MATERIALS PLEDGE

BY THE NUMBERS

The 2024 summary of
the AIA Materials Pledge

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

Materials Pledge By the Numbers: The 2024 Summary of the AIA Materials Pledge measures annual performance of the architecture and design community toward its goal of holistic materials section. It includes data from calendar year 2024 and suggestions for improving performance year to year.

The AIA Architecture & Design (A&D) Materials Pledge is the second AIA climate action pledge program, alongside the AIA 2030 Commitment. Originating in 2018, this program asks firms to address materials health across five impact categories: human health, social health and equity, ecosystem health, climate health, and circular economy. Together, the AIA 2030 Commitment and A&D Materials Pledge further the role of the architect in building a zero-carbon, resilient, healthy, and equitable built environment.

This analysis highlights project-level information pulled on September 9, 2024 for projects included in RY2024 portfolio submissions.

Cover photo by Tim Griffith.

Recommended bibliographic listing: The American Institute of Architects (2025 October). *Materials Pledge by the numbers: The 2024 Summary of the AIA A&D Materials Pledge.*

CONTENTS

FOREWORD

By Stephen T. Ayers, FAIA, Interim Executive Vice President and CEO
The American Institute of Architects

In 2020, The American Institute of Architects (AIA) and its Board of Directors unanimously voted to adopt the AIA Architecture & Design (A&D) Materials Pledge as a key climate action program. In doing so, they sent a clear signal to the profession and the marketplace about the importance of materials selection in meeting climate, health, and equity goals in the built environment. Being more selective about materials leads to better outcomes for the climate overall, human and social health, equity concerns, our shared ecosystems, and the promotion of a more circular economy.

Now, five years later, the AIA Materials Pledge program is making great strides. The new reporting framework, released in the summer of 2024, provides structure for how architects and designers think about, collect data on, and measure progress across the five impact categories of the AIA Materials Pledge. In the second year of annual data reporting, the industry is responding to the call for better materials. We, as architects and designers, hold a unique position as conveners of built environment stakeholders who play a role in materials selection and procurement. To improve both the profession's knowledge base and impact in the materials space, firm culture and design choices must work hand in hand, and the more than 300 Materials Pledge signatory firms are at the forefront of this progress.

As the materials landscape continues to evolve, so will the AIA A&D Materials Pledge and its signatories. AIA is excited to continue this powerful work alongside industry collaborators to ensure the built environment and its material composition serve as a positive force for all its inhabitants.

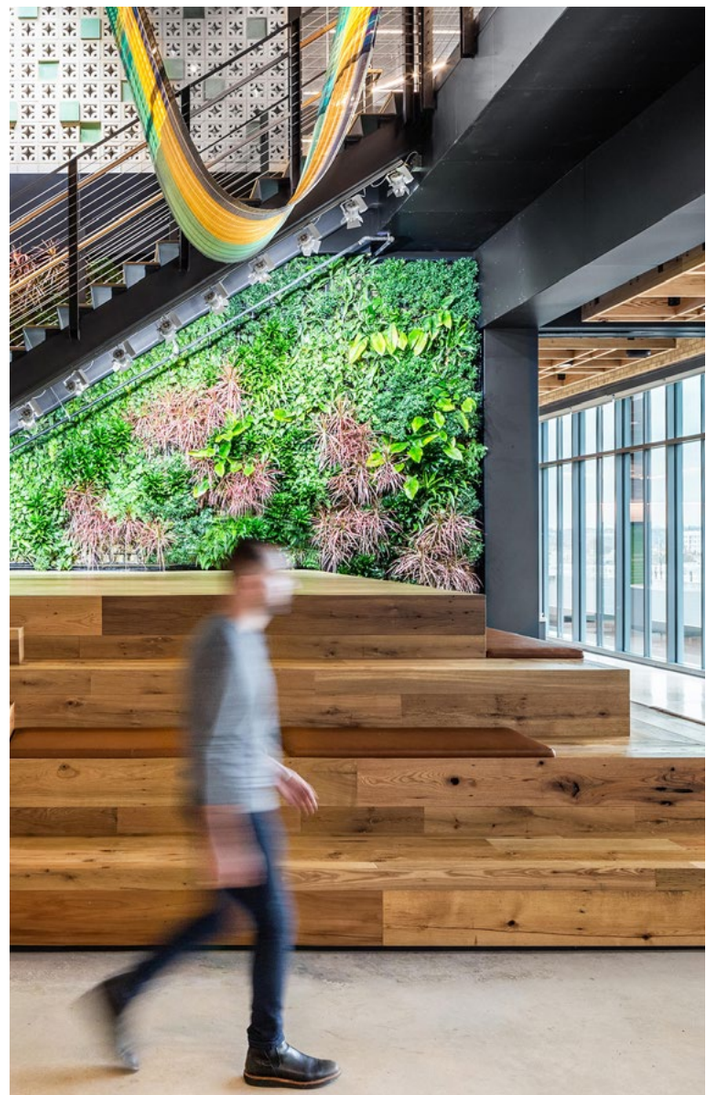


Photo credit: Jen Holt

INTRODUCTION

There is a critical push for architects to better understand the impacts of the building materials they select and to use that information to make more informed decisions that support a better built environment for people and the planet. Materials are at the intersection of the central pillars of AIA's Strategic Plan—climate action and equity—making informed selection a powerful tool for advancing both. From being able to withstand extreme weather events to contributing to the indoor spaces where humans spend 90% of our time, the building materials architects and designers select directly impact the role buildings have in addressing the intertwined climate and social equity crises.

The first step to improving the building industry's materials selection is tracking the available data on materials transparency and optimization strategies. Materials pose a unique and complex challenge—and opportunity—to convene communities beyond just the architecture and design industry, including building owners, product manufacturers, and organizations advocating for research, policy, and transparency in material manufacturing and installation. Establishing and tracking data points is the first pivotal step toward making progress in this space.

The AIA Materials Pledge program's second annual data reporting cycle took place in spring 2024, with the first full reporting window spanning from February to the end of May.

The reporting structure includes three reporting pathways:

- **Firm-level:** These questions fall under three categories—firm commitments, firm knowledge, and firm implementation. Together, they pose fundamental questions about how a firm is doing with materials selection and where overall areas of improvement lie.
- **Project-level:** This question set aims to address high-level material design strategies and processes implemented to improve climate and health materials impacts across a project.
- **Product-level:** There are 22 product types that firms can report on, including an "other" option. Within a single product type, the multi-attribute reporting questions encompass the five AIA Materials Pledge impact categories, with firms choosing which categories they wish to report on. Product-level reporting for new products is based on the Common Materials Framework (CMF).

Firm-level questions are currently required for reporting firms, while project- and product-level questions have been optional for reporting in the first two years. This approach provides multiple pathways for firms to begin tracking and reporting on materials selection, allowing them to decide which category of data they have most readily accessible and where they plan to supplement data collection in the future.

This year, 121 signatories reported firm-level data, and the majority took the next step, reporting project- and product-level data. **Over 400 projects were reported by 86 firms, and just over 300 of those projects had product-level data to share.** Alongside reporting, the AIA Materials Pledge signatory community continues to grow—over 320 firms have now committed to improving their materials selection process across the five impact categories: Human health, social health and equity, ecosystem health, climate health, and circular economy. Firms are also setting materials goals and benchmarks within their Sustainability Action Plans and developing separate Materials Action Plans, firmwide guidance documents, and policies to create internal shifts in how they select materials.

FIRM-LEVEL DATA

For the reporting year 2024, the number of reporting firms increased by approximately 30%—from 92 to 121—representing nearly 40% of the entire Materials Pledge signatory community, which currently totals just over 320 firms. Notably, 83% of the inaugural reporting firms reported again this year. This growth provides a broader, more detailed understanding of where firms are strengthening their firmwide materials knowledge and implementation.

Key takeaways:

- **Human health and climate health** remain the strongest categories of firm knowledge, while social health and equity continue to lag—indicating a need for focused education and industry-wide advocacy.
- **The majority of signatories** have Sustainability Action Plans (SAPs) that incorporate materials, with 33% of firms having SAPs that reflect AIA Materials Pledge actions across the five impact categories, while another 33% have SAPs with more general materials actions.
- **Most signatories collect materials data** for library inclusion, with only 13% either not collecting data or lacking a materials library altogether.

Emerging strategies on firm-level commitments, implementation, and actions:

Leveraging the Materials Pledge in client and manufacturer engagement: Firms are adding their Materials Pledge signatory status in proposals and client presentations, emphasizing responsible material selection as core to their mission. Many firms have created template questions, talking points, and email scripts to guide their project teams when inquiring about product transparency from manufacturers.

"Vendors interested in presenting Lunch and Learns for CEU's are now required to fill out a Materials Scorecard—established by Ballinger's Sustainable Working Group—before being scheduled. This criteria and process is communicated to presenters prior to their visit and applies to the products they are promoting as well as the lunch." —Ballinger

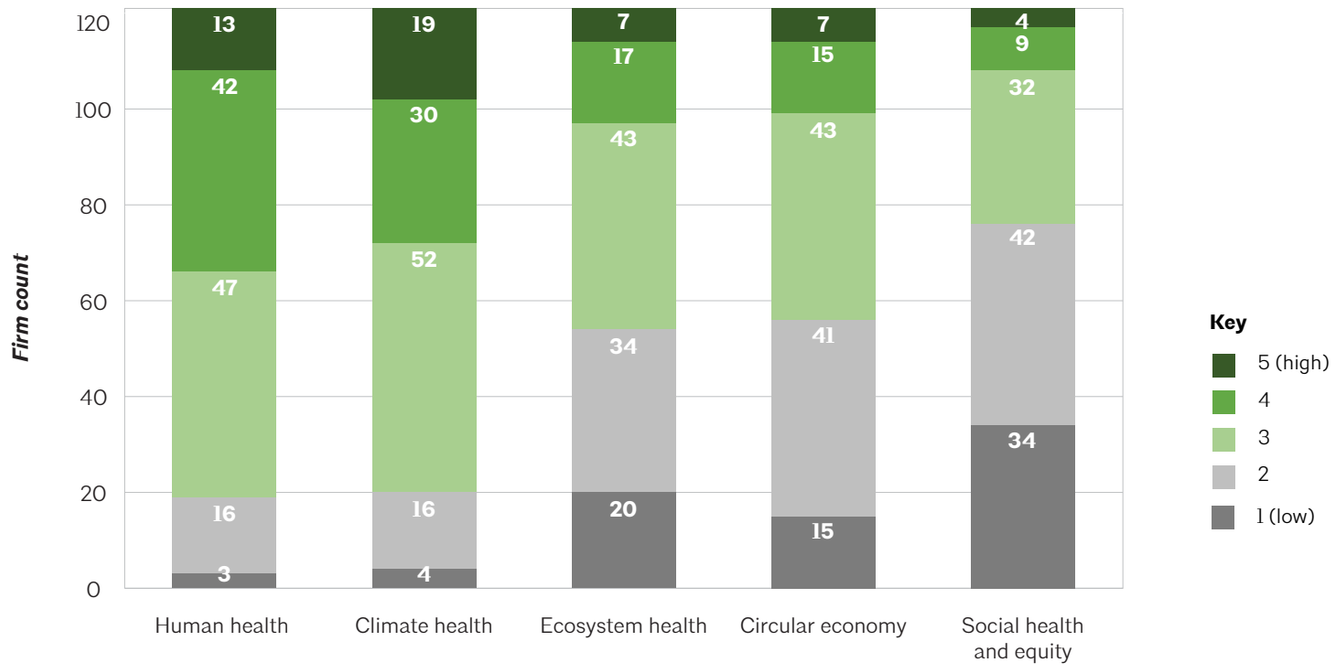
Using signatory status as a marketing tool: Firms are prominently displaying their Materials Pledge badge online, creating Sustainability or Materials Action Plans, and sharing best practices in sustainability or corporate responsibility reports to attract clients, recruit top talent, and demonstrate peer leadership.

"We have published our status as an AIA Materials Pledge signatory, and we are taking broad actions to address material selection in our work. We include this commitment in our new business pitch decks, external conference and academic presentations, and project proposals" —KPF

Driving internal improvement: Firms are starting materials-focused internal groups, conducting training to raise baseline materials literacy, and setting library guidelines to ensure product transparency. Some have even set goals requiring a percentage of project materials to meet at least one impact category goal.

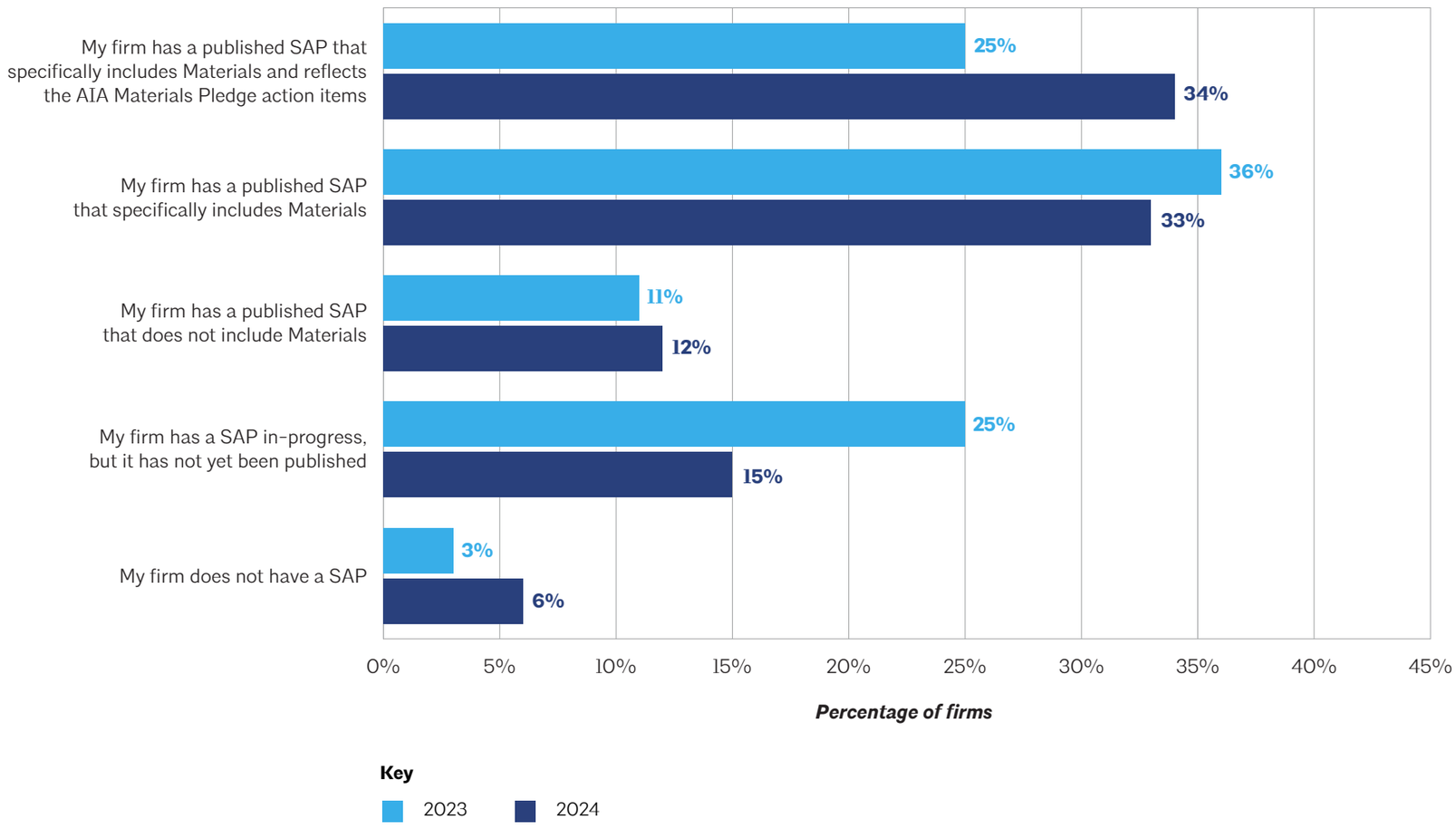
"We've overhauled our materials library and specifications vetting process in the past three years. To gain access to our library and be included in our specifications, product manufacturers and reps must have an intro call with us where we talk through the Materials Pledge and our commitment to healthy, sustainable, equitable materials." —Mahlum

FIRM KNOWLEDGE RANKING BY MATERIALS PLEDGE IMPACT CATEGORIES



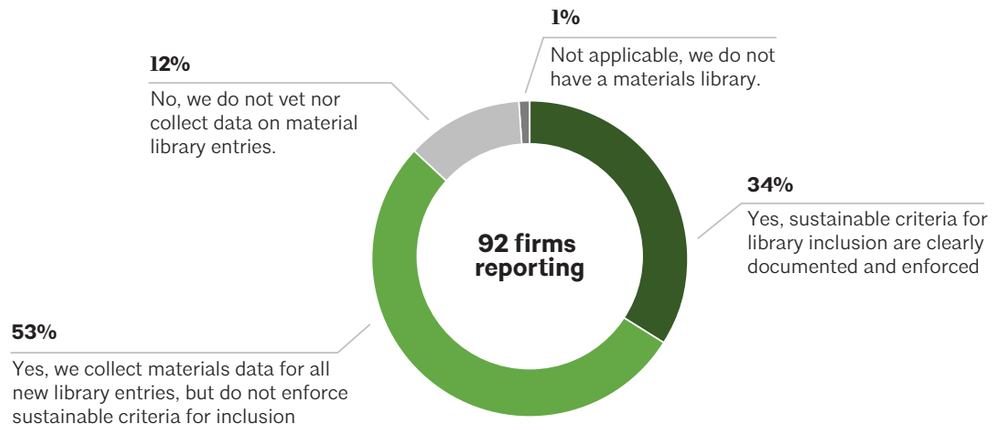
Firms range in familiarity with the 5 Materials Pledge Impact Categories. Human health and climate health remain the strongest for firm knowledge, while circular economy and social health and equity continue to lag—indicating a need for focused education and industry-wide advocacy. This reflects the same knowledge breakdown as shown in the 2023 data.

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN (SAP) COVERAGE

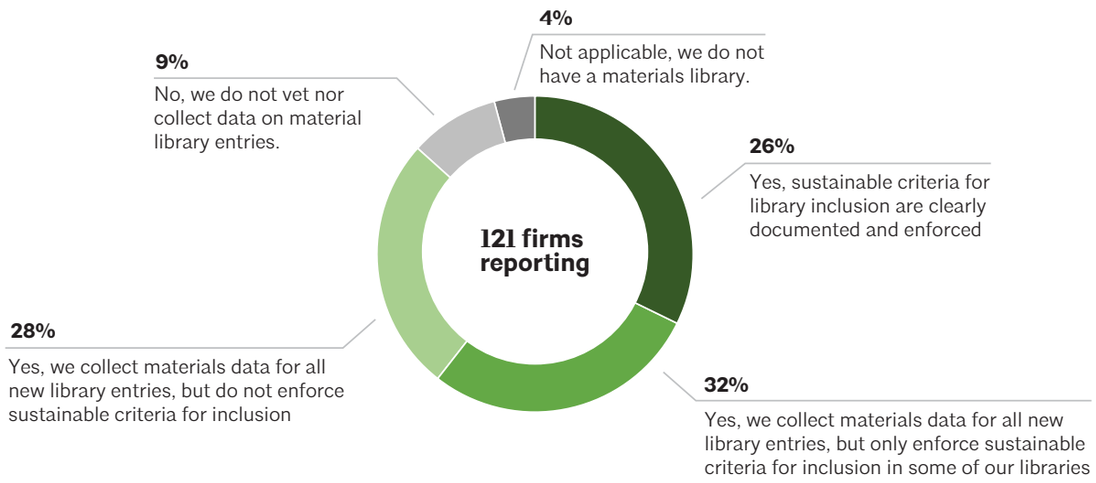


In an overall positive trend, firms with Sustainability Action Plans (SAPs) including AIA Materials Pledge-specific content has increased from 2023, while firms who have not published their SAP yet has gone down. The majority of signatories have SAPs that incorporate materials, with 34% of firms having SAPs that reflect AIA Materials Pledge actions across the five impact categories, while another 33% have SAPs with more general materials actions and only 6% do not have SAPs.

MATERIALS LIBRARY PRACTICES (2023)



MATERIALS LIBRARY PRACTICES (2024)



A majority of firms report having materials libraries with sustainability criteria required for inclusion. In 2024 86% of signatories reported including some kind of sustainability criteria in their libraries, this is steady with 2023's 87%. In this year's data, a category was added to include sustainability criteria for new library entries only, to further differentiate firm practices.

AIA MATERIALS PLEDGE: 2024 AT A GLANCE

121
reporting signatories

419
reported projects

3.5 million
reported gross square feet (GSF)

67%
of firms have Sustainability Action Plans (SAP) with material inclusion

Human health & climate health
remain the most reported impact categories

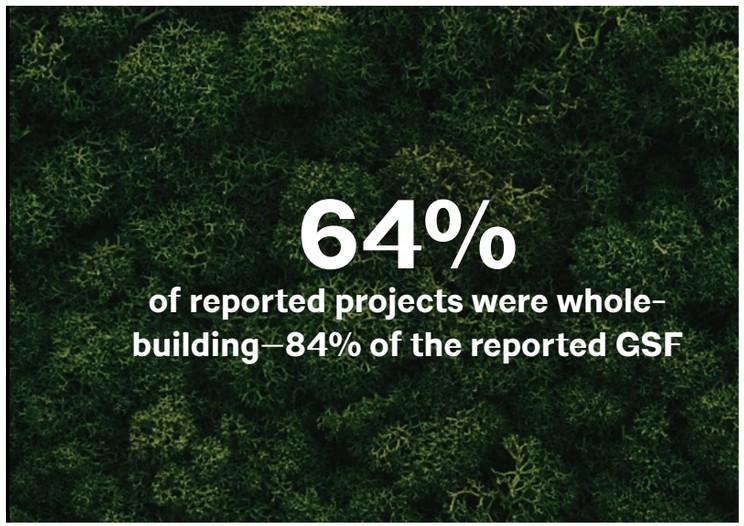
Carpeting, acoustical ceilings, & resilient flooring
remain the most reported product types

49%
of firms report that internal goals are the primary motivation for their project materials strategies

PROJECT-LEVEL DATA

This reporting year, 86 of the 121 total reporting firms took the next step and reported project-level data. In total, 419 projects were reported, representing over 36 million gross square feet (GSF).

One of the most effective ways to reduce a project's materials impact is to reduce extraneous usage. There were several highly reported strategies for reducing material usage, with the most cited being designing to the product module (common dimensions), reducing typical material quantities, and substituting product categories for a lower embodied carbon product type. However, the second most common response was: "No, there were not any design strategies implemented to reduce materials usage." This poses an opportunity for architects and designers to focus not only on what types of materials are selected but also on the quantity—improving the impact of materials across all five impact categories by using less.



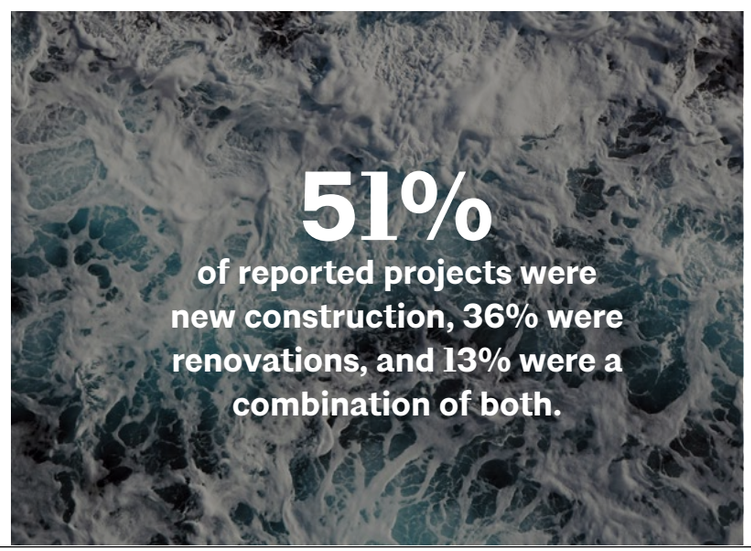
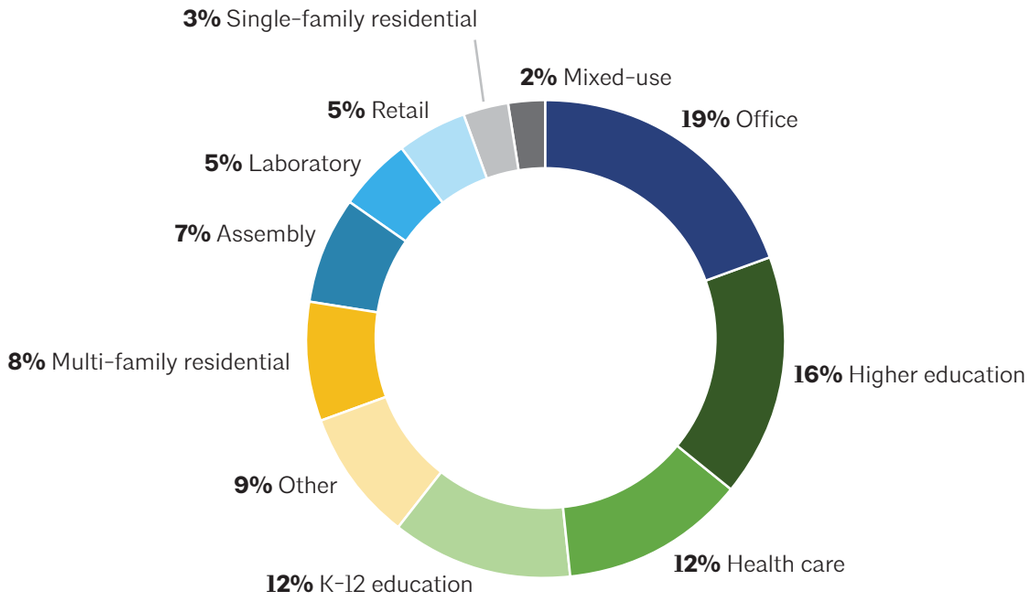


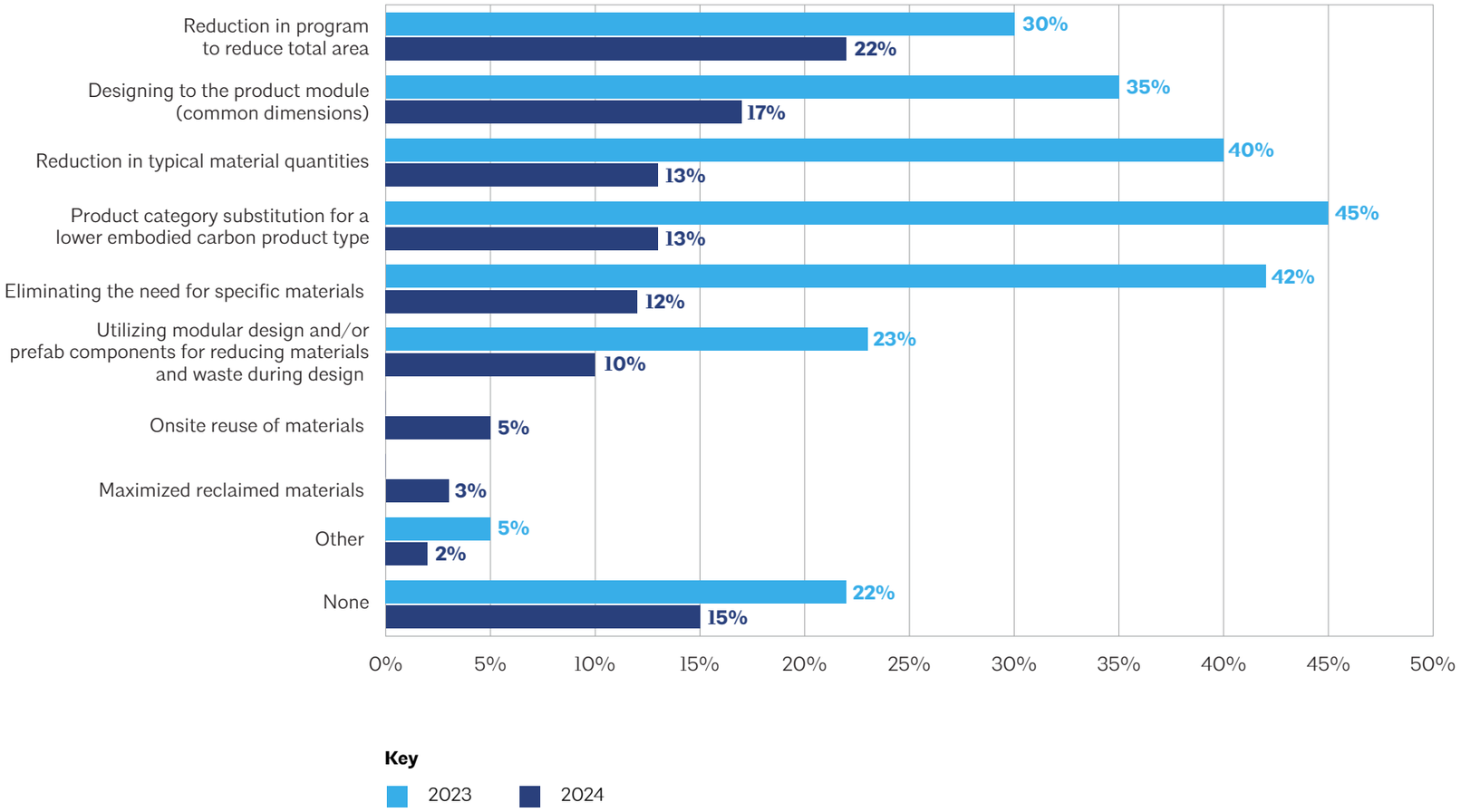
Photo credits (L to R): Alina Markev on Unsplash, CH Photography on Unsplash, Adrian Swancar on Unsplash, Viktoriia Nechepurenko on Unsplash

REPORTED PROJECTS BY USE TYPE



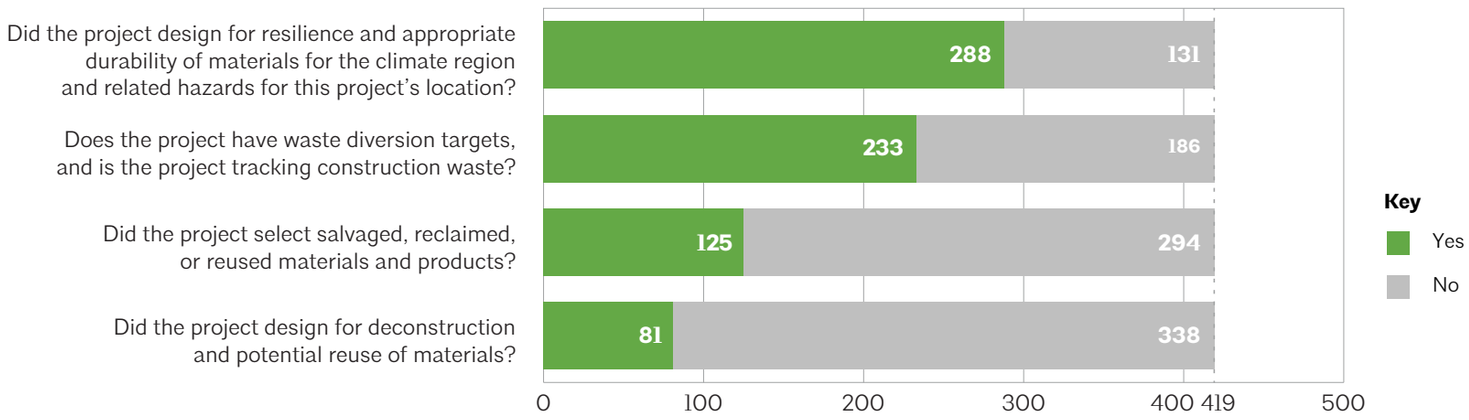
Office, higher education, health care, and K–12 education round out the top four use types for Materials Pledge project reporting, accounting for nearly 60% of all reported projects. More specialized use types were reported less frequently, with single-family residential and mixed-use being the least common.

DESIGN STRATEGIES IMPLEMENTED TO REDUCE MATERIALS USAGE

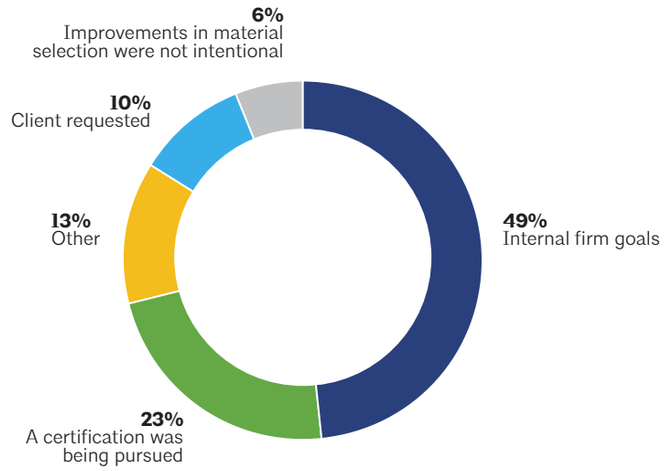


Across the board, 2024's data demonstrated a decrease in the use of specific project strategies aimed at improving material impacts. This can be partially explained by the increase in reported projects for 2024—over 400 projects totaling 3.5 million square feet—compared to 2023's 136 projects and 500,000 square feet. Topping the list of reported strategies for reducing material usage were reducing program area and designing to the product module (common dimensions). Notably, the number of projects reporting no material reduction strategy also declined.

PROJECT MATERIAL USAGE STRATEGIES



PRIMARY MOTIVATION FOR PROJECT MATERIAL USAGE STRATEGIES



Resilience and durability were the primary concerns for firms when selecting project materials, followed by tracking construction waste and establishing waste diversion targets. Interestingly, these priorities don't appear to be driven by client requests but rather by internal firm goals, with project certifications cited as the second most selected reason for implementing material usage strategies.

EMBODIED CARBON HIGHLIGHT

Embodied carbon bridges the gap between the AIA 2030 Commitment—focused on reaching carbon-neutrality—and the AIA Materials Pledge. Materials with low embodied carbon contribute to both total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and the climate health impact category goals. For many Materials Pledge signatories, choosing low-carbon materials provides a significant strategy to mitigate their project's impact on global emissions. Policy and regulation, as well as client supply chain requirements are helping design teams advocate for low-carbon products.

For the AIA 2030 Commitment, embodied carbon reporting is optional, yet it continues to grow steadily amongst signatories. This year, 178 firms reported 9,204 projects with embodied carbon data. For the AIA Materials Pledge, if a firm is reporting project-level data, there is a subset of questions specific to embodied carbon.

26% of reported projects to the AIA Materials Pledge listed "Yes" to being designed to achieve a whole-building carbon reduction target. These projects utilized different targeted reduction approaches, including using LEED v4/4.1, CLF, and CalGreen baselines, or other approaches.

The most reported embodied carbon scopes were interior finishes (106 projects), shell superstructure (105), and shell exterior enclosure (102). For AIA 2030 embodied carbon projects, the most common were substructure and shell exterior enclosure.

Photo credit: Aaron Leitz

PRODUCT-LEVEL DATA

In this second reporting year, reporting on product-level data remains optional. **However, 77 firms took this additional step in their Materials Pledge reporting, covering 315 projects, and every single product category was reported at least once.**

Key takeaways:

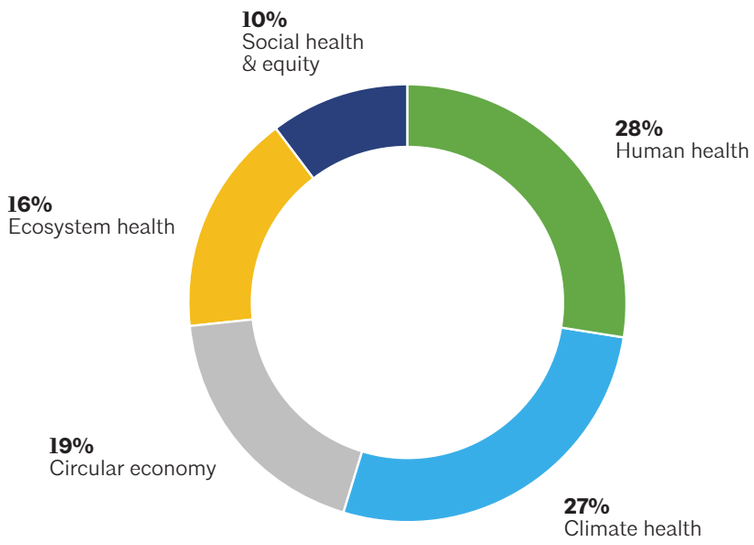
- **Acoustical ceilings, carpeting,** and **resilient flooring** were the top three reported product types.
- **Human health and climate health** were the most reported impact categories, and social health and equity was the least reported.

The reported product data can be viewed in three tiers: 1) The top three product types that have remained consistent over these last two reporting years, 2) the middle tier with products reported over 100 times, and 3) the bottom tier with products least reported—fifty times or less. Looking at the three tiers, firms can continue their "choose their own adventure" by either requiring transparency and optimization data in specifications for one or all of the top three reported product types, requiring AIA Materials Pledge reporting for one or all of the top three product types, or turning their focus to the middle tier product types and encouraging teams to collect and report data in the coming year. For the bottom tier, further outreach to manufacturers for data across all impact categories continues to be needed to ensure a collective.

This year, product-level data points remained split between transparency and optimization for human health and climate health reporting. For the latter three impact categories, they were deemed nascent, as the industry has not agreed on the definitions of transparency and optimization. In turn, the data points collected for ecosystem health, circular economy, and social health and equity were grouped together.

Photo credit: Jen Holt

AGGREGATED REPORTED PRODUCT DATA BY MATERIALS PLEDGE IMPACT CATEGORY



Broadly aligning with firms' overall knowledge, products were most frequently reported in the human and climate health categories. This is not a coincidence: as firms and designers gain greater access to information and data, they deepen their understanding of these categories. Likewise, as more product manufacturers disclose ingredient information, designers are increasingly able to select materials that are less harmful to people and the planet. Once again, social health and equity information continues to lag behind.

OPTIMIZATION PATHWAYS FOR TOP THREE REPORTED PRODUCT TYPES

Acoustical ceilings

- **Health Product Declaration (HPD, to 100ppm) and Declare Label** were the most listed under optimization for the human health impact category.
- **A Supplier Code of Conduct** or similar manufacturer document addressing the ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work was the most cited for projects requesting information on and selecting materials that have documented labor risks.
- **For circular economy reporting**, 12% of products reported selecting salvaged, reclaimed, or reused materials and products.
- **Almost 70% of this reported product type** had some percentage of materials that had corporate commitments information as defined by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) or similar.
- **Environmental Product Declarations** (EPD) were most reported as a strategy for selecting materials of this product type that have documented and/or reduced their pollution impacts on ecosystem health.

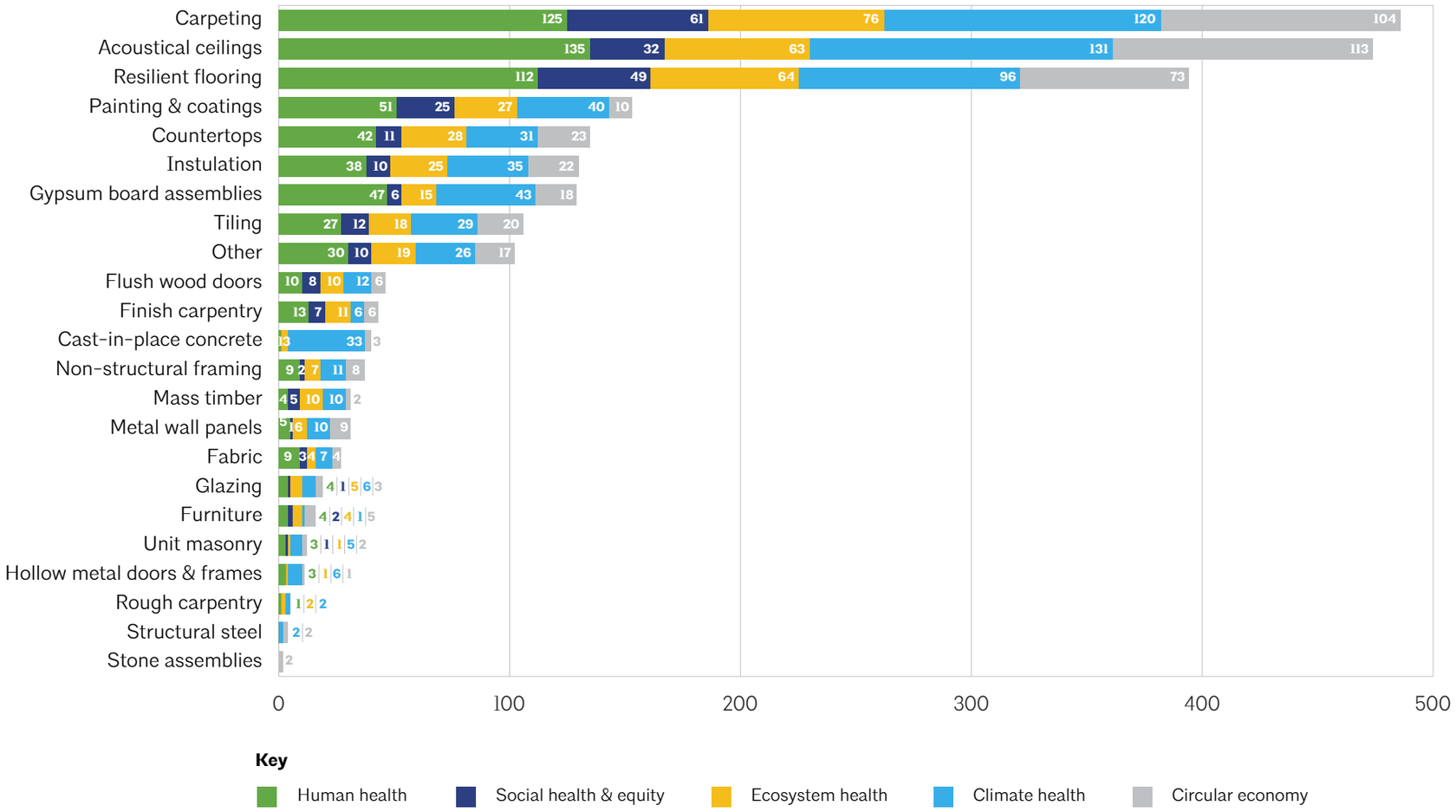
Carpeting

- **Declare Label was the most listed** under optimization for human health, with Cradle to Cradle Product Certification, Silver overall, and Health Product Declaration (to 100ppm) following.
- **Cradle to Cradle Full Product Certification** was the most cited method for projects requesting information on and selecting materials that have documented labor risks.
- **For circular economy reporting,** 11% of products reported selecting salvaged, reclaimed, or reused materials and products.
- **A little more than half of this reported product type** had some percentage of materials that had corporate commitments information as defined by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) or similar.
- **Environmental Product Declarations** were most reported as a strategy for selecting materials of this product type that have documented and/or reduced their pollution impacts on ecosystem health.

Resilient flooring

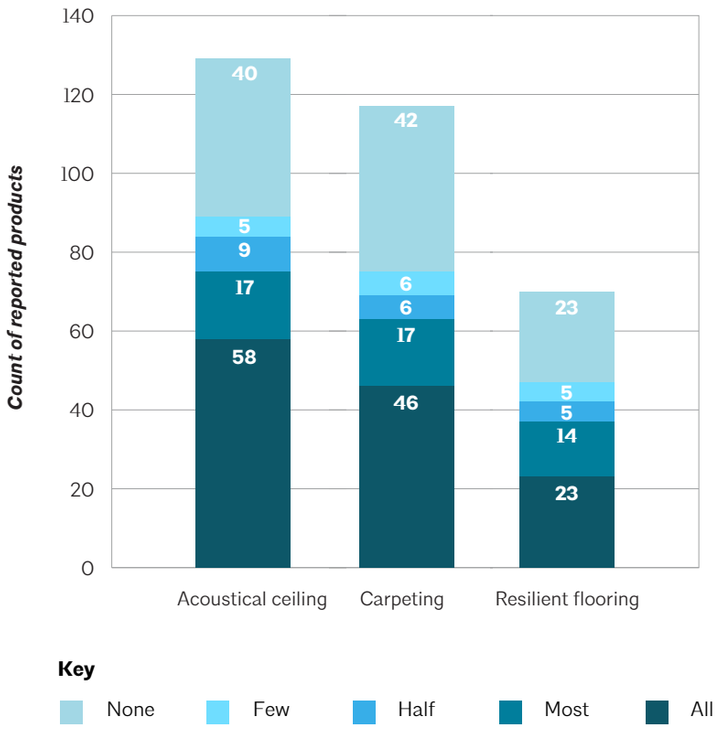
- **Health Product Declaration** (to 100ppm) was the most listed under optimization for human health, with Declare Label and then Health Product Declaration (HPD)—listing all ingredients to 100ppm—following.
- **Cradle to Cradle Full Product Certification** was the most cited method for projects requesting information on and selecting materials that have documented labor risks.
- **For circular economy reporting**, a vast minority, 9% of products reported selecting salvaged, reclaimed, or reused materials and products.
- **More than 60%** of this reported product type had some percentage of materials that had corporate commitments information as defined by the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) or similar.
- **Environmental Product Declarations** were most reported as a strategy for selecting materials of this product type that have documented and/or reduced their pollution impacts on ecosystem health.

REPORTED PRODUCT DATA BY MATERIALS PLEDGE IMPACT CATEGORIES AND PRODUCT TYPE

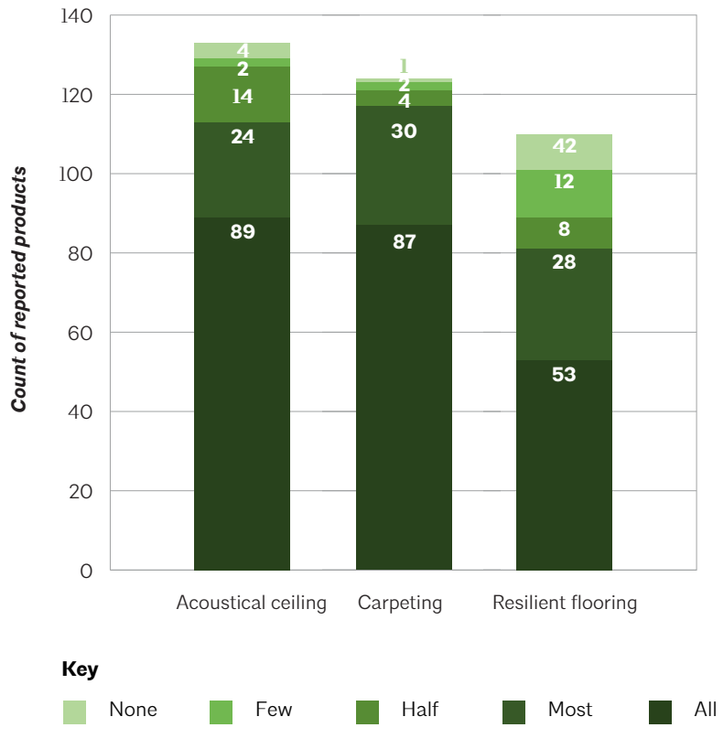


Tracking closely with 2023 data, acoustical ceilings, carpeting, and resilient flooring were the top three reported product types. In 2024, acoustical ceilings moved up one spot, while resilient flooring dropped one. The sharp contrast between these three products and other reported product types highlights manufacturers' efforts in these categories to disclose material ingredient and manufacturing information.

CLIMATE HEALTH: WHAT QUANTITY OF MATERIALS HAD OPTIMIZATION INFORMATION?



HUMAN HEALTH: WHAT QUANTITY OF MATERIALS HAD OPTIMIZATION INFORMATION?



A closer look at the top three reported product types reveals differences in the kinds of information shared by various product manufacturers. For acoustical ceiling products and carpeting, there appears to be a wealth of optimization data related to human health but somewhat less concerning climate health. Tracking these products more closely will help identify where manufacturers can improve in publishing optimization information for designers.

CASE STUDIES

FIRM CASE STUDY: EskewDumezRipple

Established in 1989, EskewDumezRipple (EDR) is a medium-large firm based in New Orleans, with offices in Louisiana, Washington, D.C., and Utah. Winner of the 2014 AIA Architecture Firm Award, EDR exemplifies how architecture can transform spaces for the betterment of both community and environment. They are longtime signatories of the AIA 2030 Commitment and are now reporting signatories of the AIA A&D Materials Pledge, demonstrating their leadership in sustainable design excellence.

EDR's commitment to healthy materials predates their signing onto the AIA Materials Pledge. One example of their commitment is the EDR Research Fellowship program, which offers one or two full-time fellows the opportunity to spend a year exploring a single design-related topic in depth. Since 2015, several fellowship topics have revolved around material health, with the 2024-25 theme of "Living in a Material World," looking at the holistic importance of material selection with a climate, health, and equity lens. Once the AIA Materials Pledge announced its inaugural reporting cycle, EDR saw alignment in their internal materials goals and signed onto the pledge, reporting both in 2024 and 2025.

Internally, EDR continues to push design teams and staff to learn more about material health and track data on its journey towards transparency and optimization. In practice, this means utilizing a range of tools, including spreadsheets, Sustainable Minds, and AceLab. Now, they are moving towards a new intranet platform with efforts to integrate a digital tracking system into project workflows.

EDR's Sustainability Action Plan and Materials Action Plan work together to set and meet goals for sustainable, human-centered design. There is an established internal Healthy Materials Working Group that leads ongoing initiatives like a recent "Better Materials Palette"—offering specific products vetted for health, climate, and equity impact and sharing them with clients and peer firms for feedback. Additionally, this year's research fellow developed a playing card toolkit to engage teams during healthy materials charettes that are being rolled out.

Still, EDR acknowledges that the industry has work to do in advancing healthier material selection. Key areas for progress include:

- **Client education on material health** and lifecycle impacts, particularly around known materials of concern like vinyl.
- **Expanding peer-to-peer knowledge sharing**, eliminating duplicated efforts and slower progress.
- **More case studies on durability** and payback of better materials to help build confidence in designers and their choices.
- **Better and more consistent** manufacturer information on EPDs and ingredient transparency.

"More and more people are taking personal responsibility in selecting better materials. It's not just daunting. It can be joyful."

—Z Smith, Principal and Director of Sustainability, EDR

Photo credit: EskewDumezRipple

FIRM CASE STUDY: HMC ARCHITECTS

HMC Architects, founded in 1940, is a large firm based in California with seven office locations across the West Coast. The firm's Design for Good ethos focuses on harnessing the power of design to make a positive impact now and into the future. In line with this ethos, HMC has increasingly taken steps to institute more holistic material selection for better human and environmental health. Early adopters, HMC Architects signed onto the AIA Materials Pledge in 2019. Now, during these past two years of reporting, the firm has created internal processes for data collection and evaluation that have set them up for continued success.

The AIA Materials Pledge reporting framework informs HMC project teams, senior design leadership, and the HMC sustainability team so they can collectively make data-driven materials decisions. In practice, this has evolved into the following process for data collection:

1. **An Excel workbook is created** to track material information and Materials Pledge impact category data.
2. **Material information goes** into the drawing set as a standard finish schedule, while the pledge data is routed to the HMC Sustainability Team.
3. **Aggregated data from Excel** then flows into a Power BI dashboard for visualization, partly developed by the firm's Digital Practice team.
4. **Project teams, in collaboration** with the Sustainability team, select materials that support human and environmental health while meeting the project's budget, scope, and schedule requirements.

Once the reporting closes, the work doesn't stop. With the data collected from HMC's internal RY2024 report, the team is:

- **Identifying products** that met four or five of the Materials Pledge impact categories and sharing those products back with project teams, encouraging them to start with those products if they are a good fit for their current projects.
- **Reviewing the products** that didn't meet any of the impact categories. For these specific products, that means either digging deeper to see if they missed some product information; talking with manufacturers to see if they have product data that meets Materials Pledge criteria (and/or if they are working towards it); or looking for alternatives to those products.
- **Talking with clients** that have their own materials standards and suggesting changes where there is room for improvement.
- **Planning for more internal education** across all levels of staff about material health and the AIA Materials Pledge program.
- **Holding a Materials Transparency Forum** with manufacturing partners to share reporting results and how the Materials Pledge is changing their material selection process.

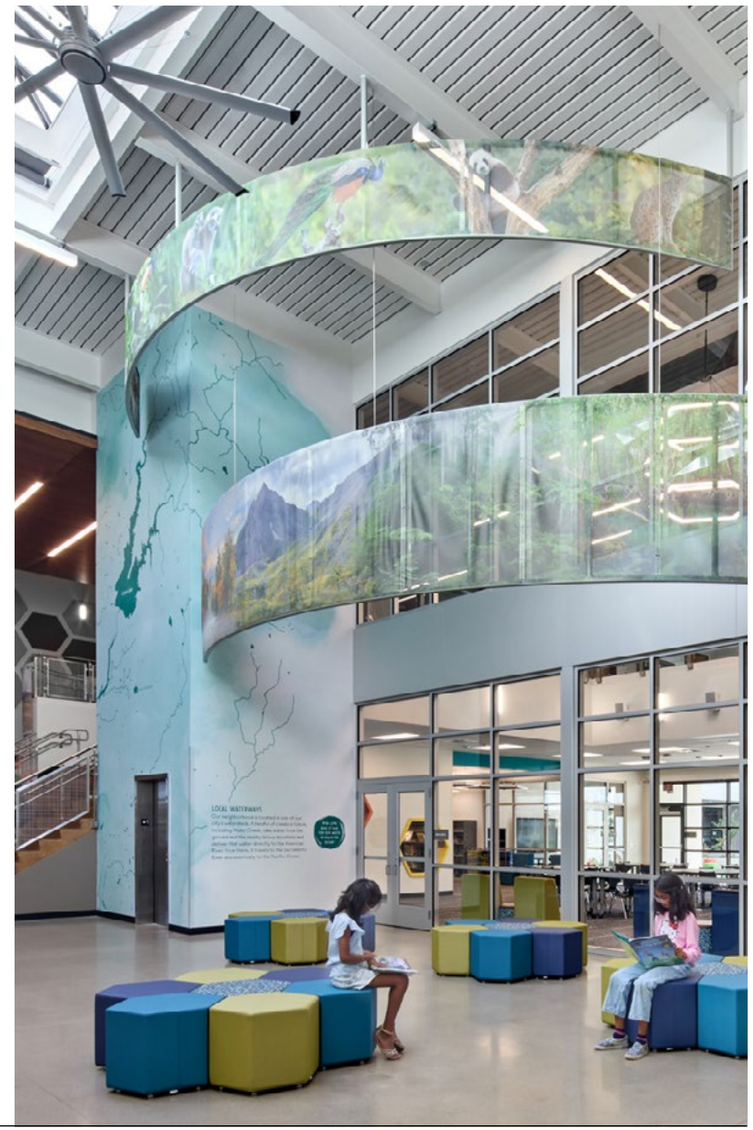


Photo credit: HMC Architects

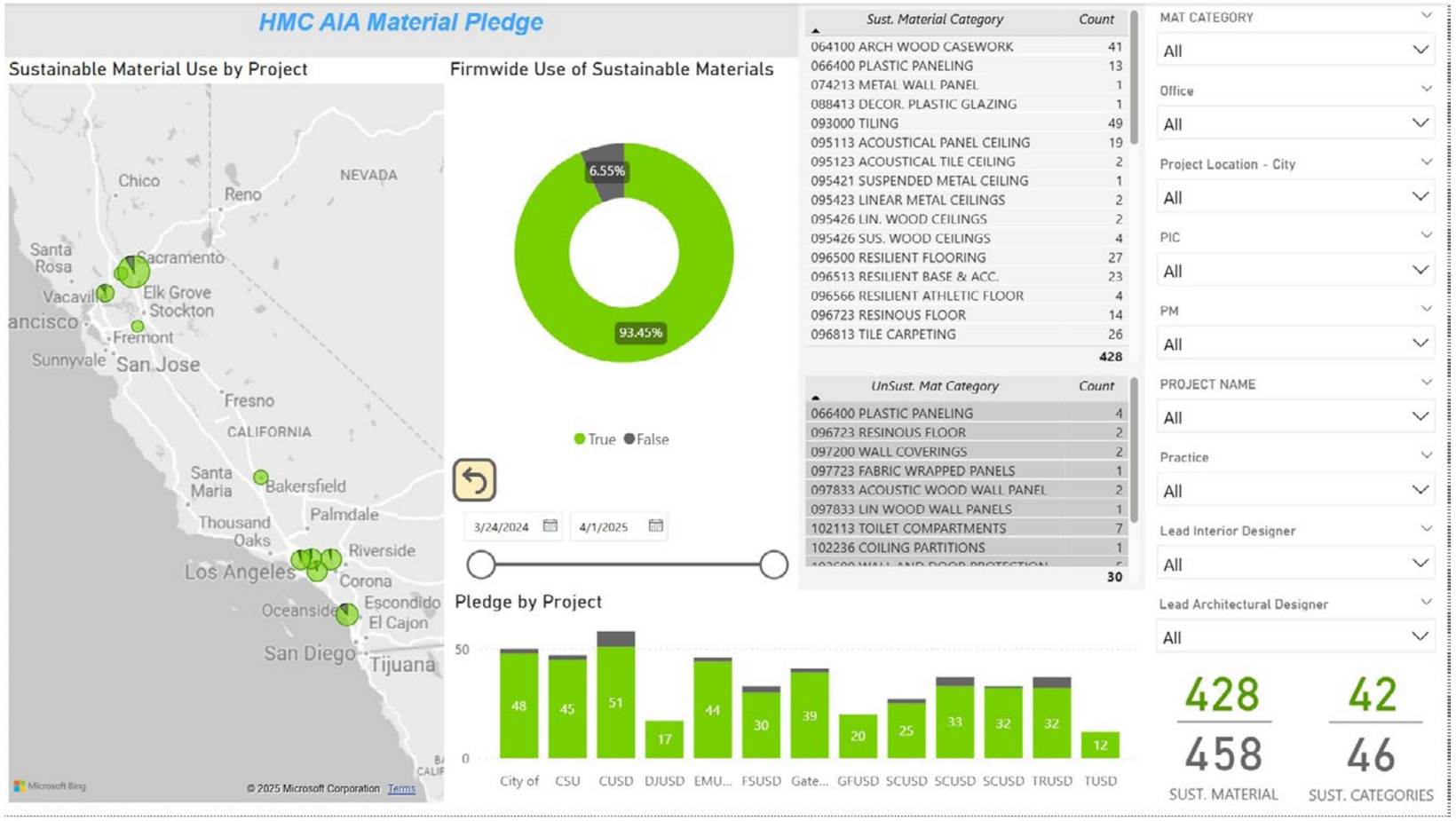


Photo credit: HMC Architects

HMC's Director of Sustainability Jennifer Wehling notes that previously, material selection "has often been focused on aesthetics, cost, durability, and maintainability. Integrating the Materials Pledge into our process extends those considerations to also now include human and environmental health criteria." Being a Materials Pledge signatory has meant that HMC is taking the reporting process to heart and incorporating the goals of the program into their firm culture and project work, step by step. The image shown is an example from HMC's 2024 Materials Pledge results presentation.

Photo credit: HMC Architects

"There is so much to be excited about in the material space right now. It's great to see material health finally having its moment. I appreciate the more holistic look at material health compared to what we have seen in the past.... The Materials Pledge gives teams the guidance to consider all aspects of a product to make more informed decisions."

—Jennifer Wehling, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, LEED AP ID+C, WELL AP, Director of Sustainability, HMC Architects

STRATEGIES FOR GROWTH & IMPROVEMENT

What does responsible material selection look like, and how do we continue to improve?

Prioritizing materials that are better for both people and the planet is a complex challenge. Unlike the road to decarbonization, the amount of data needed is vast and often unavailable to architects and designers. There is no perfect material and thus better material selection means making data-driven decisions for the best possible project outcomes based on the goals and priorities of the design team, clients, and stakeholders.

Success looks different for every project and every firm. Success also continues to be nebulous in the materials realm: No one project or firm is a complete success story. Rather, the collective industry needs to keep working together to share their materials stories, empower project teams with basic-level materials education, and advocate for better products to be available on the market.

The AIA Materials Pledge Working Group shares what success currently looks like:

Metrics and tracking

"We measure material success by integrating performance measurement and reporting through key performance indicators (KPIs). This involves publishing results to enhance transparency within project teams and across the organization. The approach emphasizes having a single reliable source for data management, which increases data reliability and reduces mistakes. Ultimately, this strategy is designed to improve productivity as employees understand the impact of their actions on material use and success."—Bora Architects and Interiors (50-99 employees, Portland, OR)

"We are measuring success by expanding participation in our materials dashboard, the number of materials in our internal ranking system, and the (anecdotal) improvements in the accuracy of the information reported by staff." —Boulder Associates (100-499 employees, Boulder, CO)

Material libraries

"We use our library entry criteria document as a screening tool. We look for transparency documentation on ingredients and carbon, and we avoid certain chemicals wherever possible". —MSR Design, (20-49 employees, Minneapolis, MN)

Internal education and planning

"Our Sustainability Action Plan maps goals across three periods of time for the Materials Pledge, and our second phase, which we are just beginning, includes goals for each of the five impact categories. We are increasing the percentage of projects meeting the goal for a subset of categories, starting with 50% of eligible projects meeting the goal set for at least two of the impact categories." —EwingCole (100-499, Philadelphia, PA)

"As this field has been evolving, we have used different qualitative measures to track success. Examples include projects tracking RED List Free materials, inclusion of material health performance requirements specifications, piloting Division 1 Ethical Sourcing requirements, and avoiding materials with chemicals of concern such as PVC. We are also considering expanding our knowledge base in impact categories as a step towards success through internal lectures, manufacturer outreach, and material evaluations." —KieranTimberlake (50-99 employees, Philadelphia, PA)

"Materials success for our firm starts by having all our project teams work to better understand what the good, better, and best options may be when there are choices in selecting a product. We also measure success through advocacy and widely sharing the firm's efforts, such as Emission Zero and the Miller Hull Red List." —Miller Hull Partnership (50-99 employees, Seattle, WA)

"Did the project comply with our internal material policy? How much did we reduce embodied carbon emissions? Did we follow LBC Red List Free? Did we educate the client to switch their standards to healthier materials? Currently, we are answering questions like these and updating our Materials Action Plan to reflect a broader commitment to figuring out more effective ways to track and measure this data." —PAYETTE (100-499, Boston, MA)

CONCLUSION

The growth in reporting and new signatories within the AIA Materials Pledge community shows that architects and designers are actively engaging in responsible material selection.

As more resources, tools, and technology emerge, the A&D industry has increasing pathways and opportunities to integrate data-informed materials decisions into their design process. The AIA Materials Pledge reporting framework aims to be one of the first touchpoints for architects and designers to understand what data is needed to show both transparency and optimization in building materials. This year's report continues to build the case that there is momentum in the industry, while recognizing the need to accelerate progress to meet climate and equity goals. By learning from shared data and success stories, we can amplify our collective impact.

NEXT STEPS

As one of the AIA's two key climate pledge programs, the AIA Materials Pledge provides both a reporting framework and signatory network for firms to track and make progress on responsible material selection in the built environment. Future program updates in progress include:

- **Structuring the Materials Pledge** framework to ensure its relevance and nimbleness as data availability shifts in the marketplace.
- **Highlighting materials success** stories that connect quantitative results with qualitative impact.
- **Developing additional resources** to support data reporting and knowledge building, including potential certification crosswalks and best practice guides.
- **Establishing a signatory requirement** to have a firmwide Materials Action Plan or a Sustainability Action Plan with a materials component.
- **Creating educational materials** for signatories to increase knowledge on best practices for a more circular economy and improved social health and equity in the materials supply chain.

The AIA Materials Pledge empowers architects and designers to learn from one another, recognizing that no firm, project, or product can be perfect across all five impact categories. Through collective action, the industry can push the needle further—and faster—toward a more sustainable, equitable built environment. As a collective, architects and designers are ready to make progress towards a zero-carbon, resilient, equitable, and healthy built environment

Questions? Email us at materials@aia.org!

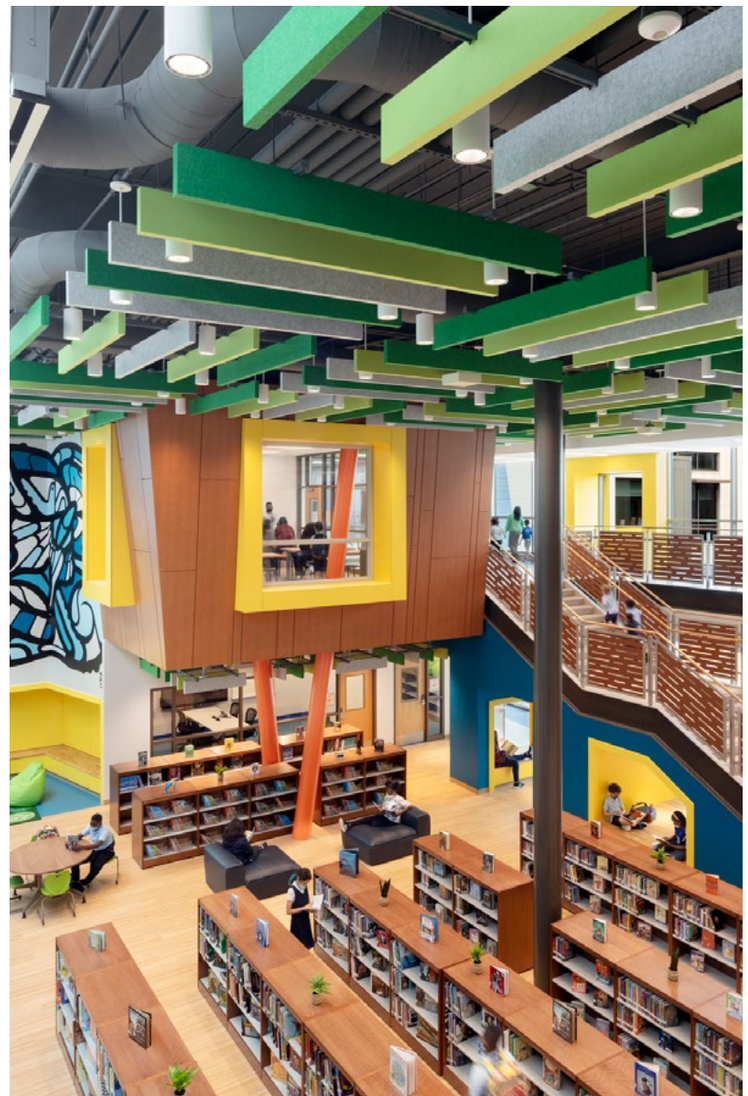
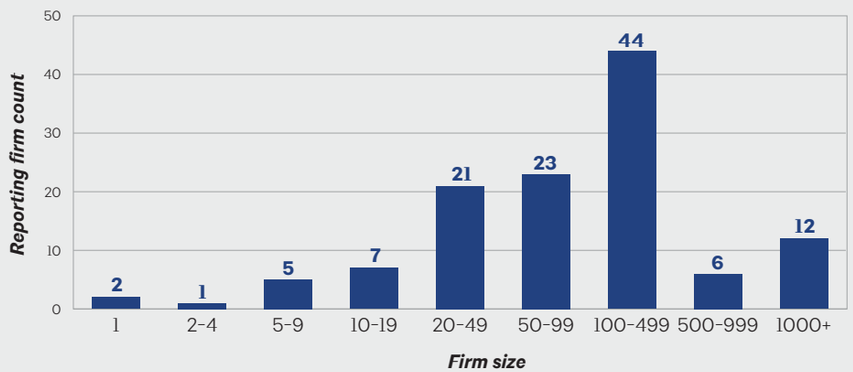


Photo credit: Joseph Romeo/Courtesy Perkins Eastman

REPORTING SIGNATORIES

NUMBER OF REPORTING SIGNATORIES BY FIRM SIZE



Ankrom Moisan Architects
Arcadis
archimania
Architects FORA
Architectural Design Group
Architecture Advantage, LLC
Arkin Tilt Architects
AWH Architects LLC
Ayers Saint Gross
Ballinger
Bergmeyer
Bohlin Cywinski Jackson
Bora Architecture & Interiors
Boulder Associates
BRIBURN
Browning Day
Bruner/Cott & Associates
BWBR
CannonDesign
Carleton Hart Architecture
CCY Architects
Centerbrook Architects and Planners
COOKFOX Architects
Curtis + Ginsberg Architects
David Baker Architects
Design Republic
DiMella Shaffer
DLR Group
DSK | Dewing Schmid Kearns Architects and Planners
Dyer Brown
Ennead
Eskew+Dumez+Ripple
EUA
EwingCole
Fennick McCredie Architecture
FGM Architects
Flad Architects
FXCollaborative Architects
GBBN
Goody Clancy
Grace Design Studios
Handel Architects
HDR
HED
HGA
HKS, Inc.
HLW International
HMC Architects
HMFH Architects
Hoefer Welker
HOK

REPORTING SIGNATORIES

IA Interior Architects
Integrated Eco Strategy
Integrus Architecture
isgenuity
JLG Architects
Kaplan Thompson Architects
KieranTimberlake
Kirksey
KPF
Lake|Flato Architects
LEDDY MAYTUM STACY Architects
Leo A Daly
Little Diversified Architectural Consulting
LMN Architects
Long Green Specs
Lord Aeck Sargent
LPA
LRS Architects
LS3P
Mahlum Architects
MARVEL
MASON
McKinney York Architects
MDS Architects
MHTN Architects
Mithun
Moontower
Moseley
MSR Design
Multistudio
NBBJ
Neumann Monson Architects
OLSON LEWIS + Architects
OneStudio D+A
OPN Architects
Opsis
Page
Payette
PCA
Perkins Eastman Architects
Perkins&Will
Placework
Practice
Quattrocchi Kwok Architects
Quinn Evans
RATIO
Re:Vision Architecture
Revel Architecture and Design
RMW architecture and interiors
rowland+broughton architecture and urban design
Sasaki Associates, Inc.
SCB
SchenkelShultz
SmithGroup
Stantec
Steinberg Hart
Strada
Studio STE
STUDIOS Architecture
TBDA
The Miller Hull Partnership
TPG Architecture
Trivers
TVS
UrbanWorks Ltd.
VMDO
Voith & Mactavish Architects
Wight & Company
WRNS Studio
ZGF Architects

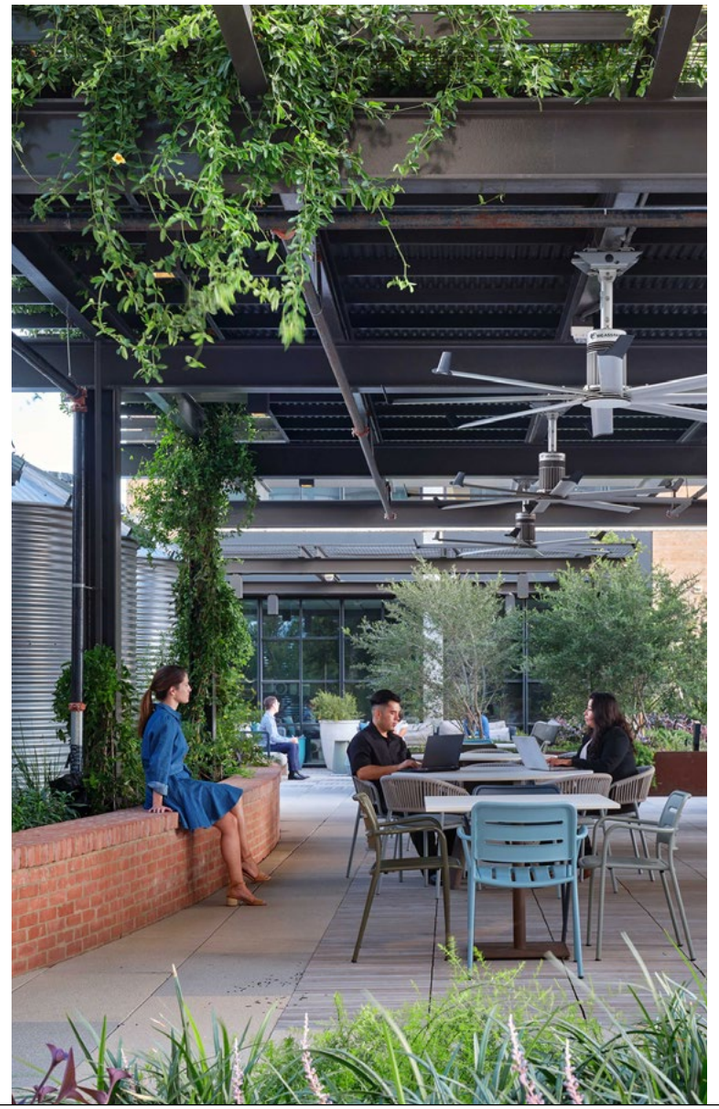


Photo credit: Dror Baldinger, FAIA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Materials Pledge Working Group

Co-chairs
Maria Papiez, AIA, M.S., NCARB, EwingCole
Jay Hindmarsh, AIA, LEED WELL AP, LFA, The Miller Hull Partnership, LLP

Tanya Eagle, Assoc. AIA, AICP, LEED AP BD+C, WELL AP, JLL
Kristi Ennis, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Boulder Associates
Simona Fischer, AIA, CPHC, MSR Design
Surya Prabhakaran, WELL AP, LEED GA, KieranTimberlake
Jenna Ritz, AIA , WELL AP, WELL Faculty, TenBerke
Amy Running, IIDA, BD+C, Bora Architects and Interiors
Misha Semënov-Leiva, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, CPHC, Yale University
Melanie Silver, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, PAYETTE

AIA Staff
Eana Bacchiocchi, Report author & Materials Pledge Program Manager
Erin Baird, Graphic Designer
Corey Clayborne, FAIA, Sr. Vice President, Knowledge & Practice
Melanie De Cola, LEED Green Associate, Materials Pledge Program Director
Kathleen Lane, AIA, Managing Director, Climate Action & Design Excellence
Stacy Moses, Art Director

Special thanks
Mary Dickinson, Assoc. AIA, LEED AP BD+C, Perkins&Will
mindful MATERIALS
Ashley Mulhall, AIA, Grace Design Studios
Lona Rerick, AIA, LEED AP BD+C, LFA, WELL AP, Perkins&Will
Polygraph

For more information and resources,
visit aia.org/materialspledge.

PROJECT IMAGE CREDITS

Cover
Project name: Founders Hall, Foster School of Business, University of Washington
Architect Credit: LMN Architects
Image Credit: Tim Griffith
Note: This project received a 2025 COTE® Top Ten Award

Page 4
Project name: Credit Human Headquarters
Architect Credit: Kirksey Architecture
Image Credit: Dror Baldinger, FAIA
Notes: This project received a 2025 COTE® Top Ten Award

Page 13
Project name: Wagner Education Center at the Center for Wooden Boats
Architect Credit: Olson Kundig
Image Credit: Aaron Leitz
Note: This project received a 2025 COTE® Top Ten Award

Page 16
Project name: College of the Atlantic, Davis Center for Human Ecology
Architect Credit: Susan T. Rodriguez | Architecture • Design & OPAL
Image Credit: Jen Holt
Notes: This project received a 2025 COTE® Top Ten Award

Page 20
Project name: Irving Institute for Energy and Society
Architect Credit: Goody Clancy
Photo credit: Ryan Bent Photography
Note: This project received a 2025 COTE® Top Ten Award

Page 21
Project name: EDR's materials charrette in action
Image Credit: EskewDumezRipple
Notes: EskewDumezRipple is a firm case study for this year's Materials Pledge By the Numbers.

Page 22
Project name: Alder Creek Elementary School
Image Credit: HMC Architects
Notes: HMC Architects is a firm case study for this year's Materials Pledge By the Numbers

Page 26
Project name: John Lewis Elementary School
Architect Credit: Perkins Eastman Architects
Image Credit: Copyright Joseph Romeo/Courtesy Perkins Eastman
Note: This project received a 2025 COTE® Top Ten Award

Page 28
Project name: Credit Human Headquarters
Architect Credit: Kirksey Architecture
Image Credit: Dror Baldinger, FAIA
Notes: This project received a 2025 COTE® Top Ten Award

The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006
aia.org