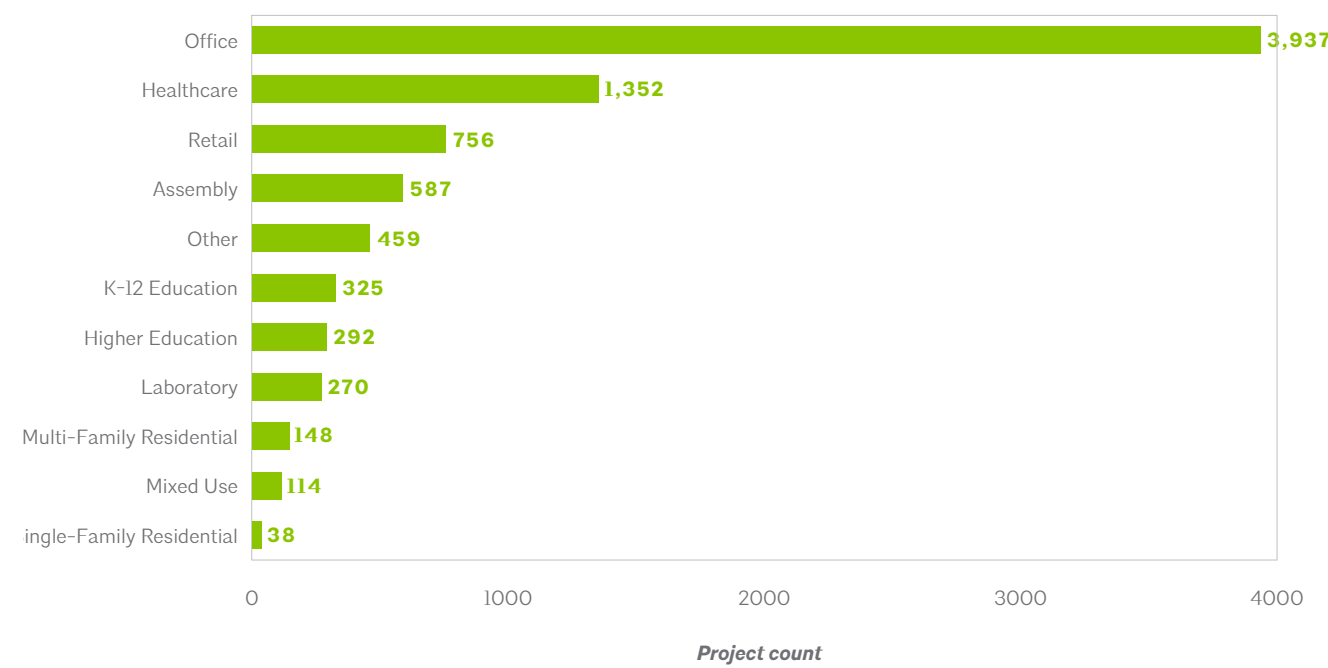




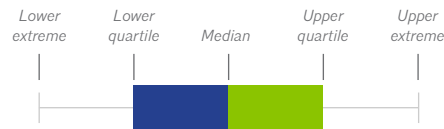
pEUI REDUCTION BY CLIMATE ZONE



INTERIORS-ONLY PROJECTS BY USE TYPE



Key



[IECC Climate Zone map](#)

SECTION 2.

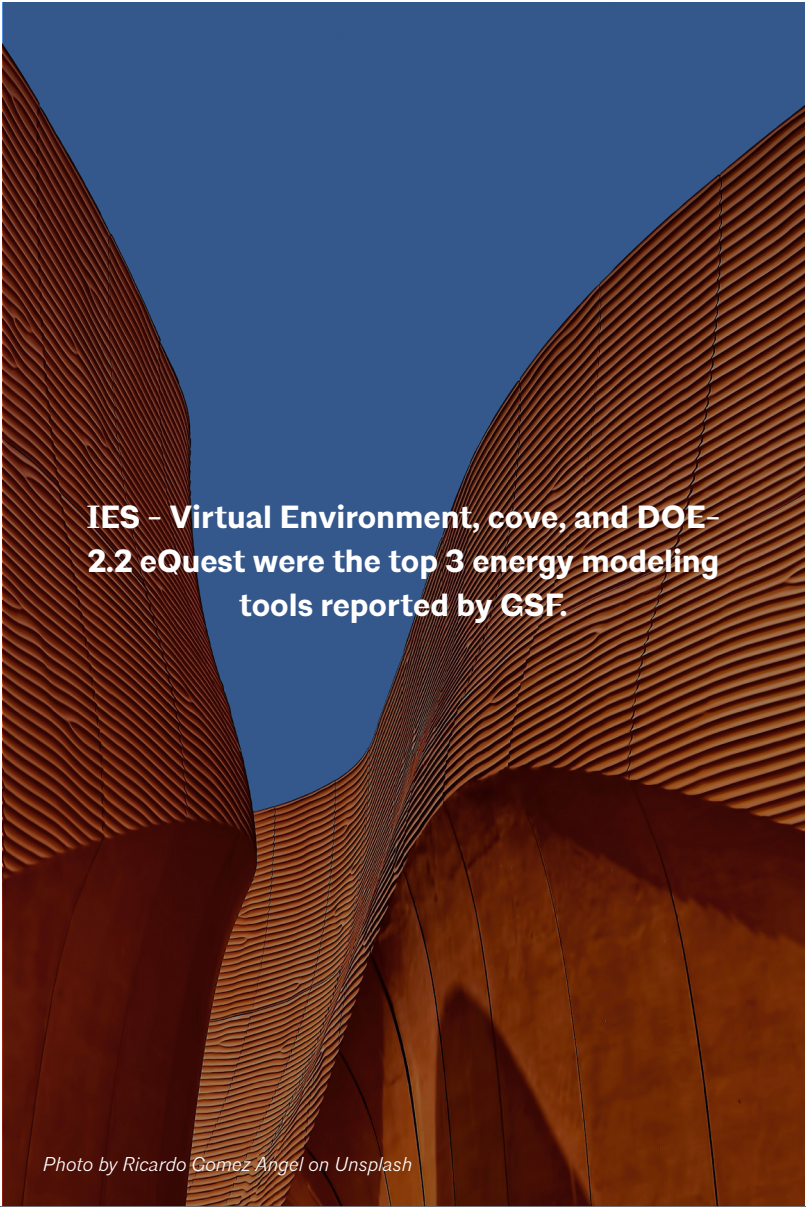
ENERGY MODEL USAGE ACROSS DESIGN PHASES



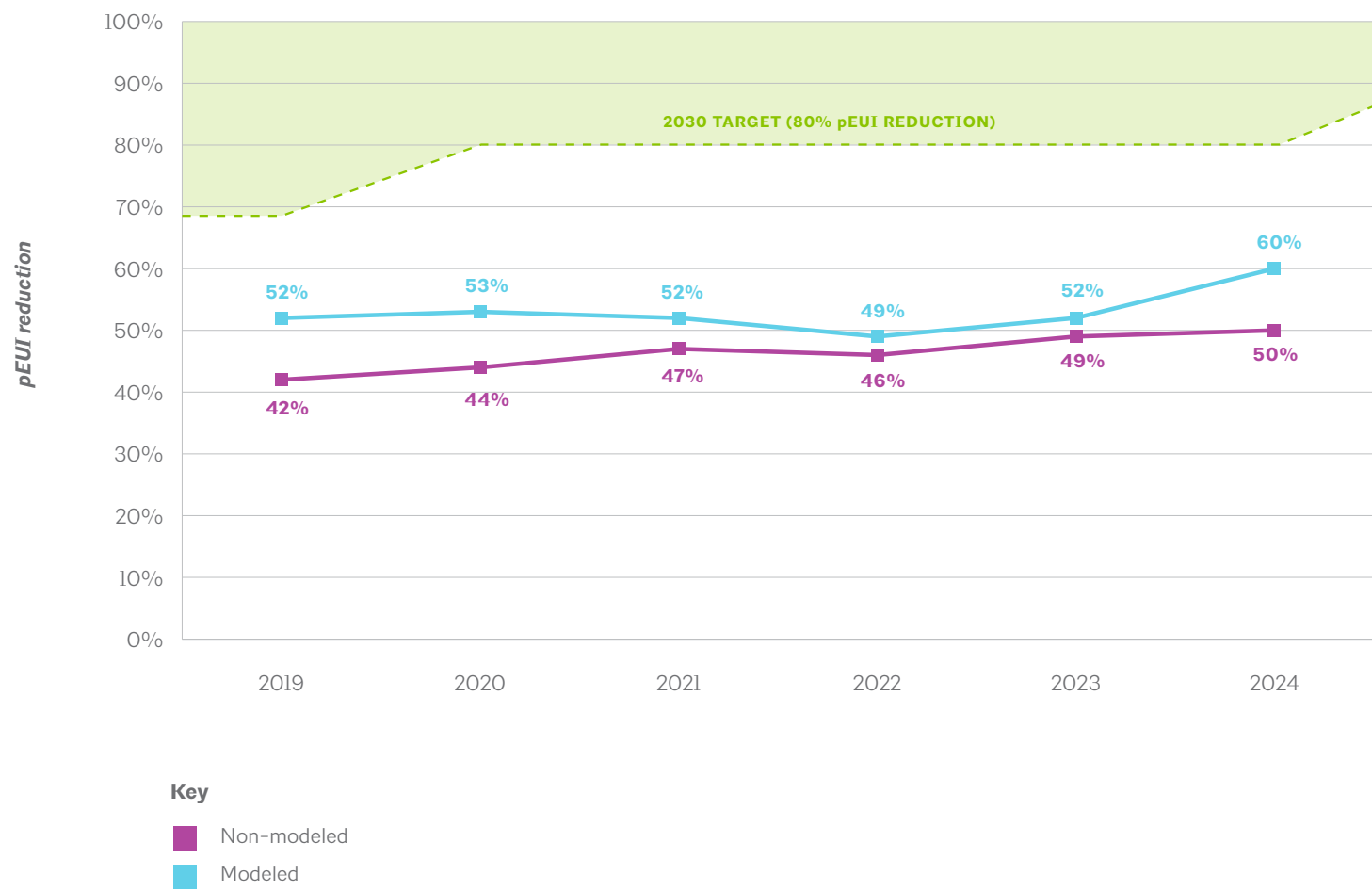
Photo by Kate Murphy, Goody Clancy

2024 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PROJECTS
REPORTING ENERGY MODELING

- **Whole-building projects** with an energy model achieved an average pEUI reduction of 60%, while whole-building projects without a model achieved an average pEUI reduction of 50%—a ten-point difference and a notable delta.
- **16,012 whole-building projects** were energy modeled, representing approximately 60% of reported whole-building GSF—just over 2.3 billion GSF. Of these projects, 2,510 also reported their fuel sources.



WHOLE-BUILDING PROJECTS
MODELED VS NON-MODELED pEUI REDUCTION



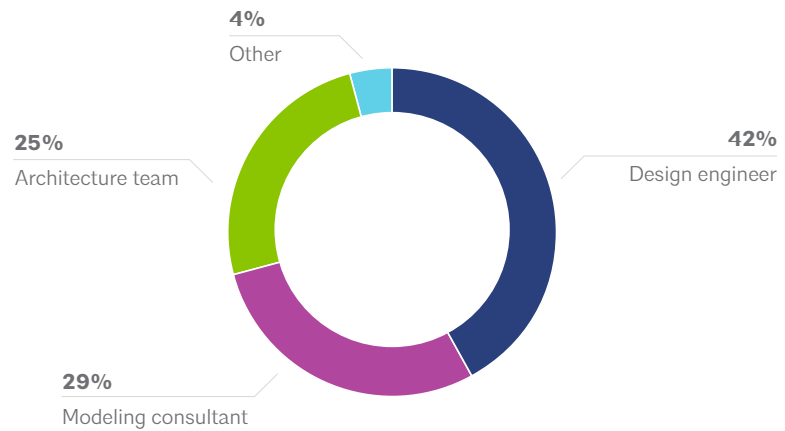
The data consistently show that modeled projects perform with higher percentage pEUI reductions. This year, non-modeled projects—driven by default code reductions—stayed relatively steady at 50% pEUI reduction, compared with a 49% pEUI reduction in RY23. In relatively stark comparison, modeled projects jumped to a 60% pEUI reduction. This difference between non-modeled and modeled projects is once again expanding, reflecting a delta of 10 points of pEUI reduction—the most reported since 2019. While higher-performing prescriptive energy codes are raising the bar for energy efficiency, and energy code prescriptive minimums have had an impact on pEUI reduction, the marked increase in performance of modeled projects goes a long way in explaining the overall six-point jump in pEUI across all whole building projects for RY24. AIA continues to be a strong advocate of energy modeling across all projects

Resources

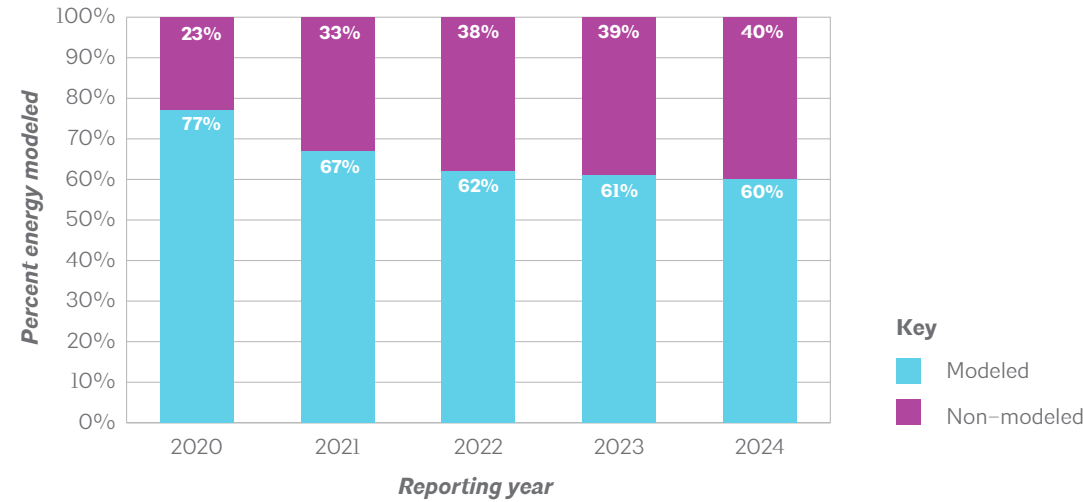
- [Architect's Guide to Building Performance](#)
- [ROI of High-Performance Design](#)
- [A Case for Energy Modeling webinar](#)

ENERGY MODEL USAGE / 2024 key takeaways for projects reporting energy modeling

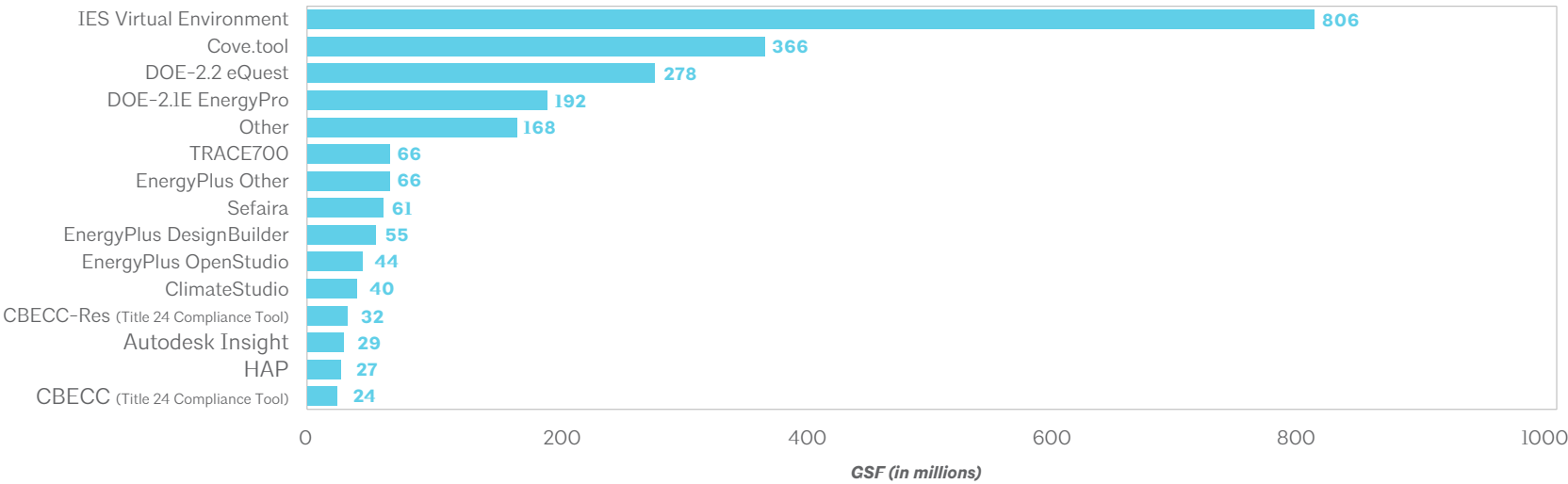
ENERGY MODELING PARTY BY % OF PROJECT AREA



PERCENT OF WHOLE-BUILDING GSF WITH ENERGY MODELS



TOP FIFTEEN ENERGY MODELING TOOLS BY WHOLE-BUILDING GSF



SECTION 3.

AN INCREASING
EMPHASIS
ON BUILDING
ELECTRIFICATION

Photo by Joseph Romeo/Courtesy Perkins Eastman

**2024 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PROJECTS
REPORTING FUEL SOURCES**

Resources

- [*EPA Power Profiler*](#)
- [*Framework for Design Excellence: Design for Energy*](#)
- [*The Building Electrification Technology Roadmap*](#)



1,558 all-electric buildings reported their fuel source—a 67% increase from 2023.

Photo by Simone Hutsch on Unsplash

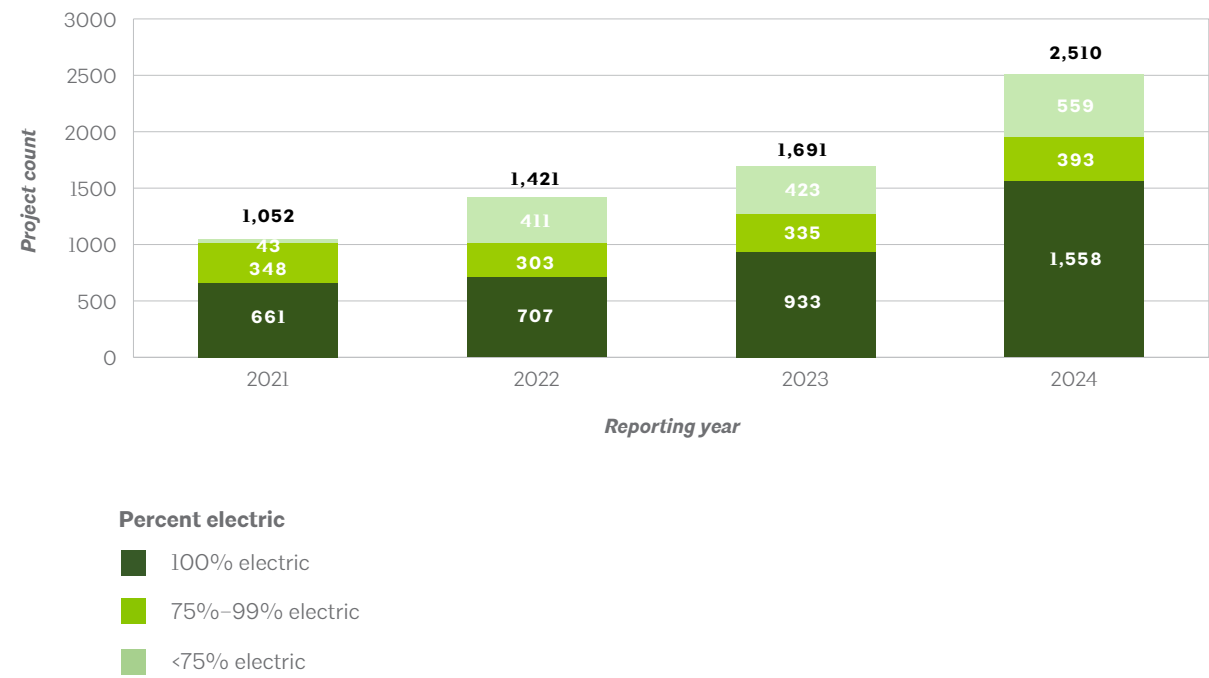


2,510 projects reported their fuel sources—an almost 50% increase from 2023. These projects now represent 11% of all reported whole-building projects and 16% of the projects that were also energy modeled.

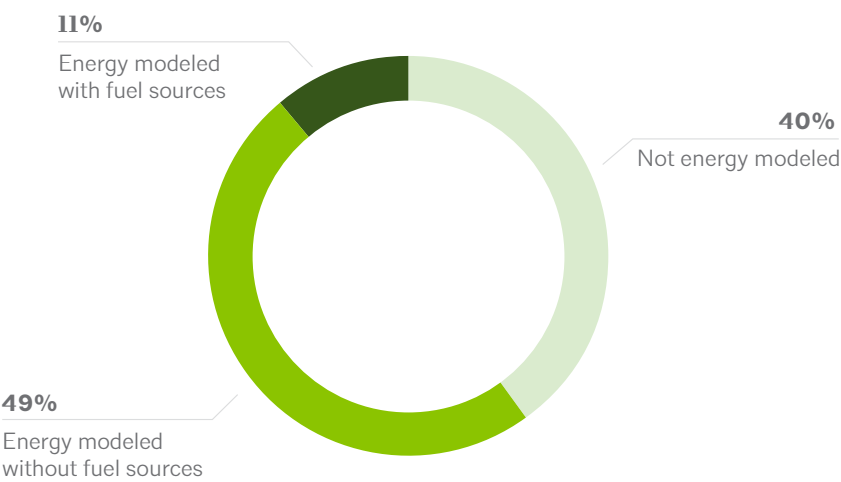
Photo by Arturo Castaneyra on Unsplash

BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION / 2024 key takeaways for projects reporting fuel sources

PROJECTS REPORTED BY FUEL SOURCE



pEUI CALCULATION METHOD USED (% WHOLE-BUILDING GSF)



SECTION 4.

USE ON-SITE
OR OFF-SITE
RENEWABLE
ENERGY



Photo by Jen Holt

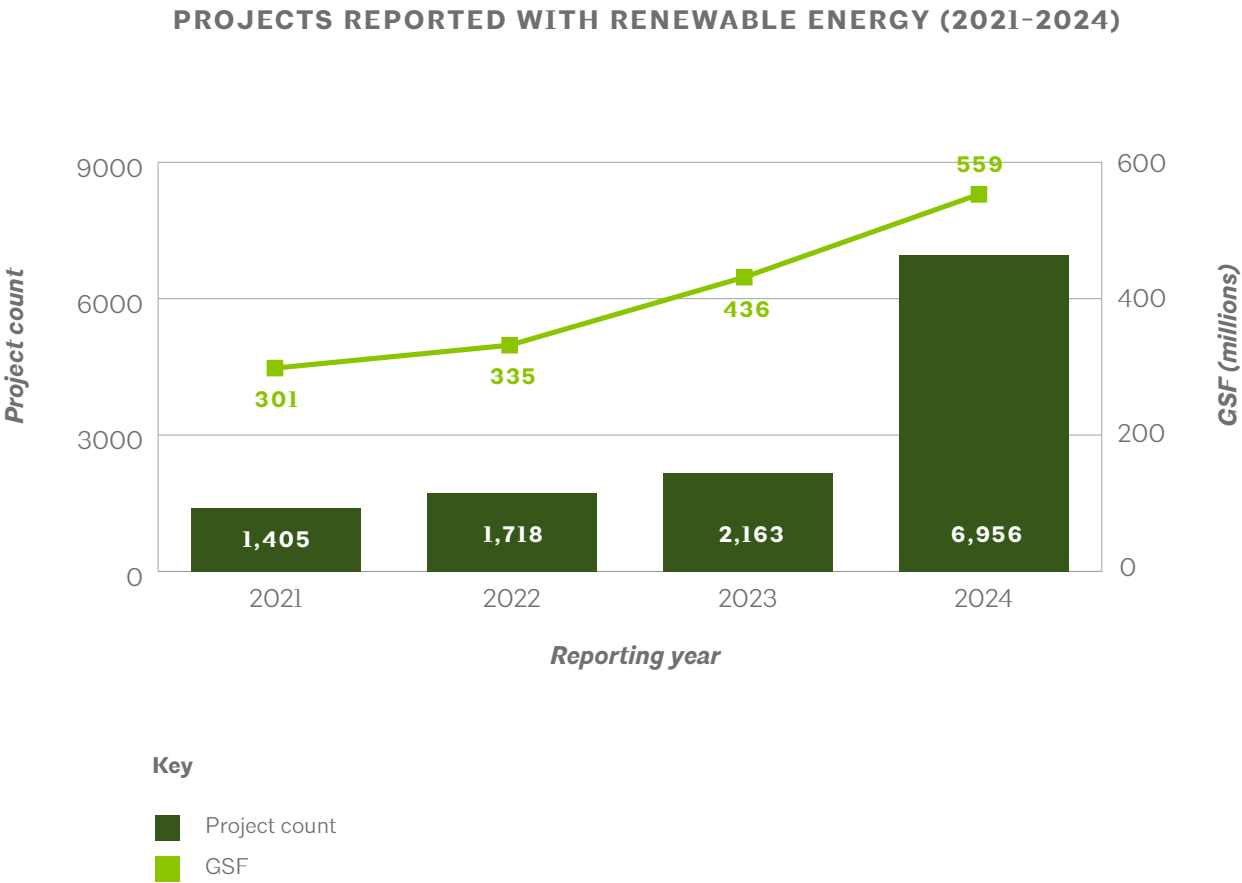
RENEWABLE ENERGY / 2024 key takeaways for projects reporting renewable energy

2024 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PROJECTS REPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

- **By total project count**, California leads, reporting 4,638 projects with renewable energy, which makes up 38% of their total reported projects.
- **Multi-family residential** and office were the top two reported use types with renewable energy by project GSF.
- **The reported pEUI reduction** of whole building projects reporting renewables is 66%, compared with the total whole building portfolio’s reduction of 56%.



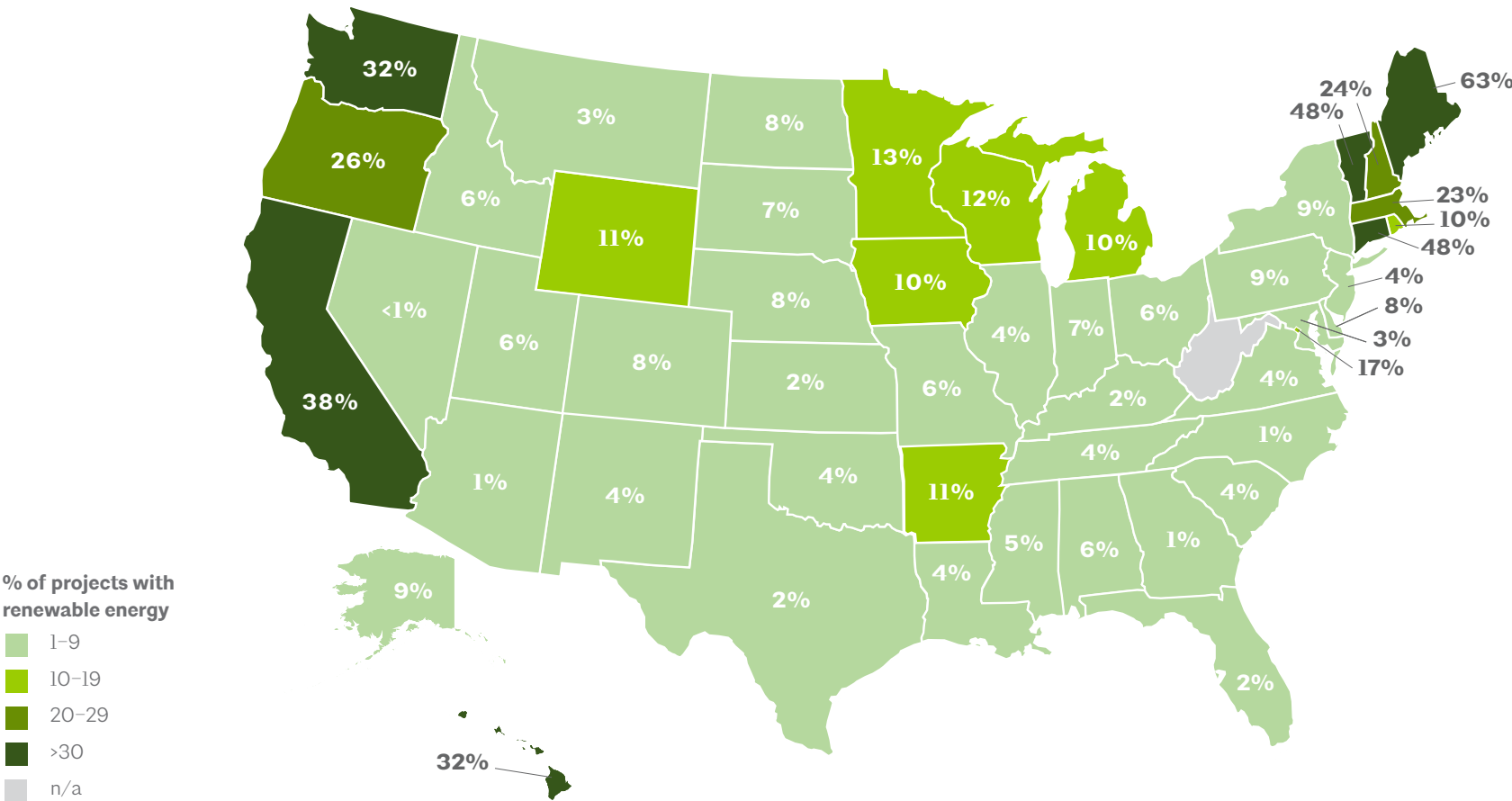
Photos (clockwise from top left): Zbynek Burival on Unsplash; Mark Merner on Unsplash; Derek Sutton on Unsplash



ARCHITECTURE 2030 HIGHLIGHT
Policy drives progress: California solar mandates

Understanding and advocating for policies that support and scale impact is a powerful emissions reduction tool. California’s Title 24 requires most newly constructed residential buildings (including single-family and multifamily up to three stories) to incorporate solar PV systems, boosting the performance of California’s already highly efficient energy code. The impact is reflected in the data: Signatory firms reported over 12,000 California projects with on-site solar in 2024, more than four times the number reported in the next highest state. Notably, 72% of these projects are single- and multifamily residential, with an average pEUI reduction of 72% and 65%, respectively—13% and 11% above 2030 Commitment reported averages.

PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROJECTS WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY BY U.S. STATE



ARCHITECTURE 2030 HIGHLIGHT
The last mile problem: Renewables take us the rest of the way

Energy efficiency is the architect’s primary lever for operational energy and emissions reductions. However, even the most efficient buildings require some energy to operate, making it impossible to fully decarbonize through efficiency alone. To meet 2030 Commitment targets, integrating on-site and/or off-site renewable energy is required. Allocate resources strategically: First, optimize efficiency, then add renewables to reach the targets. Every project that met current 2030 Commitment targets and/or achieved net-zero performance incorporated renewables.

Resources

[Architect’s Primer on Renewable Energy](#)

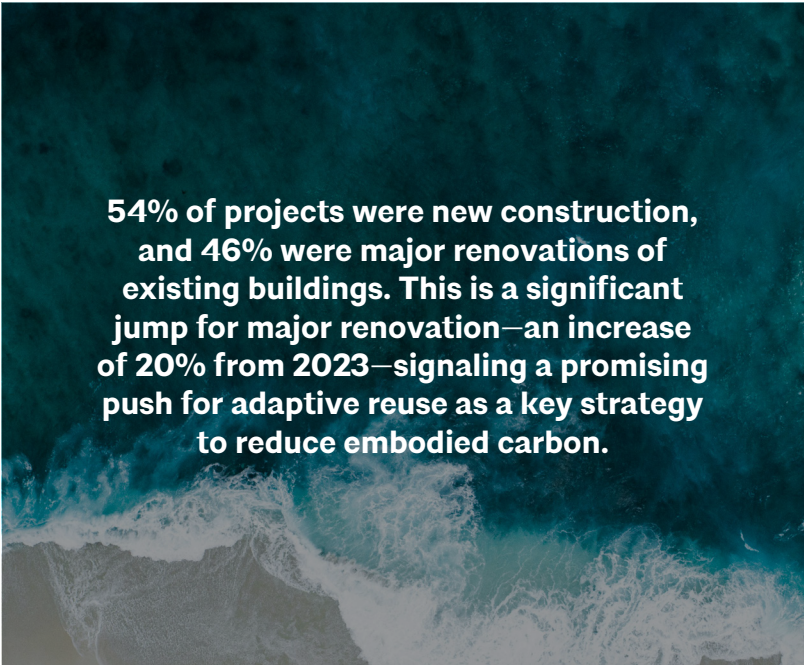
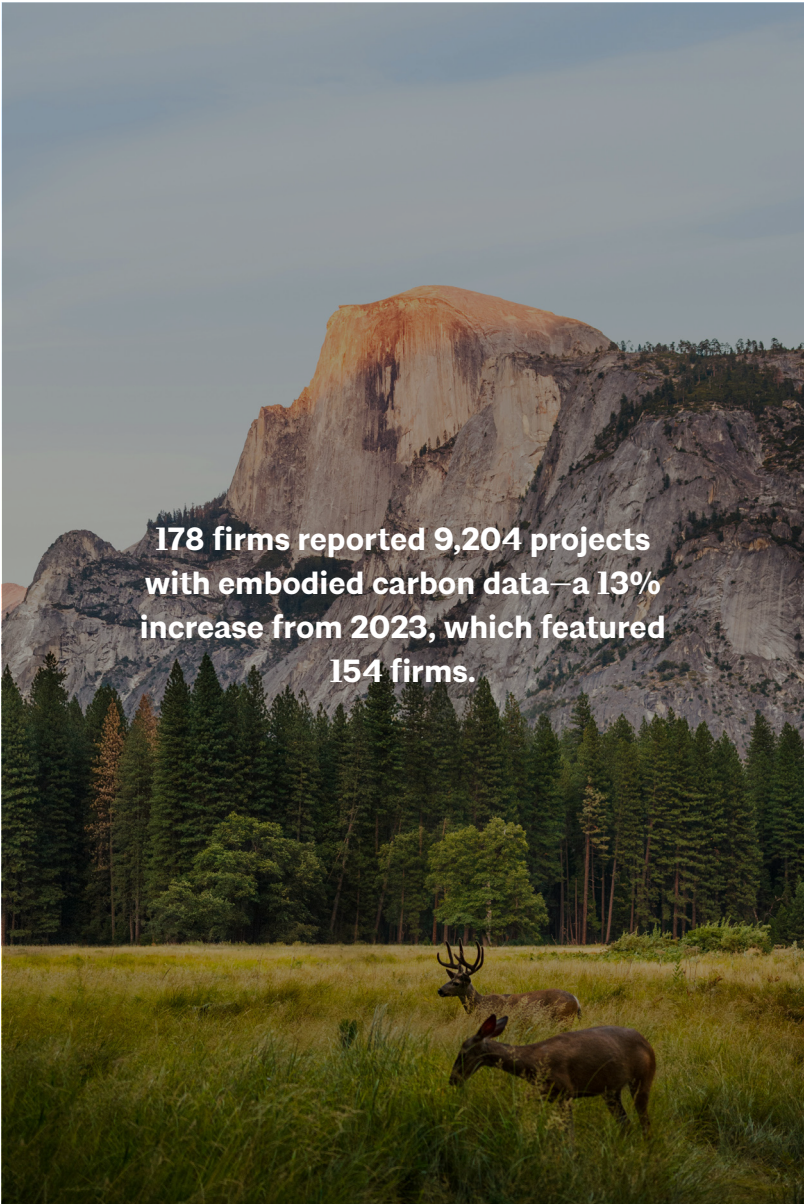
[ROI of High-Performance Design: Reducing operational costs](#)

SECTION 5.

TRACKING
AND IMPROVING
THE EMBODIED
CARBON IN
BUILDINGS



Photo by Dror Baldinger, FAIA

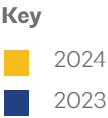
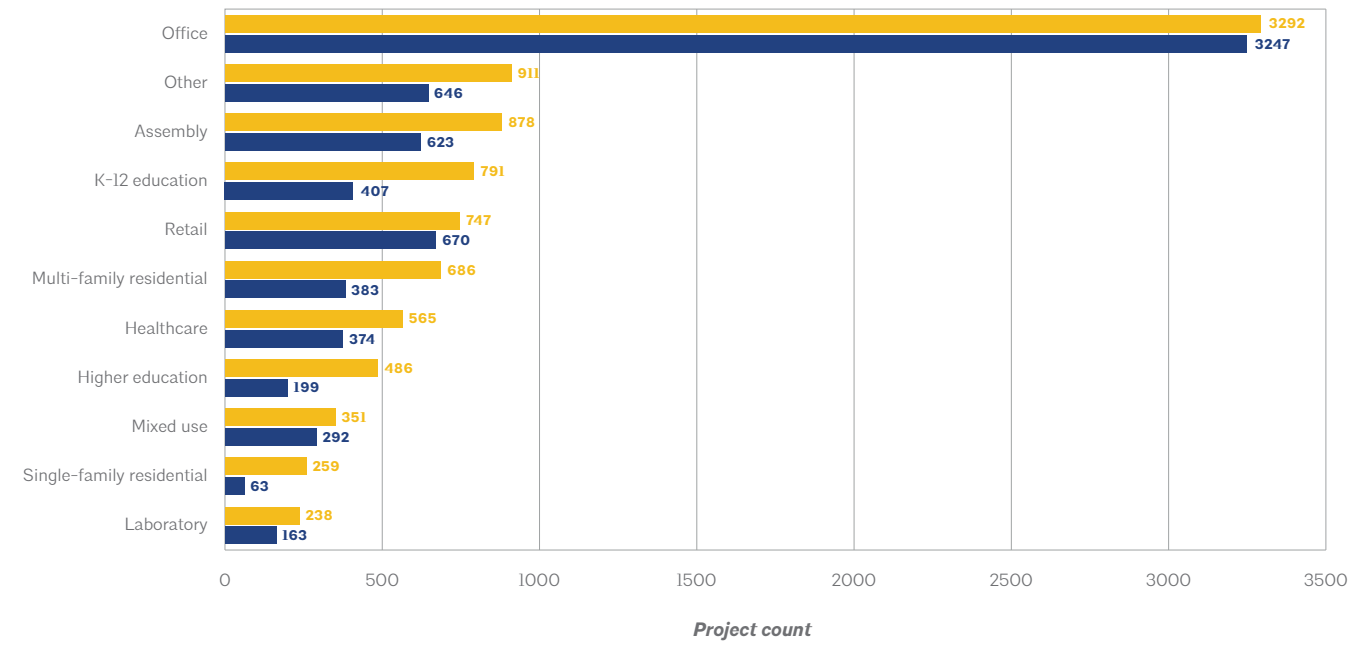


2024 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PROJECTS REPORTING EMBODIED CARBON

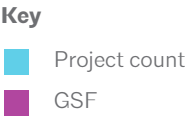
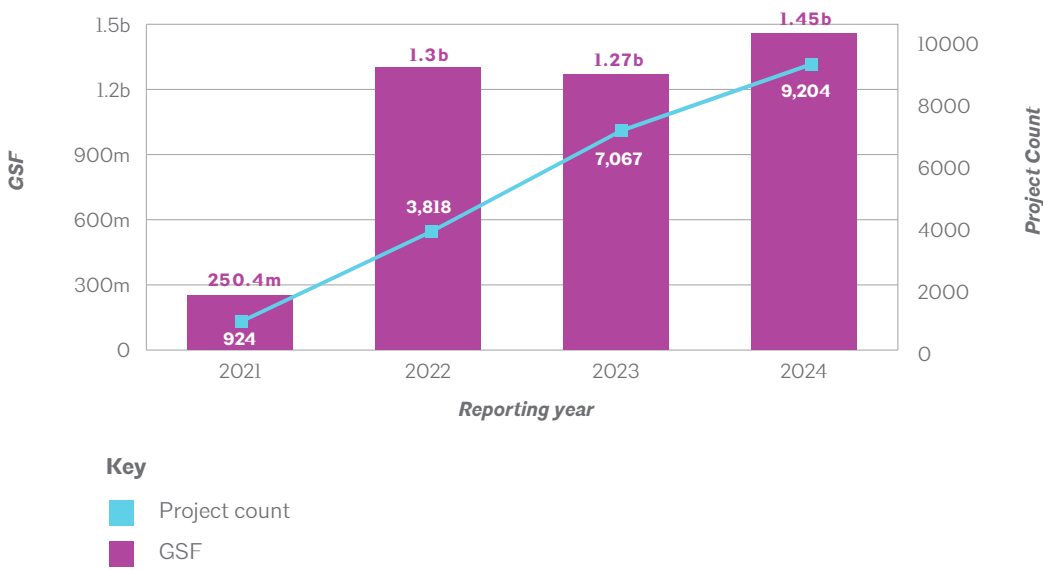
- **Reported projects totaled** a little over 1.4 billion GSF, or 31% of total reported GSF.
- **Tally, OneClick, and c.scale** were the top 3 reported embodied carbon tools by project gross square footage.
- **Office and mixed use** were the top two use types by project GSF.

Photos (clockwise from top left): Johannes Anderson on Unsplash; Shifaaz Shamoon on Unsplash; Derek Sutton on Unsplash

REPORTED EMBODIED CARBON PROJECT COUNT BY USE TYPE



PROJECTS REPORTED WITH EMBODIED CARBON



NUMBER OF PROJECTS REPORTED BY EMBODIED CARBON CALCULATION TOOL

Tool	2023		2024	
	GSF (millions)	Project count	GSF (millions)	Project count
Tally	1b	5,667	987m	5,774
c.scale	22m	168	75m	988
OneClick LCA	64m	268	190m	851
Build Carbon Neutral	28m	382	41m	415
cove.tool	5m	41	43m	398
Other	124m	379	80m	292
BEAM	0.3m	32	1.3m	135
CARE Tool	4m	37	12.6m	129
Autodesk Insight	.2m	2	5.5m	96
Athena	6m	26	5.6m	56
EC3	3m	29	9.9m	37
TallyCAT	3m	22	3.5m	17
ECOM	.5m	8	1m	9
Beacon	0	0	.05m	4
eTool	.5m	6	.26m	3
Total	1.27 billion	7,067	1.4 billion	9,204

Resources

- [AIA-CLF Embodied Carbon Toolkit for Architects](#)
- [SE2050 Design Guidance for Reducing Embodied Carbon in Structural Systems](#)
- [The Beginner’s Guide to MEP Embodied Carbon](#)
- [What’s Old Is New: The Business Case for Adaptive Reuse](#)
- [2025 CLF Material Baselines and 2025 CLF Embodied Carbon Benchmark Report](#)
- [CLF Generic Reporting Template for Building LCA Results](#)
- [Carbon Avoided Retrofit Estimator \(CARE\) tool](#)

SECTION 6.

CASE STUDIES

Photo by Joe Fletcher

AYERS SAINT GROSS NC.

Building on a rich 113-year history, Ayers Saint Gross is a large firm with offices in the city of its founding, Baltimore, Maryland, as well as Washington, D.C., and Tempe, Arizona. The firm is JUST-certified, a member of AIA’s Large Firm Roundtable, and a multiyear COTE® Top Ten Award winner. A 2030 Commitment signatory for almost 15 years, the firm has streamlined and fully operationalized its 2030 reporting and expanded to include AIA A&D [Materials Pledge reporting](#). Sustainability is a core tenet of the firm’s approach to every project, with the following mission statements capturing their approach:

- Design for high performance
- Support the human experience
- Materials matter
- Landscape and plant life lend a hand
- Consider the global impact
- Change behaviors

Ayers Saint Gross has committed to not only improving performance in external project work, but also to tracking and improving data around internal office energy usage, staff commuting practices, business travel, and healthy office material procurement. Every year, the firm celebrates Earth Day with an additional effort called “Green Week.” This allows for internal sharing of best practices and new processes, but also allows for external speakers to come in and share their knowledge about operational and embodied carbon, human

health, and material selection. They also use the week as an annual check-in on progress towards the firm’s Sustainability Action Plan (SAP). They highlight examples of their successes in their project narratives and on their website, sharing that their work at Bryant University’s Business Entrepreneurship Leadership Center provides an opportunity to integrate salvaged and reused materials, resulting in substantial embodied carbon savings and cost savings on materials and construction labor.

As sustainability director, Allison Wilson is responsible for submitting annual data to the 2030 Commitment, but she notes, “it takes conversations and coordination with a variety of project managers, principals, and outside collaborators to assemble and verify our data.” Every year the firm aims to report 30–50 projects using reports generated from VantagePoint to understand which projects are applicable. From there, they have developed a proprietary spreadsheet to collect data from project teams, including all architecture and interiors projects that are between schematic design and construction documents throughout the year. They have been able to use the firm’s longstanding commitment to 2030 reporting to also institute mid-year check-ins with teams about projected data for the coming year, and use this as an inflection point to take steps to increase energy modeling adoption and have honest conversations about building performance. From there, teams assemble firmwide reporting

data into an online project dashboard that allows for the mapping of modeled performance across projects. This dashboard allows for internal benchmarking for new work, leveraging past experiences in the same climate zone and project use type.

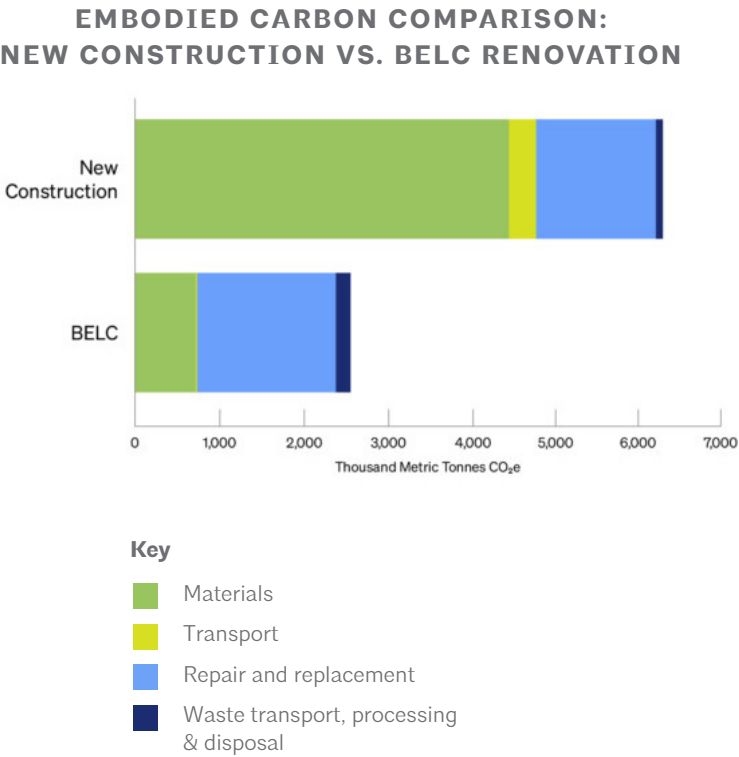


Image Credit: Ayers Saint Gross



Photo by Tom Holdsworth

AVERAGE EUI REDUCTION/YEAR (INCLUDES ALL SUBMISSIONS)

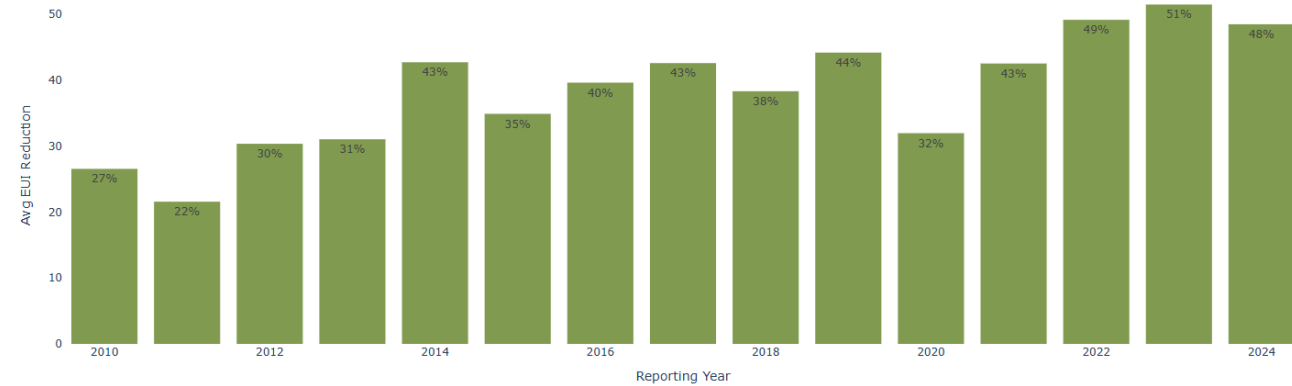


Image Credit: Ayers Saint Gross

“Over time, as the 2030 Commitment has amassed a larger dataset, it has become clearer how codes, standards, design decisions, client choices, and cleaner energy systems must work in concert to reach the full potential of the healthier, decarbonized built environment the initial program envisioned.”

—Allison Wilson, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Sustainability Director, Ayers Saint Gross

CASE STUDIES / Firm Case Study

VMDO

Founded in 1976 and hosting offices in Charlottesville, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., VMDO is a JUST-certified medium-sized firm with outsized influence in the world of high-performance design. The firm has won multiple COTE Top Ten Awards and believes in the power of design to do the greatest good for a place and its people, and considers sustainability a fundamental driver of their work, design process, and culture. VMDO has been a 2030 reporting signatory for 8 years and is transparent about the struggles and successes it has faced along the way. As firm principal and director of sustainability and inclusion, Michelle Amt explains, “2030 is just a number. We are focused on improving performance on every project, at every scale, from here on out, regardless of the date.”

The performance and emissions improvement goals of the 2030 Commitment are more than just an abstract goal for the firm; they are used as active accountability tools and guiding principles. The first year VMDO endeavored to report was a steep learning curve—there was an initial perceived victory followed by the reality of default reductions aligned with existing building codes. But the firm took this opportunity as a chance to educate themselves on better practices and increased carbon literacy. Michelle Amt maintains a public blog about the firm’s progress in the [“Way of Absolute Candor”](#) and summarized her thoughts into the following tenets earlier this year:

- **Accountability is success.** Data transparency is the only way we are going to learn from each other, and it is the best way to hold ourselves accountable. We should all be publishing our data whenever possible.
- **Carbon is king.** Energy reduction is only the first step in the journey. We need to look at our work in terms of emissions, not energy bills.
- **We all get an A for effort.** Not every project is going to hit the 2030 target; it does not mean we should not try. Missing the target on a project is not a failure, as long as you (and other team members) take the lessons from each project and apply them to the next one.
- **If you commit (and report), decarbonization will come.** Signing on to the 2030 Commitment has revolutionized how VMDO practices. If you have not signed on, you should. At VMDO, the Commitment gave the sustainability team the leverage to change how we work and created a common language for discussing project performance/success.

VMDO largely relies on the DDx’s report functionality but also tracks their own progress via internal spreadsheets, as well as using public Tableau dashboards. The firm tracks data by use type and details lessons learned from high-performing projects for internal education. They also include predicted Energy Usage Intensity (pEUI) reduction on public project

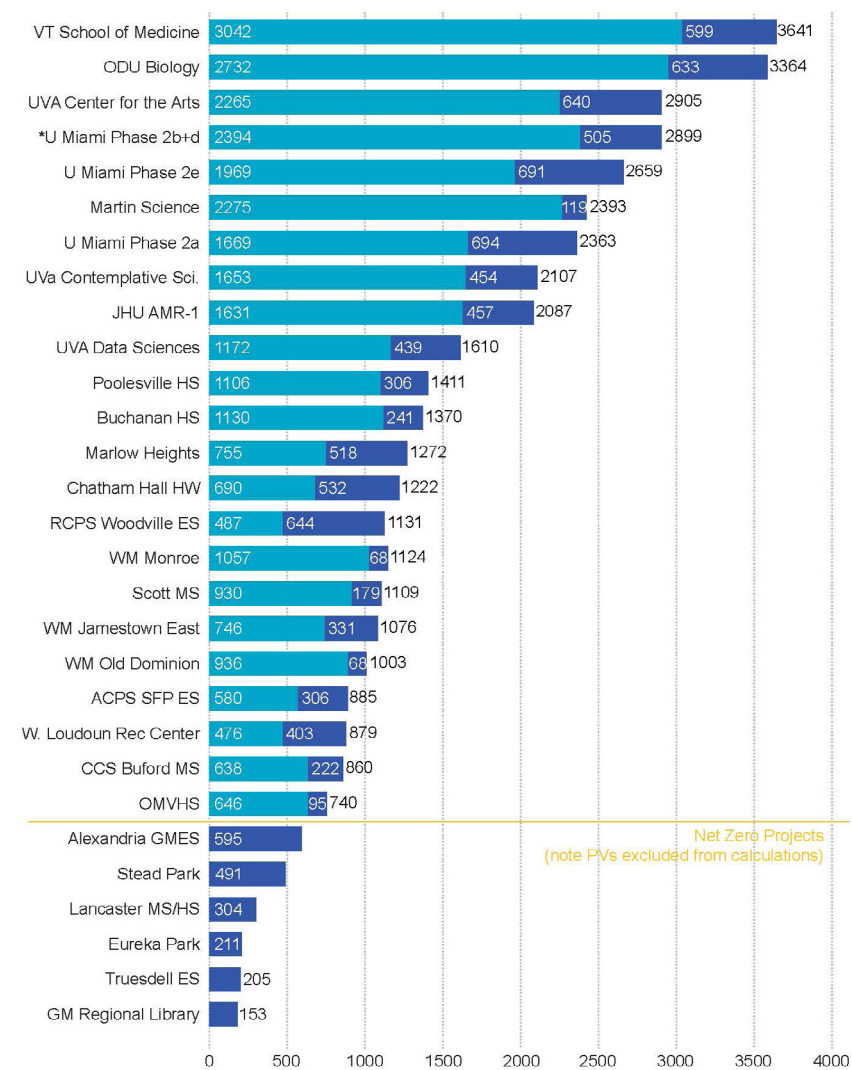


Photo by Alan Karchmer

CASE STUDIES / Firm Case Study

pages. The firm programs regular lunch-and-learns with staff subject matter experts on operational and embodied carbon to share knowledge and crowdsource solutions. The firm spent 2024 educating themselves about carbon using LMN’s Path to Zero Carbon series, standardizing workflows and scopes around how and when VMDO measures upfront carbon, establishing internal benchmarks, and participating in c.scale’s beta tool testing group. Beyond using the DDX for reporting and visualization needs, they rely on the AIA Framework for Design Excellence as a conversation starter with clients and the public about what successful design can entail.

30 YEAR TOTAL CARBON INTENSITY (kgCO2e/m2)



“We just went through the process of creating a firm vision, mission, and values statement, and a strategic plan. Stewardship/sustainability show up in all of these, and specific sections of our strategic plan focus on carbon emissions, aligned with the 2030 Commitment. We have also incorporated the AIA Framework for Design Excellence as the vehicle for talking about what makes a good design.”

—Michelle Amt, FAIA, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, Director of Sustainability and Inclusion & Firm Principal, VMDO

Key

Operational

Embodied

Image Credit: VMDO

CASE STUDIES / Firm Case Study

FELDMAN ARCHITECTURE

A San Francisco-based, medium-sized architecture firm, Feldman Architecture was founded by Jonathan Feldman, FAIA, LEED AP, in 2003. The firm achieved JUST certification in 2024 and focuses on residential, commercial, and interiors projects with sustainability concepts at the core of all their work. In 2024, the firm’s portfolio came in at an overall predicted 99.87% pEUI (predicted energy use intensity) reduction, exceeding the 2030 Commitment goal of 80%. Additionally, in 2023, Feldman Architecture established an office-wide [carbon budget](#) for residential projects of 100 metric tons, and built an internal dashboard to track and measure each project’s predicted carbon emissions from design through post-occupancy.

The firm “believes in creating lasting architecture that incorporates environmentally and ethically responsible design. At each project’s inception, we outline a carbon budget and climate action goals that are developed and carried out through each phase of the construction and design process.” They began to consider signing onto the 2030 Commitment in 2014, which led them to invest internal resources in both staff education and the creation of both a Sustainability Committee and their Sustainability Action Plan. They signed on as signatories in 2016 and have been reporting ever since. In 2021, energy modeling became the responsibility of all project teams and is now handled in-house. These steps have led to Feldman

Architecture’s ability to exceed the reporting year 2024 goal of 80% pEUI reduction. They use their signatory status to help hold themselves accountable and ensure that there continues to be action behind their words.

While DDx data reporting is the responsibility of the in-house sustainability manager, dispersing energy modeling throughout project teams has embedded high-performance design concepts across the firm. They have developed internal guides, forms, and spreadsheets to ease data reporting and also rely on tools such as Climate Studio for energy modeling and Tally for embodied carbon assessments. As a firm that does much work in California, they benefit from progressive energy codes and submit energy reports for all Title-24 projects for permitting. For projects outside of California, they report all ground-up projects as well as all remodels with alterations and additions to the building envelope.



Photo by Matthew Millman

CASE STUDIES / Firm Case Study

“Building upon the successes of our past efforts, we aspire to be working towards accomplishing more ambitious goals that we have to set for ourselves, with fluency and expertise in sustainable design practices having expanded to become a common strength across all staff, not just those in our Sustainability Committee. We also aim to have become a more influential voice and resource in our industry, not just at the regional and state level, but nationwide.”

—Ben Welty, Sustainability Manager and Senior Associate, Feldman Architecture

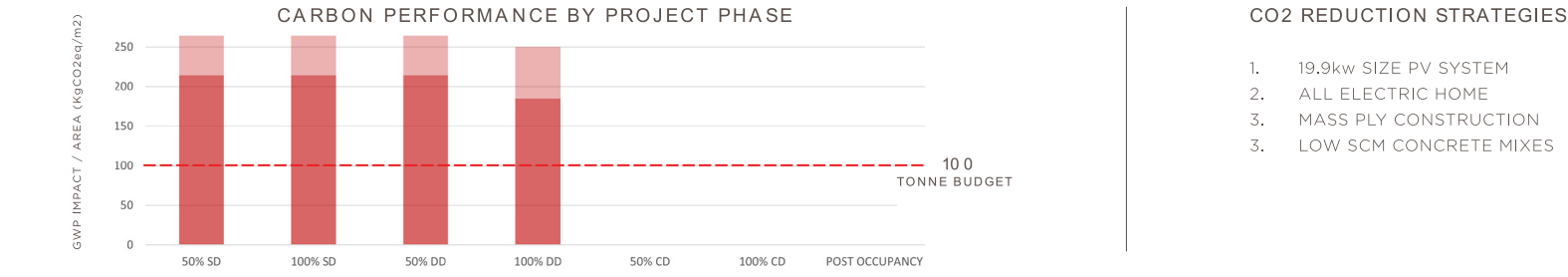
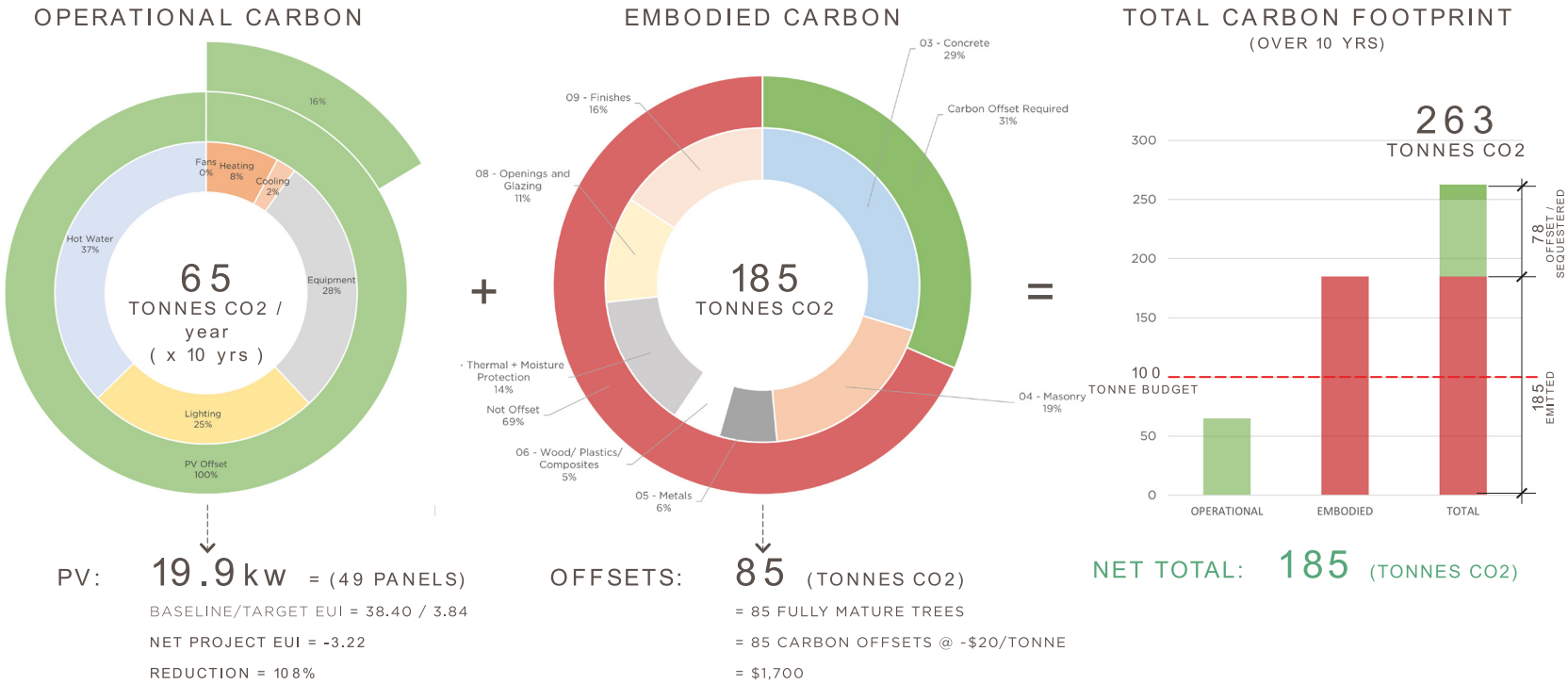


Image Credit: Feldman Architecture

SECTION 7.

CONCLUSION



Photo by Tim Griffith

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

In the face of federal rollbacks of climate action policies and incentives, the A&D industry continues to move forward in its efforts toward industry decarbonization. The AIA 2030 Commitment and its signatory firms show that the design choices that architects and designers make have a measurable impact, as each project influences the built environment.

NEXT STEPS

AIA upholds its two key pillars in its strategic plan: Climate action and equity. As outlined in the [AIA Code of Ethics & Professional Conduct](#), “*E.S. 6.1: Energy conservation: Members should set ambitious performance goals for greenhouse gas emission reduction with their clients for each project.*”

The work needed to mitigate the climate crisis and built environment’s contributions to it will extend beyond 2030. Beyond the program’s namesake, the AIA 2030 Commitment is dedicated to providing a framework for net zero energy and carbon buildings and convening the 2030 signatory network to push the industry forward in reducing energy consumption and decarbonizing the built environment.

Building on this year’s 2030 By the Numbers report, AIA and Architecture 2030 are partnering to release an expansive companion report, 2030 Beyond the Numbers. This critical review will dive deeper into the factors that are either accelerating or impeding progress in reaching the 2030 targets. It will explore drivers like local government and utility policies, as well as focus on building use types that require more attention and consideration if they are to achieve net zero goals. It is clear from aggregated national data that we are making an impact, and now is the time to dedicate our efforts to pulling the specific levers that will further tip the scales.

Internally, AIA’s two key climate action pledge programs—the AIA 2030 Commitment and the AIA Materials Pledge—push architects and designers to improve their design choices. Externally, AIA will continue collaborating with thought leaders, practitioners, and advocates across the built environment. Through resource creation, education, conference programming, and network building, AIA’s focus highlights the power of design in building a more sustainable, resilient, healthy, and equitable future. With notable positive increases across the entire reported data set in this year’s AIA 2030 Commitment: 2024 Summary report, 2030 signatories are showing it’s possible to reach net zero—and now’s the time to scale up efforts to meet industry goals.

In the coming years, AIA seeks to refresh and reinvigorate the AIA 2030 Commitment to look beyond 2030 and

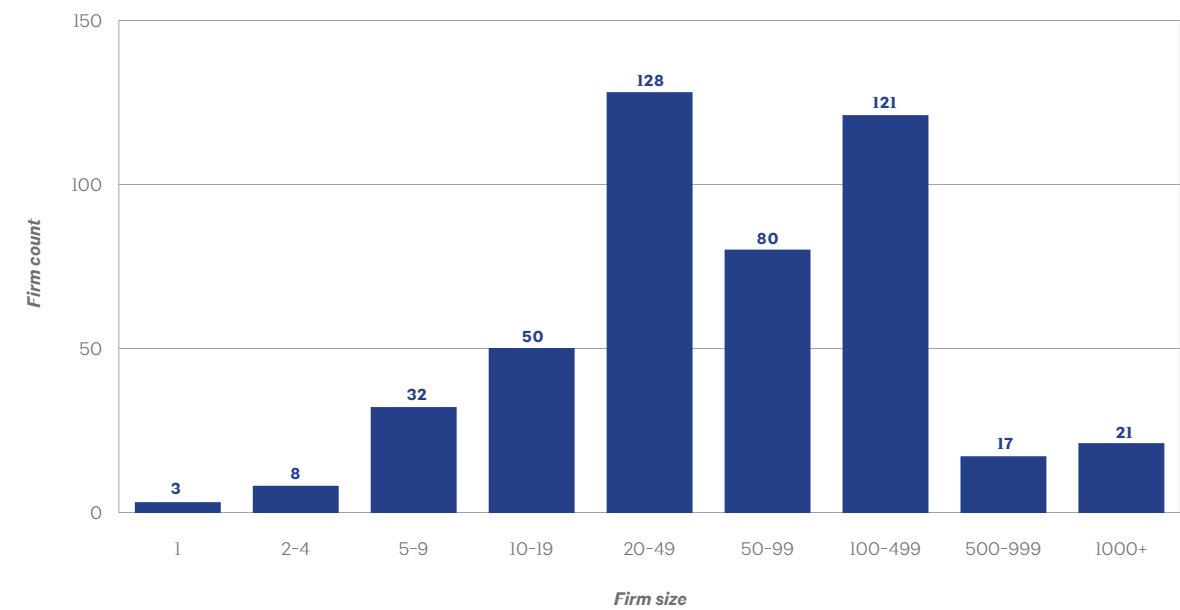
encompass the changes coming to both our profession and the wider legislative and energy landscape. We anticipate buildings coming online with a cleaner grid, increased efficiencies, and improved technology. We will respond to the changing landscape of tools being used to design and optimize our built environment, including the rise of AI and economies of scale reducing the cost of alternative energy sources. We know the years ahead will bring more challenges—but also more opportunities—to improve the built environment and position the profession as leaders of positive change.



Photo by Rabi Shasha on Unsplash

REPORTING SIGNATORIES

NUMBER OF FIRMS REPORTING BY FIRM SIZE



REPORTING SIGNATORIES

The 27 signatories who met the 80% pEUI reduction target across their entire portfolio are highlighted in green:

- 5+design
Access Architecture
Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture
aecom
Aggregate Studio, PLLC
Allied8 Architects
Alliance
Amenta Emma Architects
Anderson Bruland Architects
Anderson Hallas Architects, PC
Ankrom Moisan Architects, Inc.
Ann Beha Architects
Antunovich Associates
ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge
Arcadis
Arch11 Inc
archimania
Architects FORA
Architects Hawaii Limited
Architects Mosher Drew
Architectural Nexus, Inc.
Architectural Resources Group
- Arcturis
Arkin Tilt Architects
Arrowstreet
Arshia Architects, Ltd
Assembledge+
Atelier Ten
Atkin Olshin Schade Architects
Ayers Saint Gross
Backen & Backen Architects
Bailey Edward
Bala Consulting Engineers
Ballinger
BAR Architects & Interiors
Bassetti Architects
Behnisch Architekten
Bergmeyer
Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, LLP
BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group
BKSK Architects
Bloom Companies, LLC
BNIM Architects
Board & Vellum

REPORTING SIGNATORIES

Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
Bora Architecture & Interiors
Boulder Associates, Inc.
BranchPattern, Inc.
Brandon Architects, Inc.
BRAVE/architecture
BRIBURN
BRIC Architecture
Brooks + Scarpa Architects, Inc.
Browning Day
Bruner/Cott & Associates
BSA LifeStructures
Burgeoning Architects
BuroHappold
BVH Architecture
BWBR
BWS Architects
CambridgeSeven
Cannon Design
Canopy Architecture + Design
Carleton Hart Architecture
CAW Architects
CBT Architects

CCY Architects
Centerbrook Architects
and Planners
Charlap Hyman & Herrero
Charles Cuniffe Architects
CICADA Architecture/Planning
Clark Nexsen
Clayco / LJC
CO Architects
COOKFOX Architects
Cordogan Clark & Associates
Corgan
Cornerstone Architecture
Incorporated
Coscia Moos Architecture
CS&P
Cunningham Group
Architecture, Inc.
Curtis + Ginsberg
Architects LLP
Cushing Terrell
Dake Wells Architecture
Dattner Architects

David Baker Architects
Davis Partnership Architects
Dekker
DELV Design
DES Architects + Engineers
Design Collective, Inc.
Dewberry
DIALOG
DIGSAU
DiMella Shaffer
Dimension IV - Madison, LLC
DLR Group
DNM Architecture Inc.
DRAW Architecture
+ Urban Design
DREAM Collaborative
DS Architecture
DSGN Associates, Inc.
DSK Architects + Planners
dSPACE Studio
Duvall Decker Architects, P.A.
DWL Architects + Planners, Inc
Eckenhoff Saunders Architects

EDA
EHDD
Ehrlich Yanai Rhee
Chaney Architects
Elkus Manfredi Architects
Ellenzweig
ELS Architecture
and Urban Design
Energy Industry Onyx (energio)
Engberg Anderson Architects
English + Associates
Architects, Inc
Ennead Architects
Epstein
ESa
ESG Architecture and Design
Eskew+Dumez+Ripple
EUA
EwingCole
EXP
FCA
Feldman Architecture
Fennick McCredie Architecture

Fentress Architects
FFA Architecture
and Interiors, Inc.
FGM Architects
Field Paoli Architects
Flad Architects
Fleischman Garcia
Maslowski Architecture
Frederick + Frederick Architects
Freeman French Freeman
FXCollaborative LLP
G7O
gbA Architecture & Planning
GBBN
Gensler
GFF
GGLO
Glumac, A Tetra Tech Company
Goody Clancy
Green Hammer
Gresham Smith
Grimm and Parker
Grimshaw

REPORTING SIGNATORIES

Group 4 Architecture, Research + Planning, Inc.	HKIT Architects	Jensen Architects	Koning Eizenberg Architecture, Inc.	Liollo Architecture
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GWWO Architects	HMC Architects	JLG Architects	Krueck Sexton Partners	LMN Architects
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Harka Architecture	Holly and Smith Architects	Juniper Design + Build	KYA Inc	LSW Architects
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Hayes Group Architects	HUSarchitecture	KFA, LLP	Leddy Maytum Stacy Architects	Mackey Mitchell Architects
hb+a Architects	IA Interior Architects	KG+D Architects	Leers Weinzapfel Associates	Magnusson Architecture & Planning, P.C.
HDR	ICON Architecture, Inc.	KieranTimberlake	Legat Architects	Mahlum Architects
Heliotrope Architects	Integrated Design Solutions	Kipnis Architecture + Planning	Lehrer Architects LA, Inc.	Marlene Imirzian & Associates Architects
Hennebery Eddy Architects, Inc	Integrus Architecture	Kirksey	Lemay	Marshall Craft Associates
HGA Architects and Engineers	INVISION	Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates PC	Leo A Daly	Marvel Architects
Hickok Cole Architects	isgenuity		Lever Architecture	
	Jacobs		LGA Architecture	
	JAHN		LHB, Inc.	

REPORTING SIGNATORIES

MASON
MASS Design Group
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McMillan Pazdan Smith
Mead&Hunt
Metcalf Architecture
and Design
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MG2
MHTN Architects Inc.
Miller Dunwiddie
Miller Dyer Spears, Inc.
Miller Hayashi Architects PLLC
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Mithun
MJMA
MMW Architects
MOA Architecture
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Moody Nolan
Moore Ruble Yudell

Architects & Planners
Morris Adjmi Architects
Morrissey Engineering
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MSR Design
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Multistudio
Mussett, Nicholas & Associates
MWA Architects
NAC Architecture
Nano LLC
NBBJ
NCA Studio Inc.
Neumann Monson Architects
Newman Architects
Noll & Tam Architects
NORR
Nurture Architects
Oak Point Associates
OFFICEUNTITLED
OKW Architects, LLC
Olson Kundig
Omgivning

Onion Flats Architecture
OPAL
OPN Architects
Opsis Architecture
ORA
Orcutt | Winslow
Ordiz-Melby, Architects
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OZ Architecture
Page
Page & Turnbull
Pappageorge Haymes Partners
Parkhill
Patriquin Architects
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+ Associates Architects
Paulett Taggart Architects
Payette
PBDW Architects
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Ratcliff
RATIO Design

RB+B Architects, Inc.
RDC – Studio One Eleven
RDG Planning & Design
Re:Vision Architecture
ReVe Partners
RINKA
RMW architecture & interiors
RNT Architects
Robert A. M. Stern Architects
RODE Architects
Rodwin Architecture
Ross Barney Architects
Rossetti
ROWELL BROKAW ARCHITECTS
Rowland+Broughton
RSP Architects
Sage and Coombe Architects LLP
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Sasaki Associates
Schadler Selnau Associates P.C.
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SEA	SOM (Skidmore Owings & Merrill)	Ten Over Studio	Utile	WORKS Architecture
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SHP	Studio Completiva	The SLAM Collaborative	Voith and Mactavish Architects	ZGF Architects LLP
Siegel & Strain Architects	Studio Gang Architects	Thornton Tomasetti	Ware Malcomb	Ziger Snead Architects
SILLMAN	Studio.e Architecture, PC	TLC Engineering Solutions	Warrenstreet Architects, Inc.	
SLATTERY	STUDIOS architecture	TLCD Architecture	WDG Architecture	
Smith Gee Studio	STV	Todd Jersey Architecture	Weber Murphy Fox	
Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.	Substance Architecture	Touloukian Touloukian Inc.	Weber Thompson	
SmithGroup	SWBR	Tower Pinkster Titus Associates Inc	Weinstein A+U	
Smith-Miller + Hawkinson Architects	Taylor Design	Trahan Architects	Wendel	
SMMA	TBDA	Trapolin-Peer Architects	West Work	
SMNG A Ltd.	TCA Architects	Treanor	Wheeler Kearns Architects	
SMP Architects	TCA Architecture + Planning, Inc.	Trivers Associates	Wight & Company	
SMRT	TCF Architecture	TruexCullins	William Rawn Associates	
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Soderstrom Architects		UrbanLab	WMB Architects	
Solomon Cordwell Buenz		UrbanWorks, Ltd.	Woods Bagot	
			Workbench	

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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This project received a 2025 COTE® Top Ten Award

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