

2030 BY THE NUMBERS

The 2025 summary of
the AIA 2030 Commitment



Photo by Joseph Romeo/Perkins Eastman

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 2025 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 2025 and suggestions for improving performance year to year.

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This analysis highlights project-level information pulled on May 2026 for projects included in Reporting Year 2025 portfolio submissions.

Recommended bibliographic listing: The American Institute of Architects (2025 September). [*2030 by the numbers: The 2025 Summary of the AIA 2030 Commitment*](#)

FOREWORD

By Carole Wedge, FAIA, EVP/CEO, The American Institute of Architects

This report marks 20 years of a movement within the architecture profession to commit to carbon reduction in the design of the built environment. With 16 years of signatory firm reporting, the 2030 Commitment program continues to significantly expand the scope of high-performance progress metrics beyond the net zero goals of the original 2030 Challenge, to include reporting metrics on embodied carbon, electrification uptake, and renewable expansion. In alignment with AIA’s new 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, the Commitment sits squarely within our framework setting the “PACE.” It embodies the spirit of the letter C—Climate leadership that is ambitious, achievable, and embedded in practice. In AIA’s aim to elevate community resilience to address climate, the Commitment has a stated strategy to “promote adoption of climate action commitments in everyday practice,” and corresponding objective “enable architects to confidently integrate climate action and design excellence into all of their work: How they design, document, deliver, and evaluate projects.” This is a purposefully direct alignment and call to action for any firms not yet engaging with the Commitment or reporting data—it is past time.

As architects, we remain committed to further reductions in energy usage, carbon, and emissions through more thoughtful design decision-making and adoption of new technologies. The 2030 Commitment is undergoing an update to support firms in accelerating progress as we approach 2030.

This will include surfacing more grid data in project reporting via AIA’s Design Data Exchange (DDx), working towards a combined operation and embodied carbon metric, and offering enhanced visualization tools for firm benchmarking.

AIA remains firmly committed to demonstrating how our members push the boundaries of innovation in design, moving beyond what is possible today to a progressive net positive tomorrow. An emphasis on truly [regenerative design](#) will also come to the fore, with AIA emphasizing the call for projects to engage whole-systems thinking, optimize ecological carrying capacity, design for evolution, celebrate spirit of place, and actively renew planetary cycles.

AIA will continue to equip architects, clients, and communities to do their best to create a more resilient, healthy, and equitable world. This report represents a re-commitment to accelerating the efficiency and emissions reductions goals the original 2030 Challenge made twenty years ago. We must move towards a more regenerative future. Join us as we forge ahead together!



2026 COTE® Top Ten Award winner, Trinity University Business & Humanities District, Lake Flato Architects, photo: Robert Benson.

SETTING THE STAGE

The AIA 2030 Commitment is now in its 17th year since inception and less than five years from the target year of 2030. The Commitment finds itself at an inflection point, with questions about progress, benchmarking, and a collective trajectory forward. Climate conditions continue to threaten communities: in 2025, floods continued to ravage and fires continued to rage; these show no signs of abating.

In the face of shifting external pressures and priorities, AIA remains committed to climate action and increasing equity to ground its programs. This is evidenced in the newly released 2026-2030 [strategic plan](#), which focuses on four main areas of impact: **P**ractice success that strengthens firms and careers, **A**dvocacy that supports and elevates architects, **C**limate leadership that is ambitious, achievable, and embedded in practice, and **E**quity that expands access, participation, and advancement across the profession (PACE). The Commitment sits squarely in this climate leadership imperative and remains a preeminent marker of climate action that is ambitious, achievable, and embedded.

Beyond the benefit of year-over-year metrics, the 2030 Commitment and AIA’s [Architecture & Design Materials Pledge](#) provide firms with frameworks to improve sustainability practices within their companies. Committing to profession-wide goals introduces a common language and shared accountability. The

2030 Commitment and Materials Pledge should revive and prompt ongoing conversations within firms about embedding more holistic strategies to encourage high-performance projects, even in the face of a multitude of client and economic constraints. To this end, 2030 Commitment and Materials Pledge Working Group members and longtime signatories have shared their lessons and stories in AIA’s new [Return on Investment for AIA’s Climate Action Pledge guide](#). This aligns with the aims of the Commitment and offers tactics for firms engaged with the pledges, and those curious about joining.

The present

While charts, graphs, and averages are instructive, they often require context. Throughout this report there are charts that require extra explanation when compared to past *By the Numbers* reports. In 2024, a one-time portfolio of 16,000 projects with many single-family houses (often featuring solar PV), were submitted—causing a temporary bump in project count and square footage. This led to varied data and required nuance to avoid drawing conclusions when reviewing the charts in this 2025 report.

2025’s dataset shows 67% of whole-building projects were energy modeled, a trend moving in the right direction; while at the same time the energy reduction of those projects actually decreased. Energy-modeled projects override CBECs

2003 baselines with firm-determined ones. This means that baselines can be lower (but also potentially more realistic), which leads to lower energy reductions. This report is also a call to action for the profession to increase modeling to achieve a truer sense of building performance and to increase QA/QC practices of projects to ensure realistic baselines.



2026 COTE® Top Ten Award winner, U.S. Embassy Niamey, Niger, The Miller Hull Partnership and Page Southerland Page, photo: Kevin Scott.

The future

Efficiency alone will not get us to a built environment with net zero emissions. The multi-year efficiency limit in predicted Energy Use Intensity (pEUI) reduction, which has stayed around 50% for years, is not necessarily a sign of stagnation. Firms have pushed energy efficiency toward a practical point of diminishing return, and that achievement deserves recognition. The stagnation is a signal that energy efficiency can no longer serve as the 2030 Commitment’s sole proxy for progress toward zero emissions. Reporting renewables and fuel sources can provide context on the impact of our buildings, but continued efforts are needed on policy to improve regional building codes.

As we approach the year 2030, it is time to move toward total carbon reporting. The Working Group recommends repositioning the program to capture the full scope of decarbonization efforts across the built environment. While these changes will not take effect for Reporting Year 2026, we will begin preparing for future reporting cycles with iterative changes in the coming years. In addition to changing the name of the Commitment itself, the Commitment will move towards highlighting operational and embodied carbon usage intensities, with the goal of total carbon reporting in the future.

New performance ranges derived from use type pEUI metrics will help with education about how projects compare to their peers today, as opposed to a 2003 baseline. The way we report year-to-year progress will also change. Reporting in the DDx

will evolve beyond CBECs 2003 operational energy reductions to more holistically incorporate grid emissions data and embodied carbon. The educational opportunities for firms to learn from their internal data will increase with future iterations of DDx offerings and visuals, while the singular % reduction number from CBECS 2003 will become less of a focus. Please visit 2030 Commitment’s [co-chair statement](#) for more details.

While the emissions story is nuanced, advanced economies are making strides in decarbonizing certain sectors, with the built environment being a priority. The Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction tenth edition of the [Global Status Report](#) for Buildings and Construction 2025–2026 states:

- Global building energy intensity has reduced by 8.5%.
- In 2024, renewables supplied just 17.3% of global buildings’ energy demand, below what is needed for a net-zero pathway.
- Investment in energy efficiency reached \$275 billion in 2024, contributing to cumulative investment of \$2.3 trillion since 2015.

Project Drawdown follows this up in their recent post [“Five key insights into global greenhouse gas emissions”](#) that “... electricity emissions have dropped as renewables have grown and displaced dirtier fuels, particularly coal.” For more details about energy production trends within the United States, see the energy (fuel) source section of this report.

CHANGES COMING TO THE COMMITMENT

Strongly encouraging energy modeling and energy (fuel) source reporting to enable total carbon metrics. Total carbon involves calculating and reporting operational emissions using regional grid data, so that the combined contributions of energy efficiency, electrification, renewable energy, and grid decarbonization are all reflected in how we measure progress.

Expanding embodied carbon reporting. As a key part of the total carbon equation, expansion will allow signatories to capture carbon reductions beyond energy and operational emissions.

Realigning baselines and adding specificity. This will update existing baselines to more accurately reflect current building performance and ensure that firms can use the DDx as a goal-setting tool for active projects, rather than simply a repository of past data.

Enhancing education within reporting and data quality measures. Understanding where pEUIs fall within a performance matrix will be key to understanding pEUI goals for use types, while data QA will become more transparent and help create knowledge feedback loops.

2025 AT A GLANCE

48%
overall pEUI reduction.

458
signatories reported data.

3.4 billion
GSF were reported.

24,286
projects reported.

527
whole-building projects
are predicted to be
net-zero energy.

15
firm signatories met the 90%
predicted energy use intensity
(pEUI) reduction target.

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

116
countries were represented.

67%
of whole-building GSF was
energy modeled.

Photo by Bonnie Kitahata on Unsplash

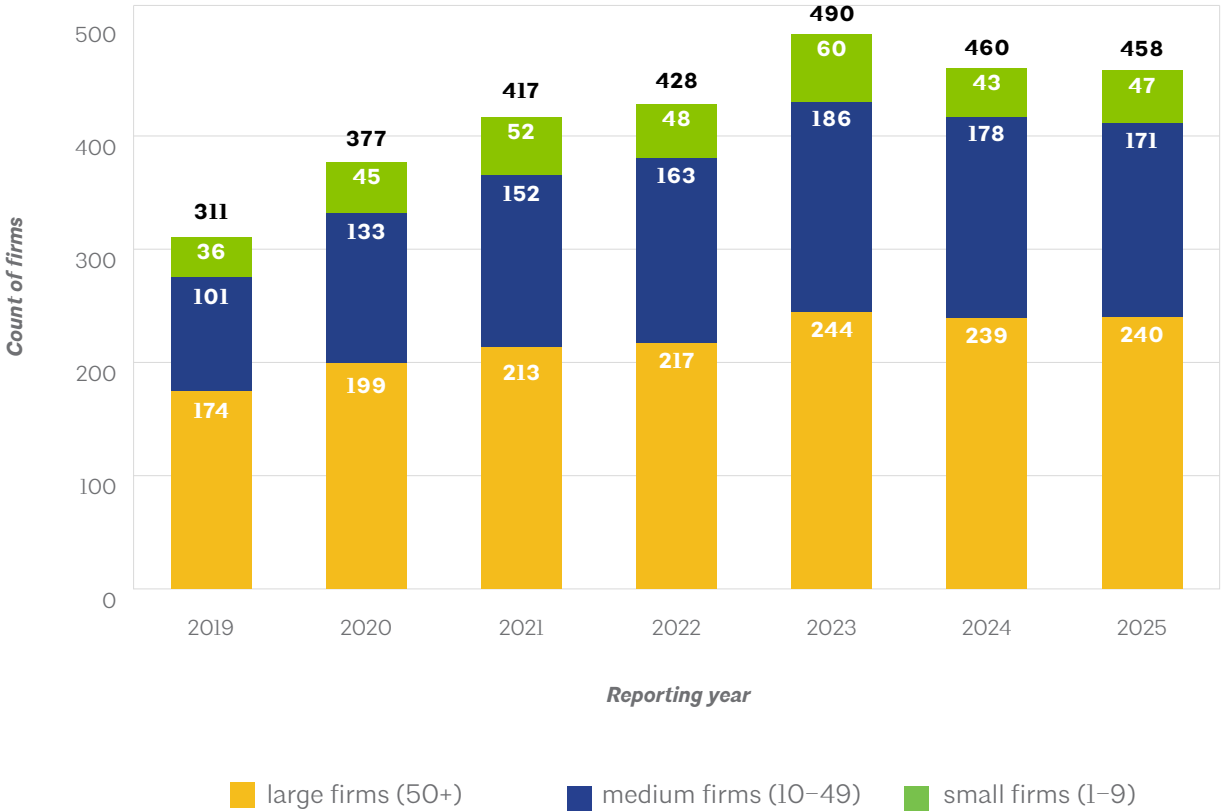
2025 OVERVIEW

In 2025, 458 signatory firms reported over 3.4 billion gross square feet (GSF) across 24,286 projects in 116 countries through the AIA’s proprietary database, the Design Data Exchange (DDx). These projects accounted for an overall 48% pEUI reduction among whole-building projects and an overall 35% pLPD reduction among interior-only projects. 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.

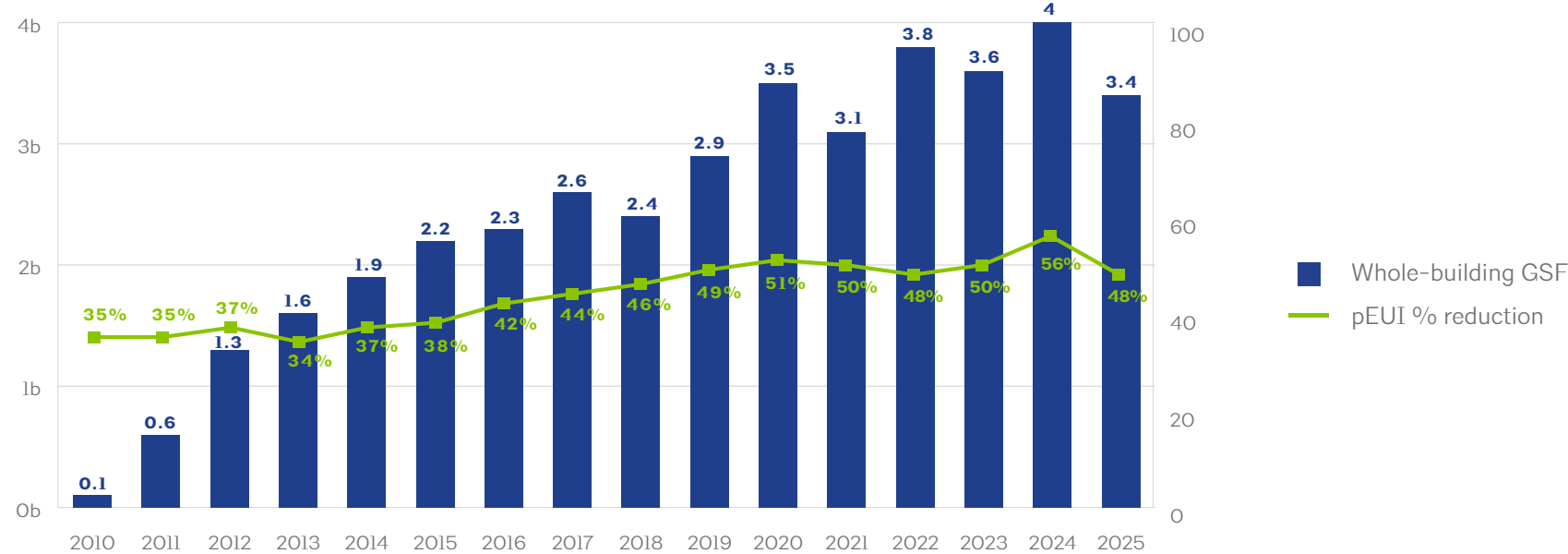
The Commitment collects data and tracks progress across multiple strategies:

- **Energy modeling in every phase of design** to keep teams focused on passive strategies and ambitious energy-efficiency targets.
- **Advocating for state policies and codes** with ambitious EUI targets.
- Transitioning away from a need for on-site combustion to **all-electric, grid-interactive, and efficient buildings.**
- Encouraging **on-site and off-site renewable energy.**
- **Reducing embodied carbon of structures and finishes** to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

REPORTING FIRMS BY SIZE



WHOLE-BUILDING GSF & pEUI % REDUCTION



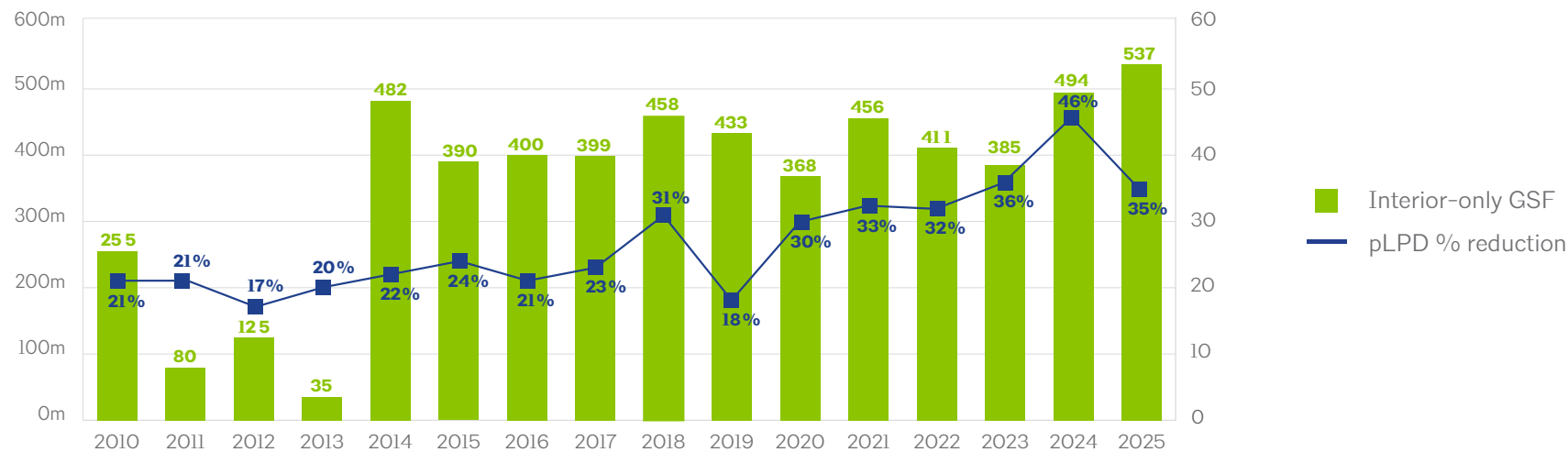
Context on 2025 decrease in pEUI % reduction

Overall, 2025 shows a decrease in pEUI % reduction, but this seems to reflect a tightening of the comparison baselines, rather than a decrease in energy performance. 2025 saw an increase in firm-determined baselines, as well as modeled projects, which override default baselines. This leads to both a wide variety in project baselines and reductions.

For firms modeling 100% of their projects, this has a large impact on reductions. In the coming years, the 2030 Commitment has decided to decrease the emphasis on pEUI % reduction, and increase emphasis on pEUI performance ranges.

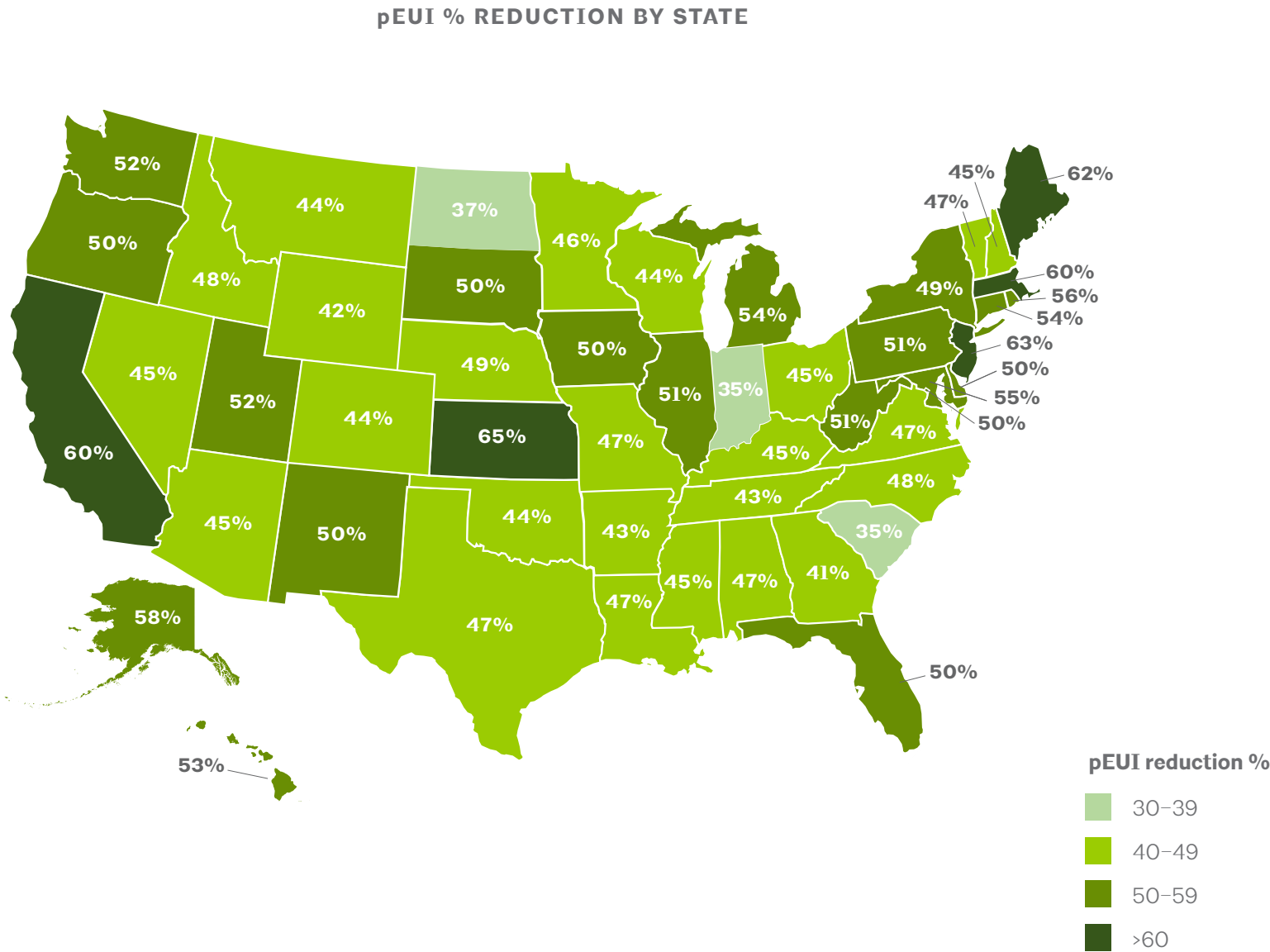
In comparison, if all firms had reported projects as equivalent to code the energy reduction for 2025 would have been 56%.

INTERIOR-ONLY GSF & pLPD % REDUCTION



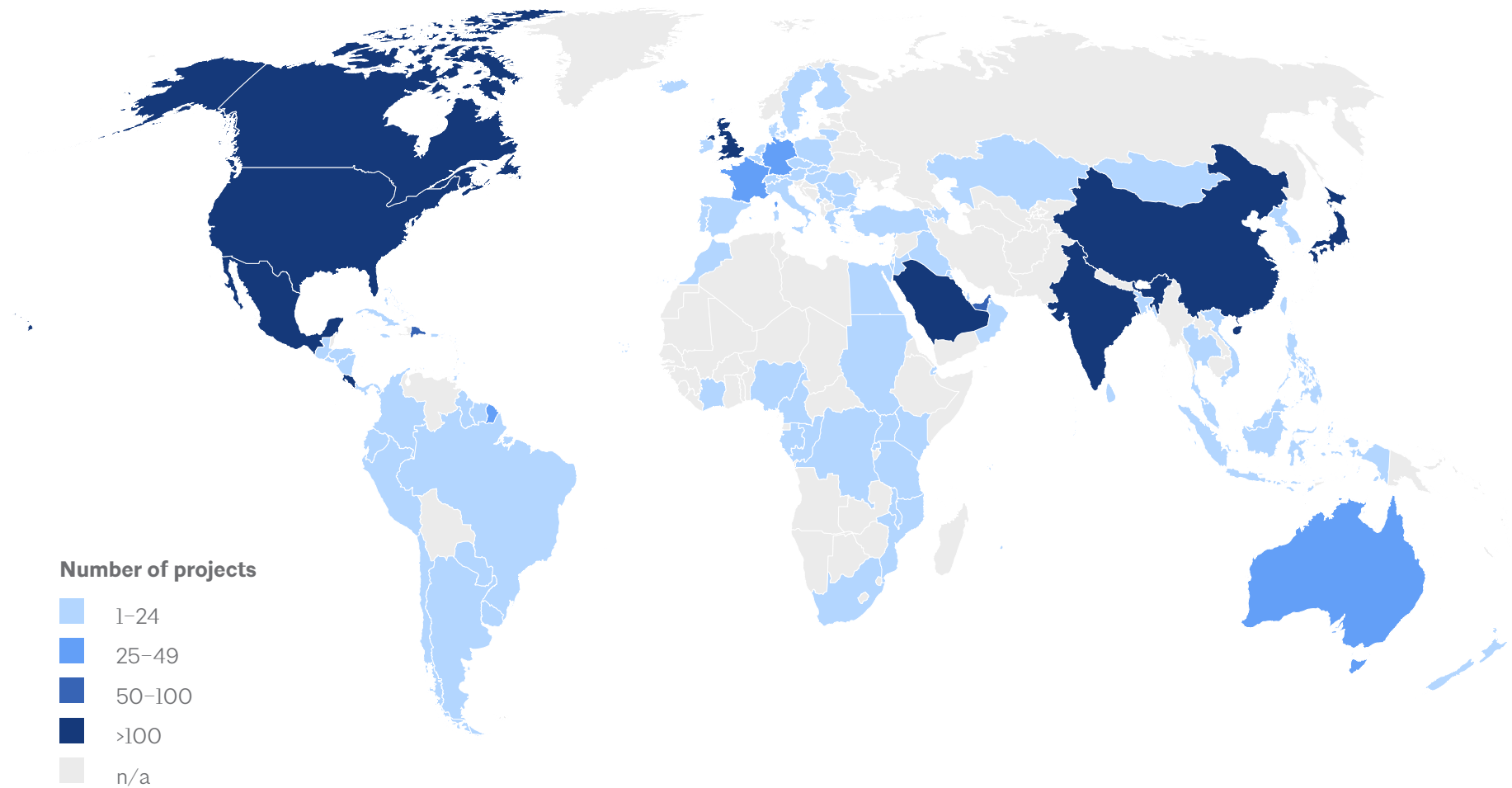
A relevant example is data centers. Data centers do not have a clear DDx use type category. These projects largely live within the use type “Other”, combined with wildly differing projects with different pEUIs. When analyzing the 2025 data the team removed all data center projects from the test data, but this only increased the overall pEUI reduction 1%, despite a GSF of 139 million sf. The Working Group feels that more use type differentiation and reporting guidance will improve 2030 reporting practices, and DDx data quality going forward.

To understand how use types are combined for the purposes of this report please visit the [“Select Use Types” DDx help page](#).



In 2025 signatory firms reported 16,466 whole-building projects totaling 2.9 billion GSF. The US national weighted average pEUI reduction was 48%. Kansas (a home rule state), New Jersey, and Maine (both states with energy code ASHRAE 90.1 2019 ,which is equivalent to 52% reduction) lead the pack, with California and Massachusetts rounding out the top five.

GLOBAL FOOTPRINT



Outside of the U.S., signatory firms reported 2,915 projects totaling approximately 1.1 billion GSF across 114 countries.

SECTION 1.

HOW 2030
SIGNATORIES
ARE MAKING
AN IMPACT



Photo by Tom Fitzgerald / Mithun



\$20.7 billion/year

In 2025, reported projects achieved an energy savings of more than \$20.7 billion over the CBECS 2003 baseline equivalent.

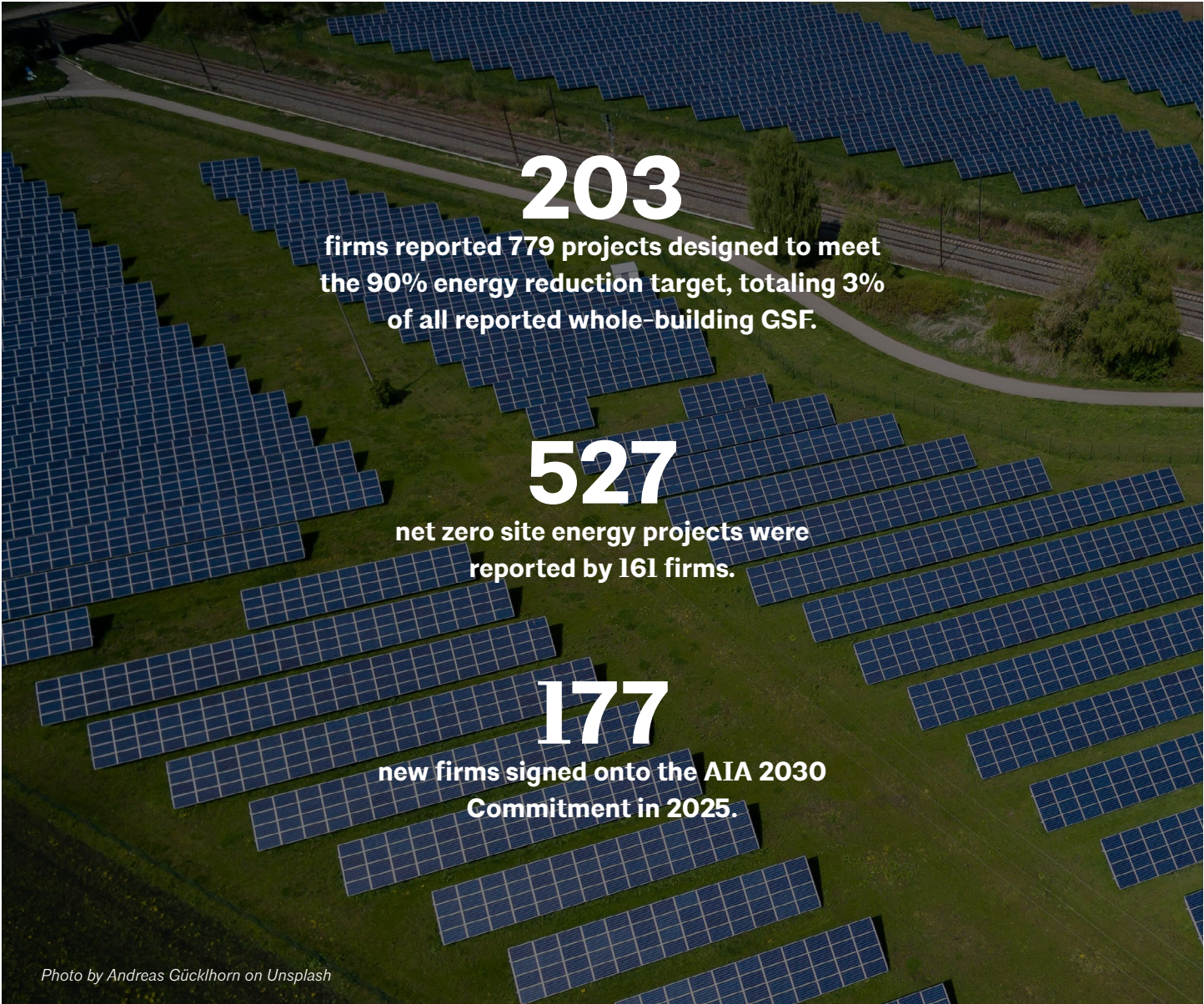
Photo by Kenrick Baksh on Unsplash



52.3

MILLION MT CO₂E

In 2025, reported projects accounted for an annual overall energy savings equivalent to avoiding 52.3 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent.



203

firms reported 779 projects designed to meet the 90% energy reduction target, totaling 3% of all reported whole-building CSF.

527

net zero site energy projects were reported by 161 firms.

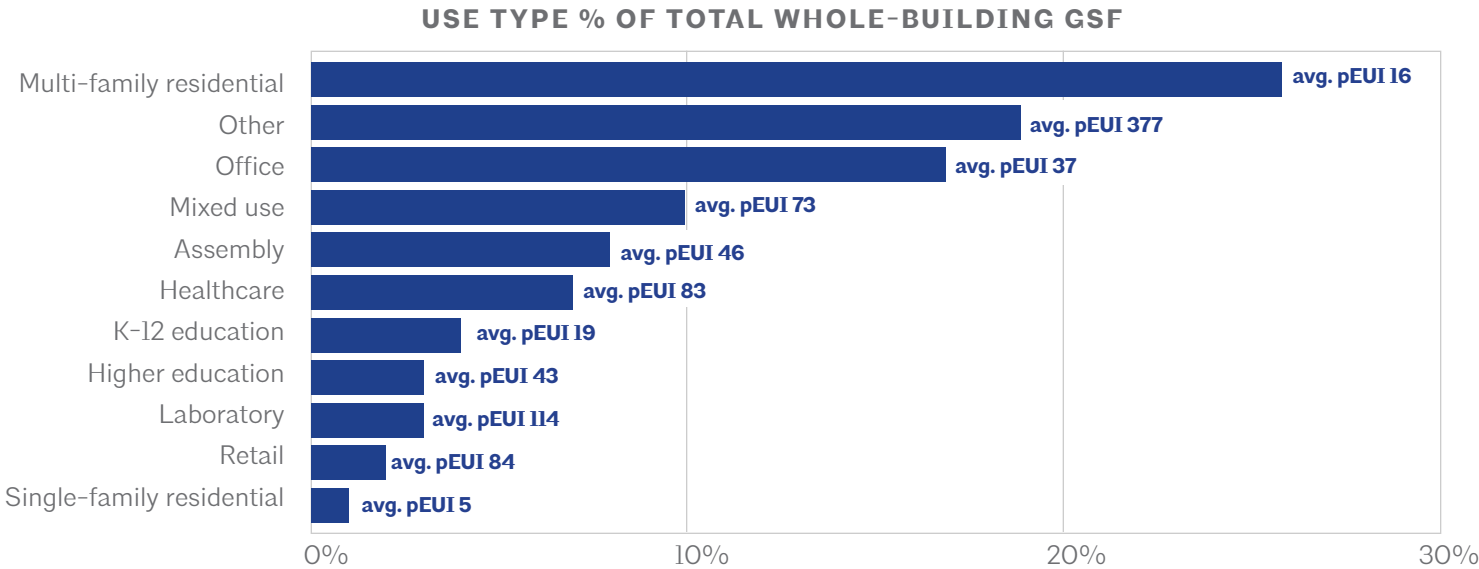
177

new firms signed onto the AIA 2030 Commitment in 2025.

Photo by Andreas Gückhorn on Unsplash

2030 SIGNATORIES / Proof in the numbers

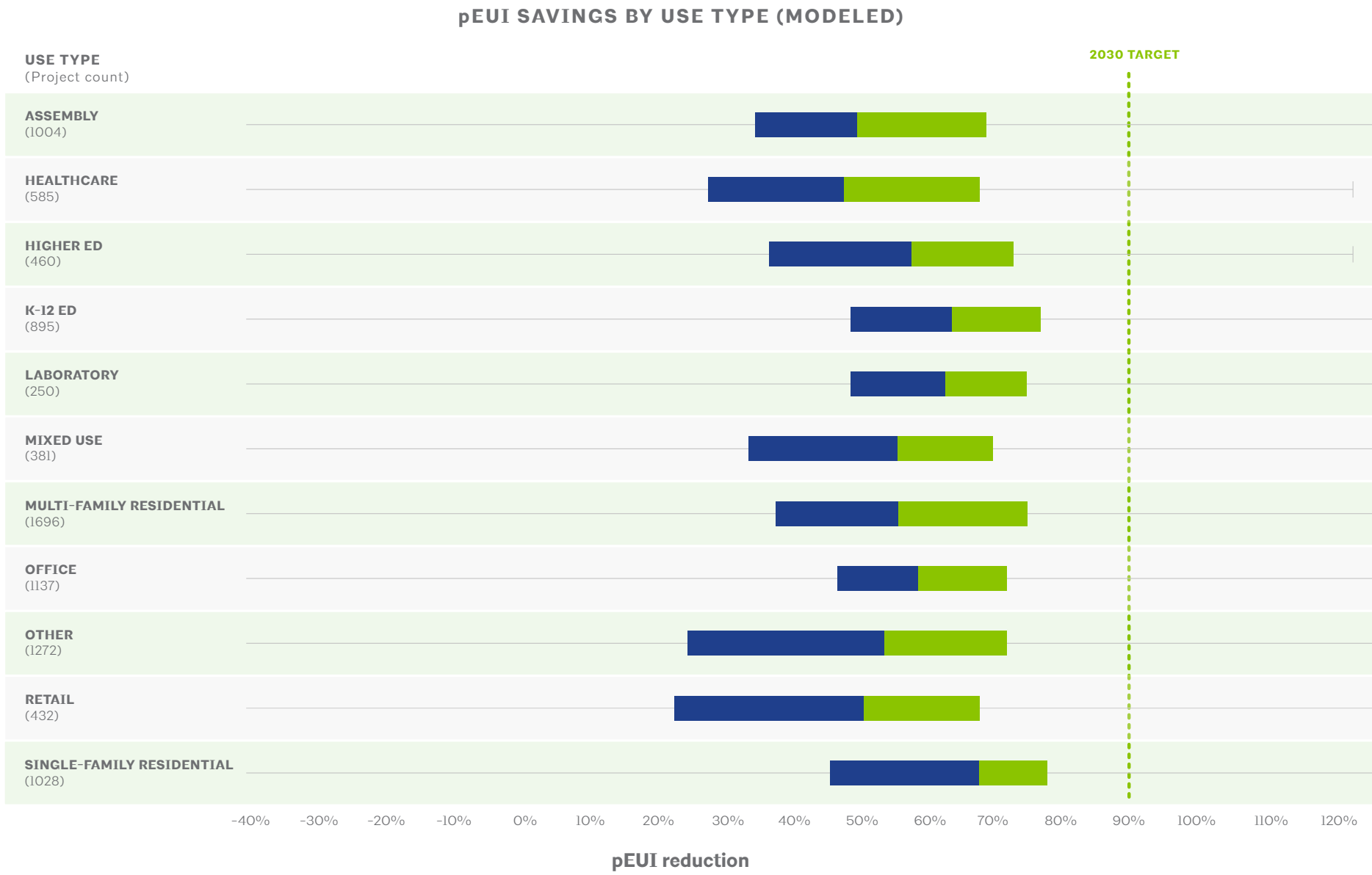
Whole-building	Project count	Total area (ft²)	Weighted pEUI % reduction
Multi-family residential	3,125	743,144,830	51%
Other	2,429	535,926,375	45%
Office	1,663	487,215,022	54%
Mixed use	529	294,036,657	38%
Assembly	1,762	228,082,126	44%
Healthcare	1,294	202,105,001	45%
K-12 education	1,752	135,810,335	54%
Higher education	714	81,739,834	55%
Laboratory	330	72,056,106	58%
Retail	779	70,371,315	39%
Single-family residential	2,089	17,206,156	53%
Total/average	16,466	2.9 billion	48%



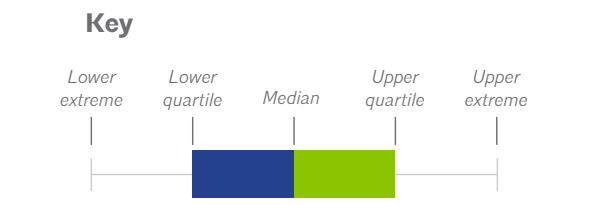
Multifamily residential makes up the largest share of whole building project types at 26% with a weighted average pEUI of 16 kBtu/sf for modeled projects, followed by Other with 19% with a pEUI of 377 kBtu/sf (this includes the data center projects), and Office with 17% of square footage and a pEUI of 37 kBtu/sf.

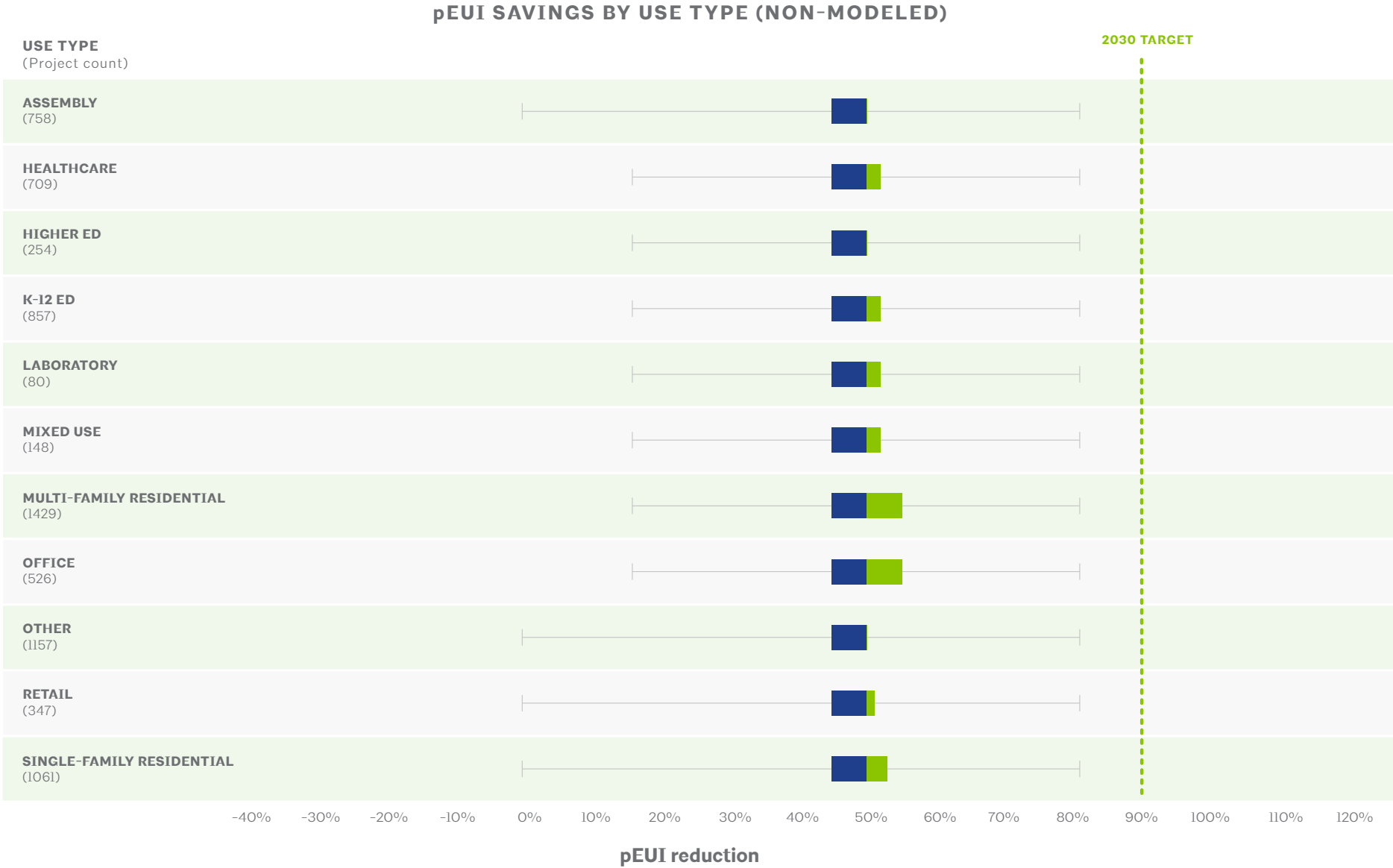
The difference in % reduction is evident in the comparison between modeled and non-modeled (code-equivalent) projects. While modeling can lead to more accurate baselines, they introduce a level of variability that doesn't exist with baselines based on energy code in comparison to CBECS baselines. As more modeled projects are reported, it is becoming clear that % reduction does not tell the full story of decarbonization. Rather than comparing aggregated % reductions, directly comparing pLPD, pEUI, and fuel source data can be more instructive.

Note: Use types are combined for analysis and simplicity's sake in this report, for a full breakdown of DDx use types, please see the [“Select Use Types” help page](#).



The variability in 2025 energy modeled data becomes clear here. The lower extreme and upper extreme values are literally “off the charts” on both ends for almost all the building types. This can happen naturally with use types in the “other” category such as data centers and aquatic centers but also highlights a need for more data quality control by firms.



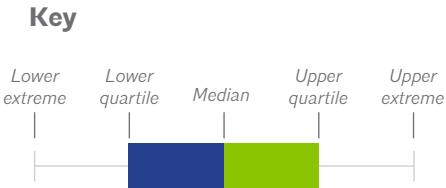


In contrast, the non-modeled (aka “code equivalent”) projects have pEUI reductions reflecting the anticipated average performance of the energy codes, rather than individual project design performance.

For non-modeled projects the following energy codes were the only ones that made up more than 2% of whole-building GSF:

- IECC 2021 8% GSF = 50% reduction
- IECC 2018 4% GSF = 45% reduction
- IECC 2015 3% GSF = 44% reduction
- IECC 2012 Residential 3% GSF = 44% reduction

To understand the % reduction for each energy code available please see the [DDx help page “Add design energy code.”](#)



Interior only	Project count		Total area (ft²)	Weighted pLPD % reduction	
Office		3,704			34%
Retail		673			80%
Other		476			31%
Assembly		608			34%
Mixed use		109			50%
Healthcare		1,249			31%
Multi-family residential		140			37%
K-12 education		326			29%
Higher education		272			14%
Laboratory		217			26%
Single-family residential		44			28%
Total/average		7,818			35%

In 2025, signatory firms reported 7,818 interior-only projects totaling 537 million GSF and with a weighted average pLPD reduction of 35%. 80% of these projects met the 25% pLPD goal for the 2030 Commitment.

SECTION 2.

ENERGY MODELING ACROSS DESIGN PHASES

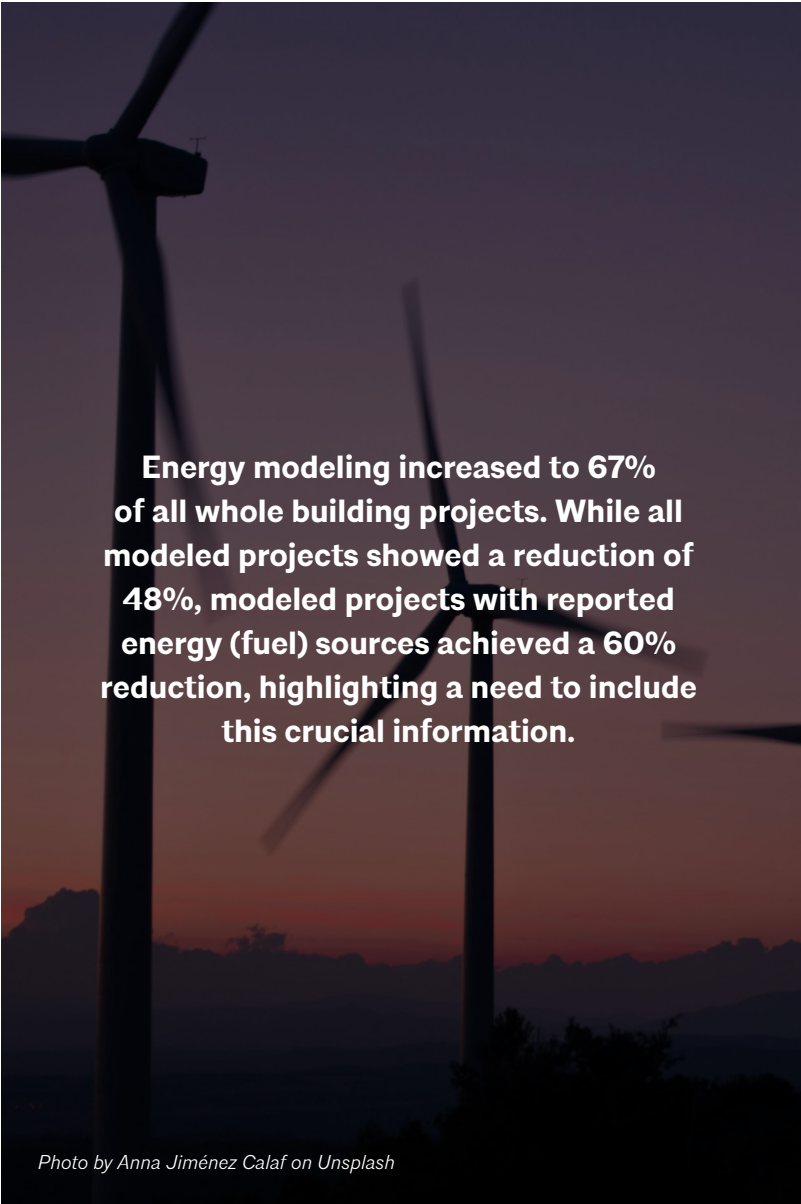


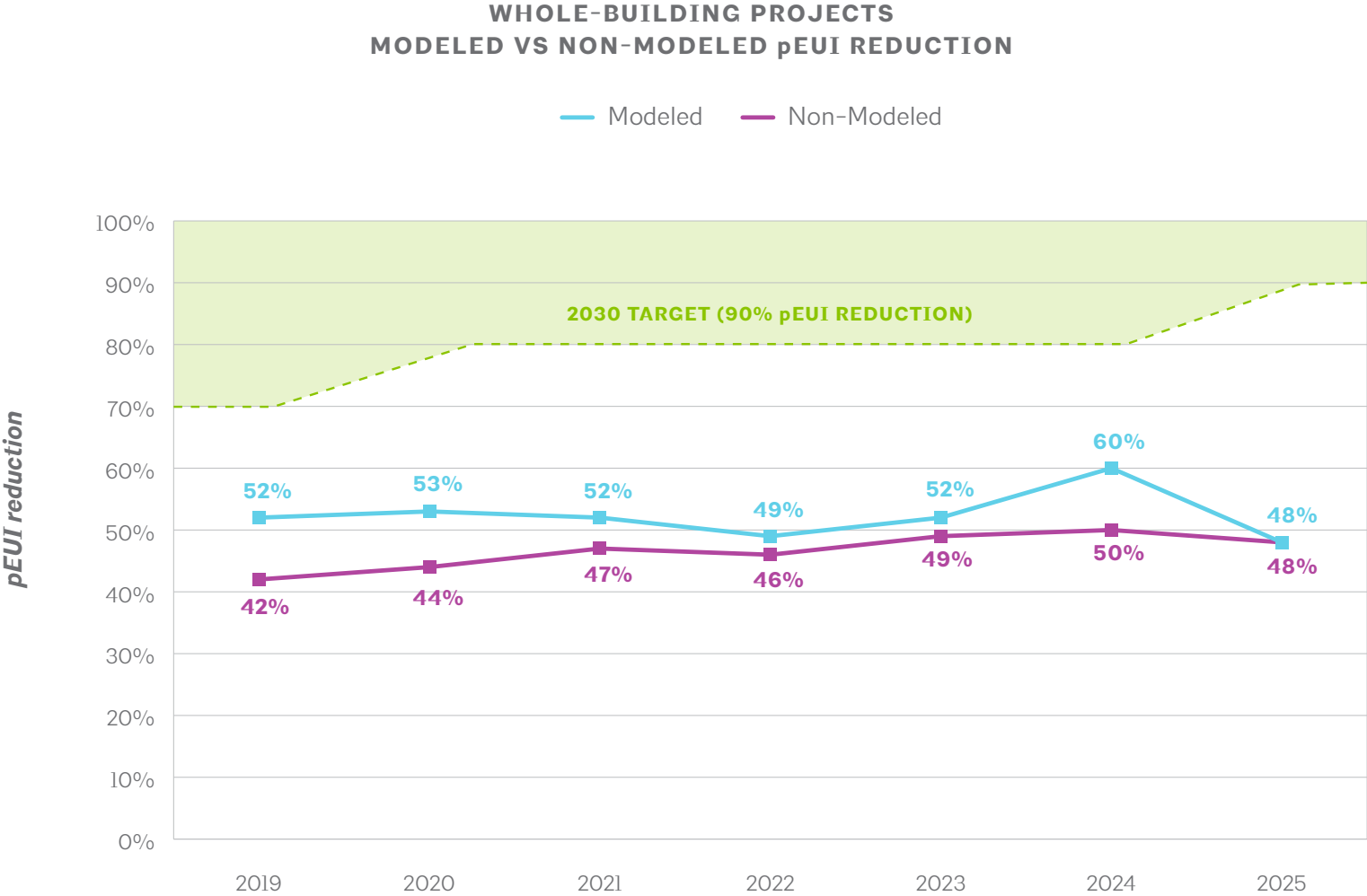
Photo by Morris Moreno

2025 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PROJECTS REPORTING ENERGY MODELING

- **9,140 whole-building projects were energy modeled**, representing approximately **67% of reported whole-building GSF—1.9 billion GSF**—a program high. Of these projects, 2,000 also reported their fuel sources.
- Whole-building projects with an energy model achieved an **average pEUI reduction of 48%**, while whole-building projects without a model achieved an average pEUI reduction of 50%.

Note: If all projects had been reported as equivalent to code the pEUI reduction for the entire 2025 portfolio would have been 56%.

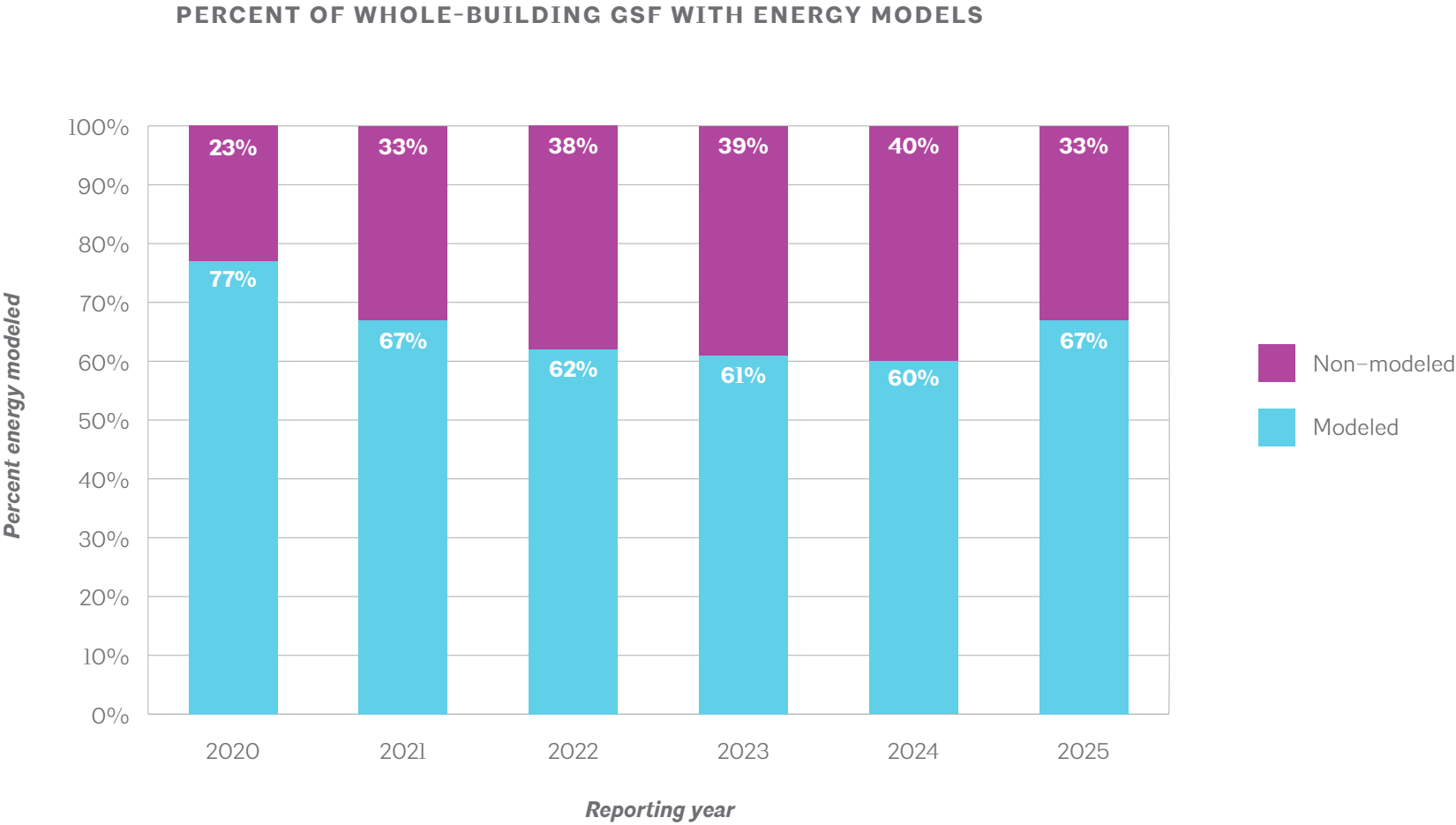




Non-modeled projects stayed relatively steady at 48% pEUI reduction compared with a 50% reduction in 2024 and a 49% reduction in 2023. Modeled projects, in contrast, declined from 60% in 2024 to 48% in 2025, closer to the 2023 level, and matching current non-modeled projects.

This volatility in modeled projects is partially because modeled projects set their own baselines. These baselines are not necessarily exactly 2003 CBECS values; rather they are self-determined reference points. While energy modeling teams use baselines derived from measured projects, which are theoretically more accurate, in practice this means that DDx projects with energy models are often reported with similar baselines and targets, resulting in minimal energy reductions. If all projects had reported as code equivalent the total portfolio percent reduction would have been 56%.

This development illuminates the value of transitioning pEUI and emissions targets as improved benchmarks and educational tools. also highlights a need for more data quality control by firms.



Encouragingly energy modeling increased by seven points in 2025, which hopefully reflects an increased reliance on early and increased modeling across 203 projects.

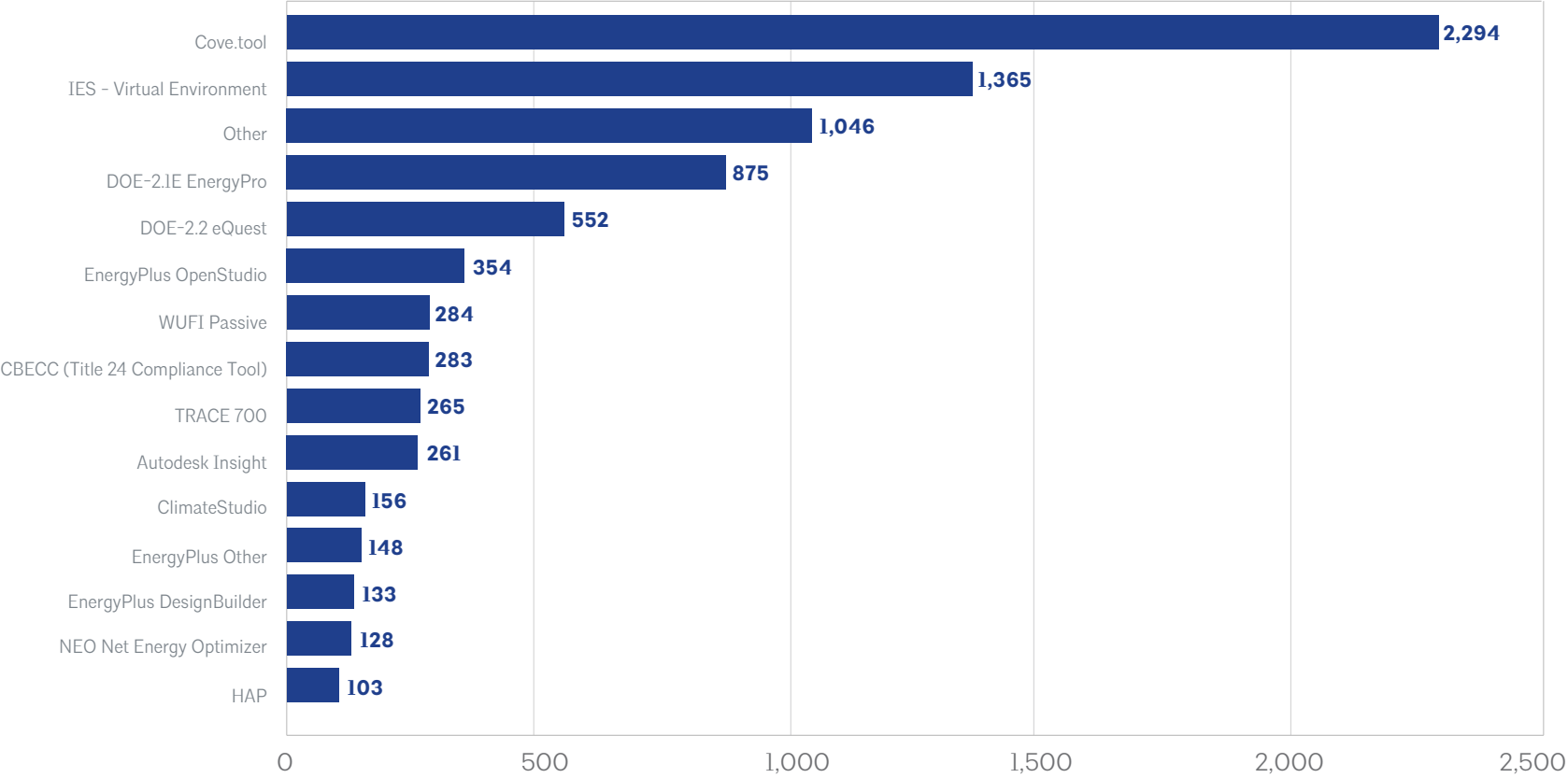
Th next page illustrates that Cove.tool and IES continued to be the top two modeling tools by square footage, the same as in 2024, while architects jumped to the top spot in modeling party. This shows a shift from 2024, when design engineers were doing more modeling, and architecture teams were in third place.

Resources

- [Designing for Decarbonization: Tools & Strategies for Architects AIAU series](#)
- [Architect’s Guide to Building Performance](#)
- [ROI of High-Performance Design](#)
- [A Case for Energy Modeling webinar](#)

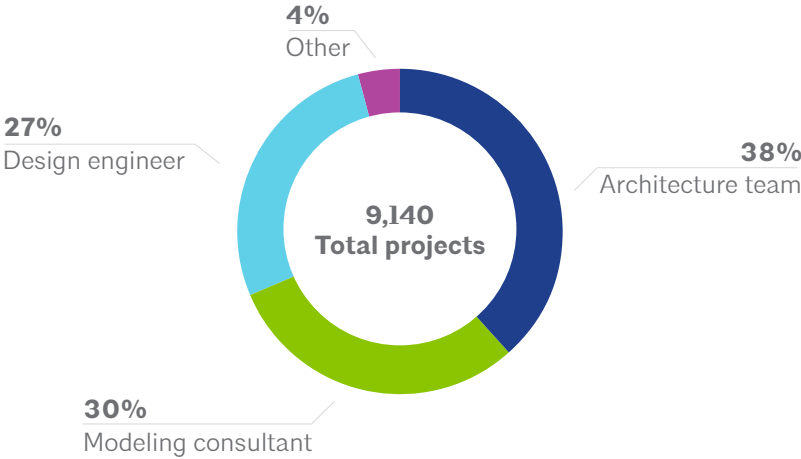
ENERGY MODEL USAGE / 2025 key takeaways for projects reporting energy modeling

TOP FIFTEEN ENERGY MODELING TOOLS BY
WHOLE-BUILDING GSF



Note: Other is a mix of tools falling below the top 15.

ENERGY MODELING PARTY BY
% OF PROJECT AREA



SECTION 3.

TRACKING BUILDING ENERGY SOURCES



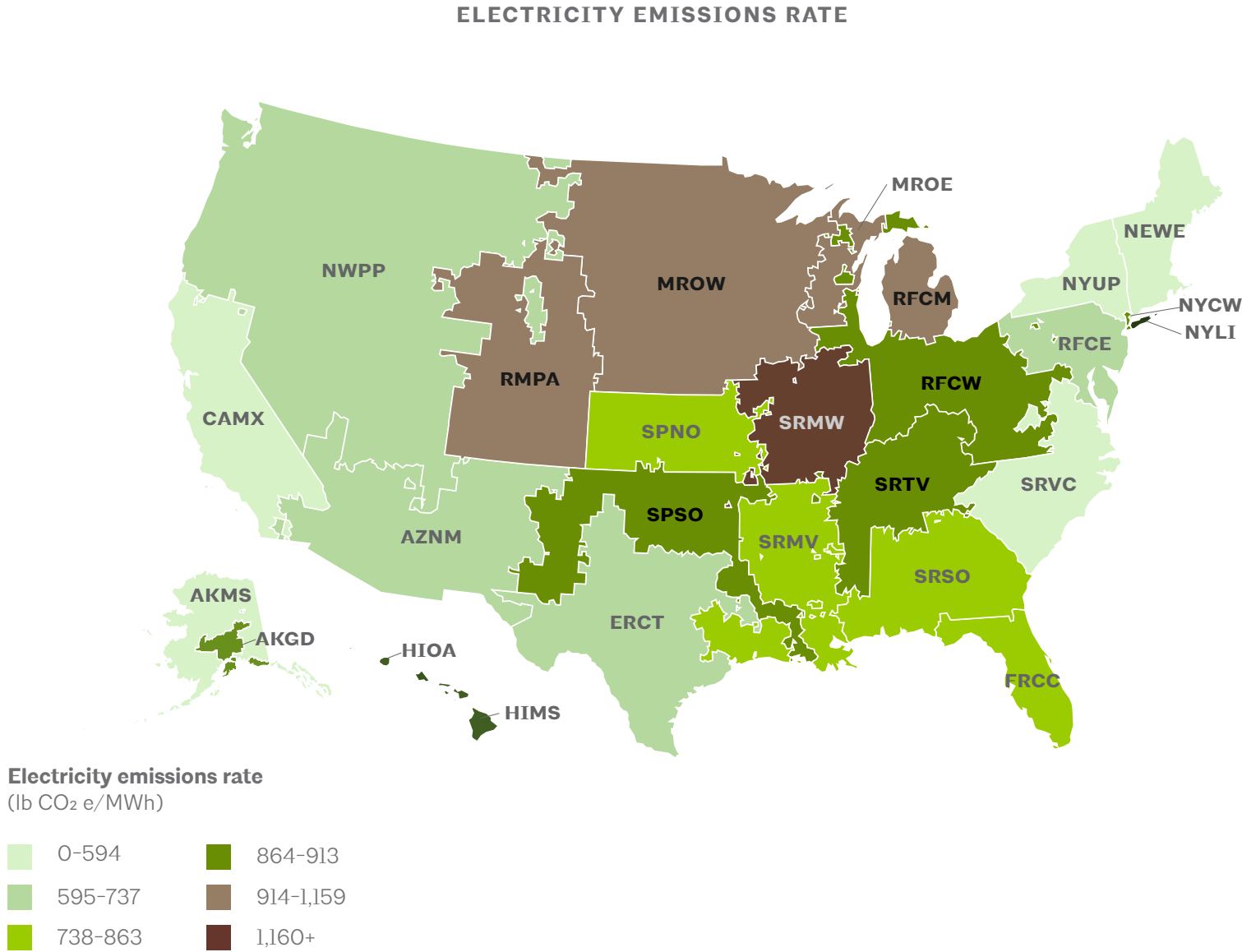
Photo by Albert Vecerka/Esto

2025 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PROJECTS REPORTING FUEL SOURCES

- **2,000 projects reported their fuel sources.** These projects represent 10% of all reported whole-building projects and 22% of the projects that were energy modeled. **The pEUI for modeled projects with fuel source reporting is 60%,** far above the whole building total of 48%.
- **1,220 buildings reported being all-electric.**

Note: As opposed to coal’s emissions factor of ~ 96.0 kg CO₂/MMBtu and natural gas ~ 52.9 kg CO₂/MMBtu, renewable energy such as solar, wind and hydro have emissions factors of 0, as does nuclear energy.

source: [US Energy Information Administration](#)



BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION / 2025 key takeaways for projects reporting energy (fuel) sources

The following are the top 5 states using coal
(measured in thousand megawatt-hours):

State	Electricity from coal	% electricity from coal
Texas	4,192	9%
Indiana	3,590	39%
Kentucky	3,122	67%
West Virginia	2,993	84%
Ohio	2,704	22%

In contrast, solar energy made up 11% of the U.S. electricity mix in March 2026 and wind produced 15%. The following 5 states place highest for renewable electricity (measured in thousand megawatt-hours):

State	Electricity from solar	% electricity from solar
California	8,220	54%
Texas	6,445	14%
Arizona	2,027	25%
Nevada	1,437	41%
North Carolina	1,272	13%

State	Electricity from wind	% electricity from wind
Texas	15,131	32%
Iowa	4,752	73%
Oklahoma	4,577	63%
Kansas	3,217	60%
Illinois	3,062	20%

Source: <https://www.chooseenergy.com/data-center/electricity-sources-by-state/>

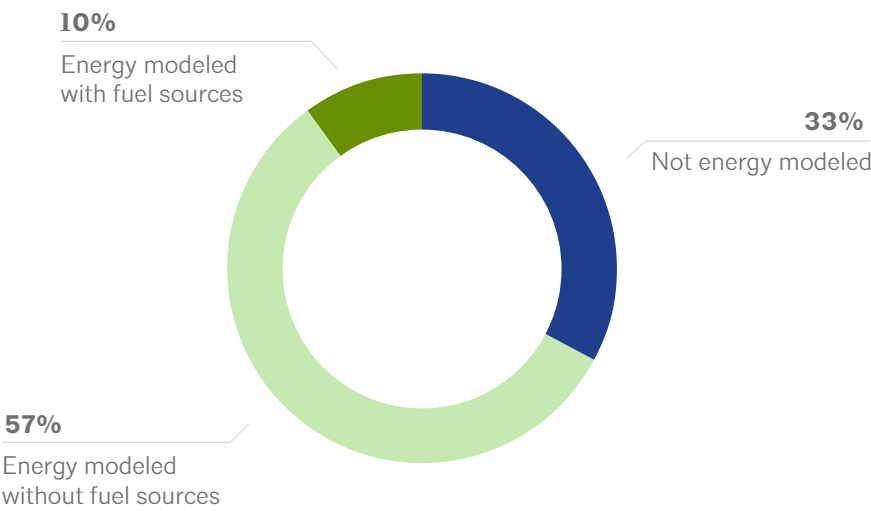
The e-grid region and state you are designing projects in makes a big difference to carbon and other noxious emissions and may influence design strategies to help with mitigation. While coal has long been considered the dirtiest fuel for electricity production, pollution controls have sharply reduced sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury from the coal fleet. Those controls do not capture carbon dioxide, and emissions per megawatt-hour of coal-fired generation have changed little in two decades. In March 2026, 13% of U.S. electricity came from coal.

All-electric buildings feature heat pump HVAC and water heaters instead of gas furnaces, water heaters and oil boilers; induction stoves instead of gas stoves; and all-electric clothes dryers instead of gas-powered appliances. For more information please see AIA California’s [Electrify Everything page](#).

Energy sources that are currently tracked in the DDx are grid electricity, gas, district, other fossil fuels, electricity from on-site renewable, electricity from purchased off-site renewables, electricity from dedicated off-site renewables, wood, propane, district hot water and district chilled water. For more information about these fuel sources please see the [DDx help page “Add energy modeling and fuel source data.”](#)

BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION / 2025 key takeaways for projects reporting energy (fuel) sources

pEUI CALCULATION METHOD USED (% WHOLE-BUILDING GSF)

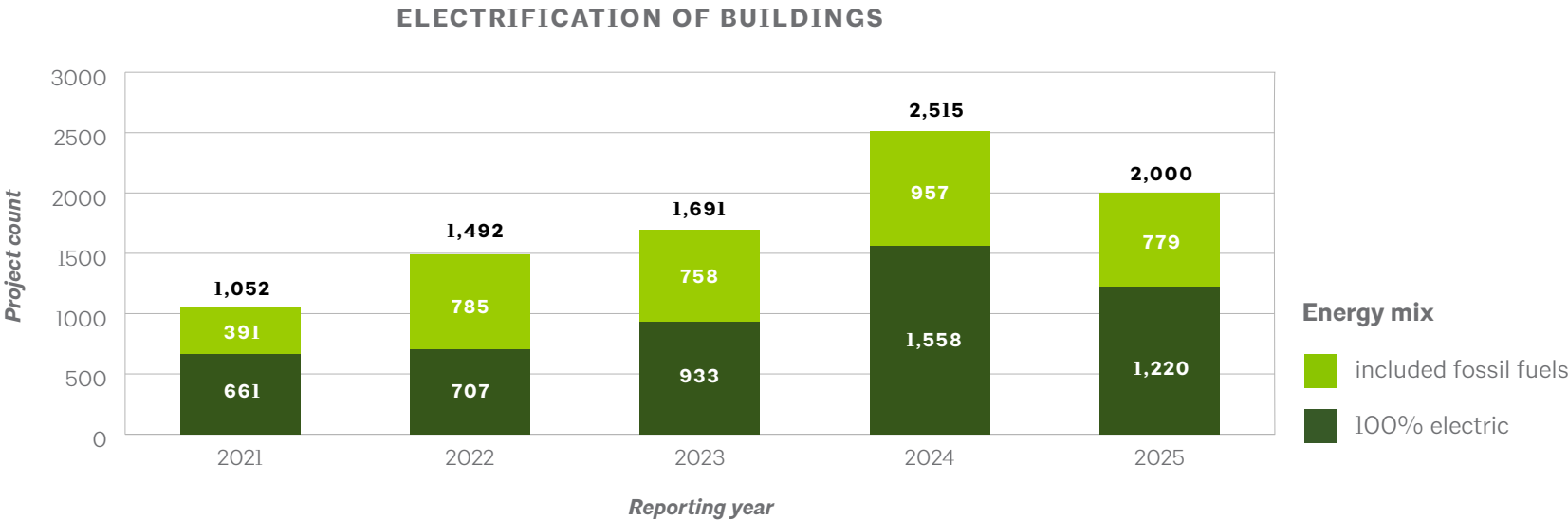


Energy modeling is required in order to report fuel sources. Only 10% of whole-building projects reported any fuel sources even though 67% of projects were modeled—this must improve! For modeled projects, fuel source information is readily available and may be required in the future to better understand the emissions impact of reported projects. This is especially important since pEUI does not distinguish between fuel sources. An all-electric building and a gas-fired building with identical EUIs appear to perform equivalently, though the two follow fundamentally different emissions trajectories. Fuel source reporting is what makes that difference visible, and it is the prerequisite for operating emissions accounting.

Of the 2,000 projects reporting their fuel sources, 61% or 1,220 were all-electric, while 29% or 780 projects reported fossil fuel usage.

Resources

- [EPA Power Profiler](#)
- [Framework for Design Excellence: Design for Energy](#)
- [NBI Building Electrification Technology Roadmap](#)
- [Designing for Decarbonization: Tools & Strategies for Architects AIAU series](#)



SECTION 4.

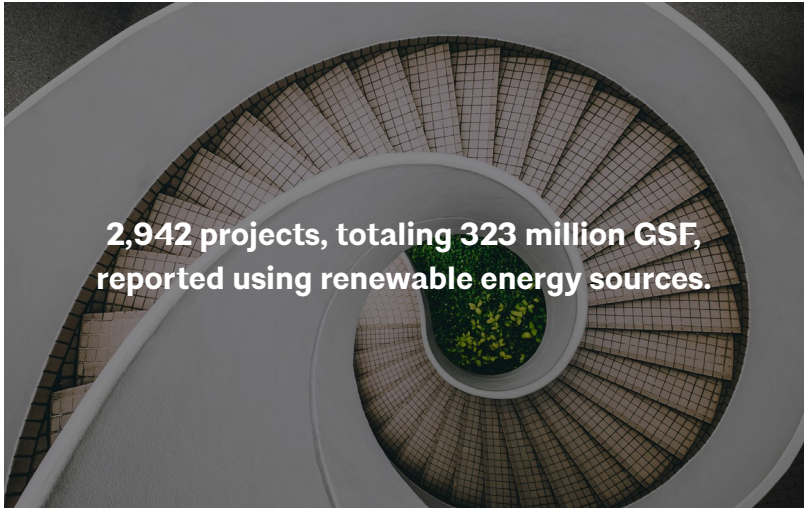
USE OF
ON-SITE OR
OFF-SITE
RENEWABLE
ENERGY



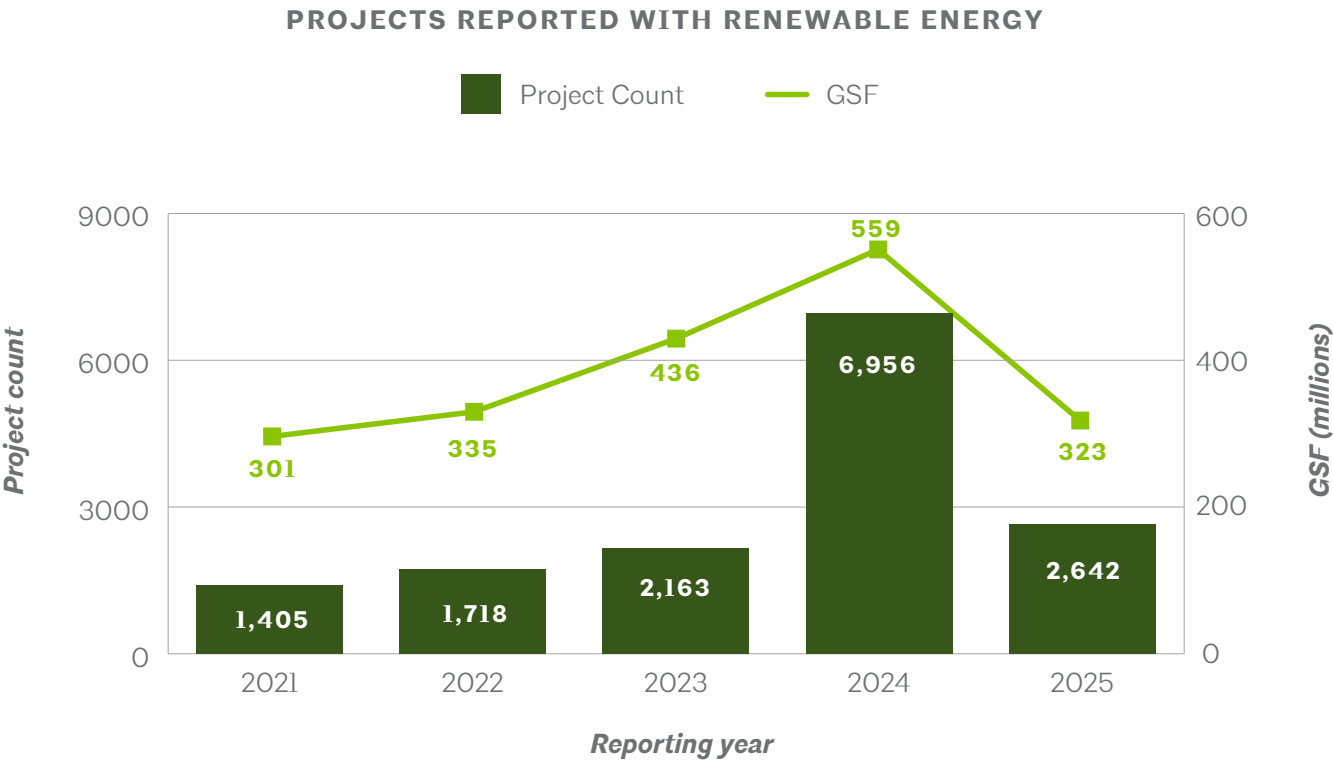
Photo by Joseph Romeo/Perkins Eastman

2025 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PROJECTS REPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY

- By total project count, **California still leads, reporting 1,223 projects with renewable energy**, which makes up 38% of their total reported projects, the same percentage as RY24.
- **Multi-family residential and office were the top two reported use types with renewable energy** by project GSF with 31% of office reporting renewables, and 23% of multi-family residential.
- The **reported pEUI reduction of whole building projects reporting renewables is 63%**, compared with the total whole building portfolio’s reduction of 48%.

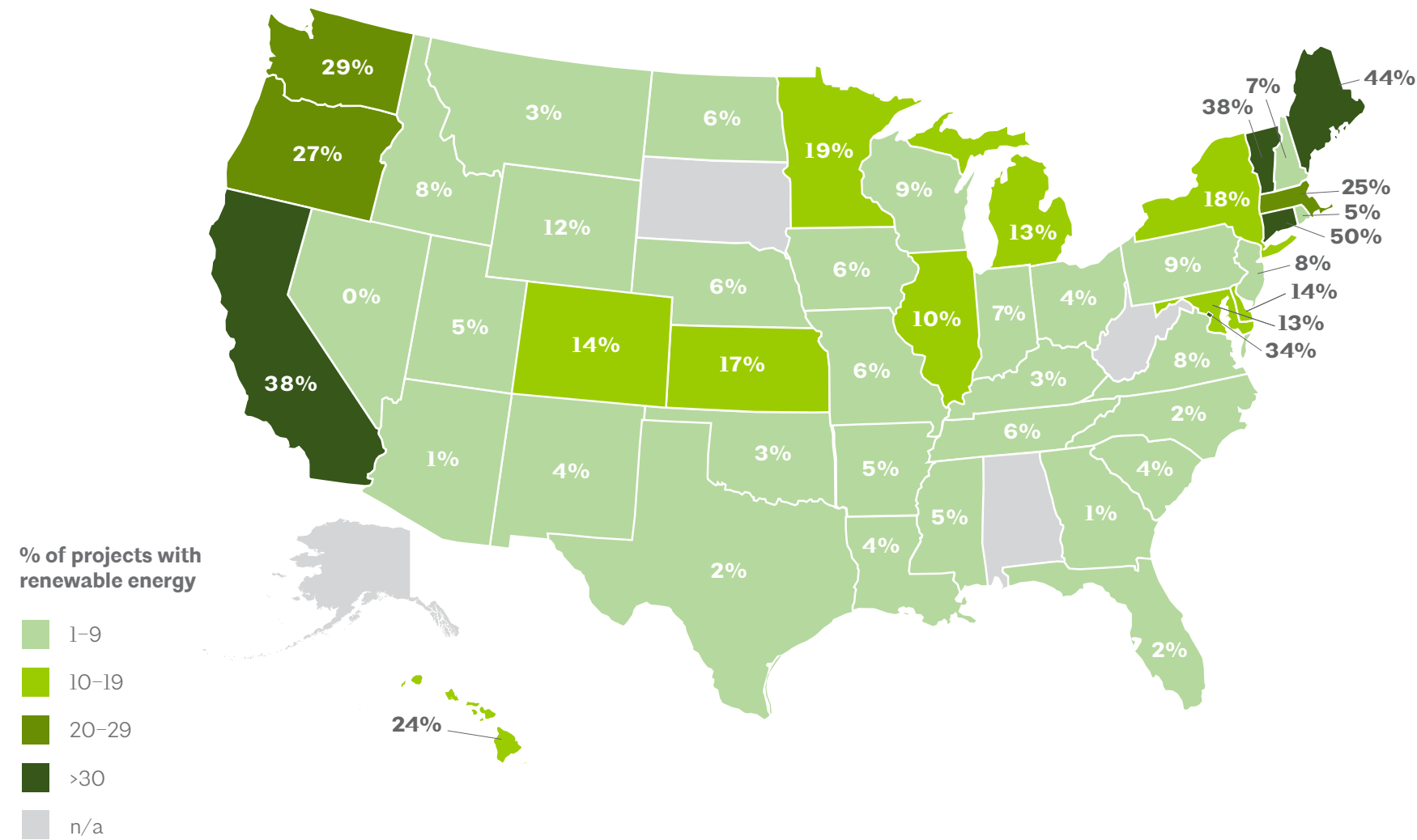


Photos (clockwise from top left): Dan Freeman on Unsplash; Adam Vradenburg on Unsplash; Red Zeppelin on Unsplash; Aishwarya MV on Unsplash



While there was a reduction in both project count and square footage for 2025, 2024 was an outlier year with a very large portfolio reported with many projects in California including solar PV. It is important to note that efficiency alone will not reach the 2030 Commitment goals. For projects to achieve 90% and 100% pEUI reduction targets, projects must include renewable energy in some form.

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



While Connecticut and Maine take the top two spots of whole-building projects with renewables by percentage of projects, California far outranks them in the number of projects with 1,223 compared to Connecticut’s 85. By project count, the second-place winner is Massachusetts with 134, followed by Washington with 119 projects.

The following energy sources are considered renewable in the DDx: photovoltaics, solar thermal, wind turbines, heat pumps, geothermal, micro-hydroelectric and biomass.

Resources

- [Architect’s Primer on Renewable Energy](#)
- [ROI of High-Performance Design: Reducing operational costs](#)
- [Designing for Decarbonization: Tools & Strategies for Architects AIAU series](#)
- [DDx help page Add Renewable Energy Data](#)

SECTION 5.

TRACKING
AND IMPROVING
EMBODIED
CARBON IN
BUILDINGS

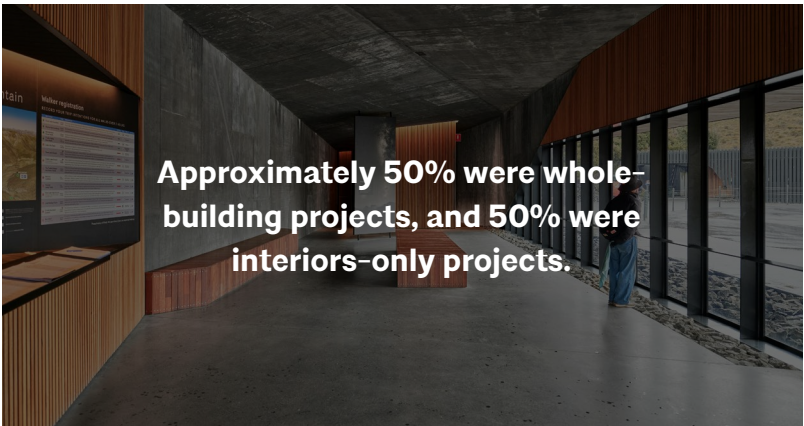
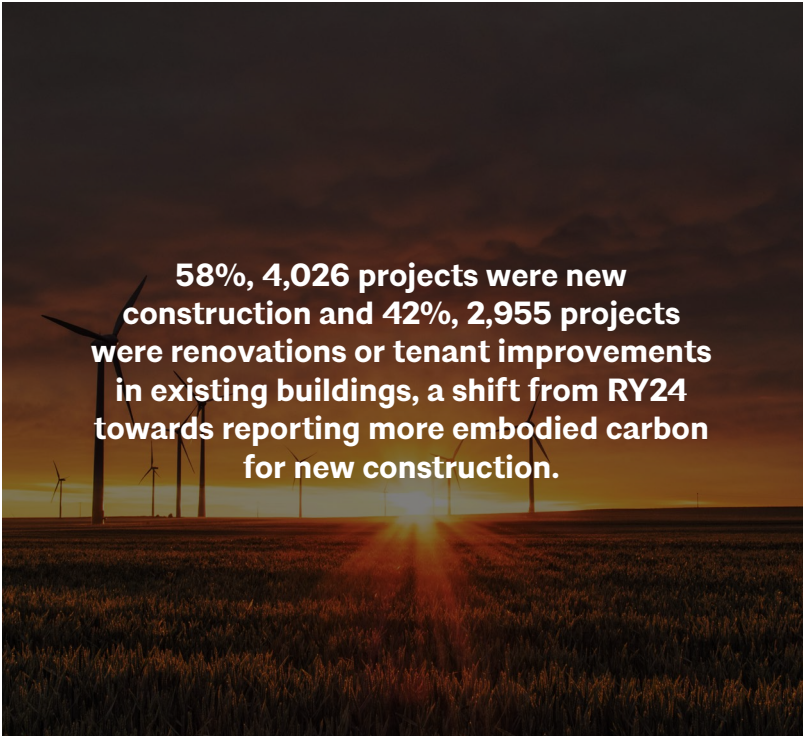


Photo by Josh Partee

2025 KEY TAKEAWAYS FOR PROJECTS REPORTING EMBODIED CARBON

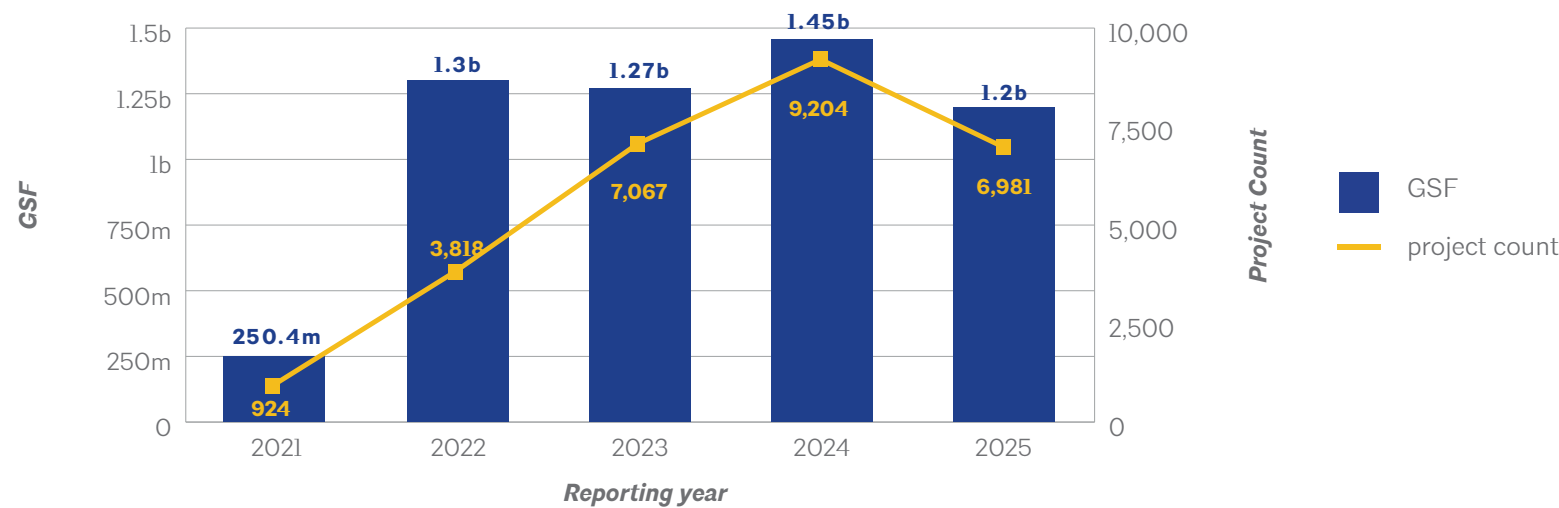
- **Tally and c.Scale**, which are now both developed by c.scale, **dominated the embodied carbon tool selection**, with OneClick rounding out the top three embodied carbon tools.
- **Office and mixed use were the top two use types**, making up 80% of reported projects; they were fairly evenly distributed between these top two use types.

Note: Embodied carbon breakdowns by scope and stage will be explored in a forthcoming reporting dashboard, as well as in future By the Numbers reports.

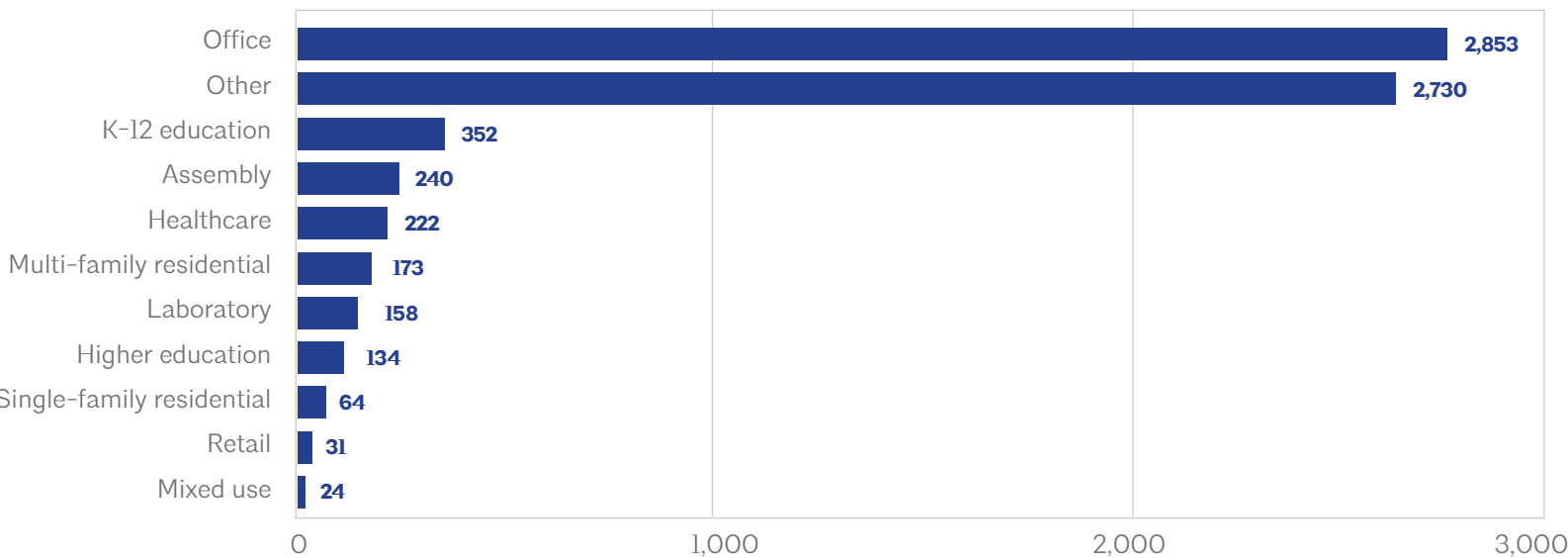


Photos (clockwise from top left): Raisa Milova on Unsplash; Karsten Würth on Unsplash; Neon Wang on Unsplash; 2026 COTE® Top Ten Award winner, Trinity University Business & Humanities District, Lake Flato Architects

PROJECTS REPORTING EMBODIED CARBON



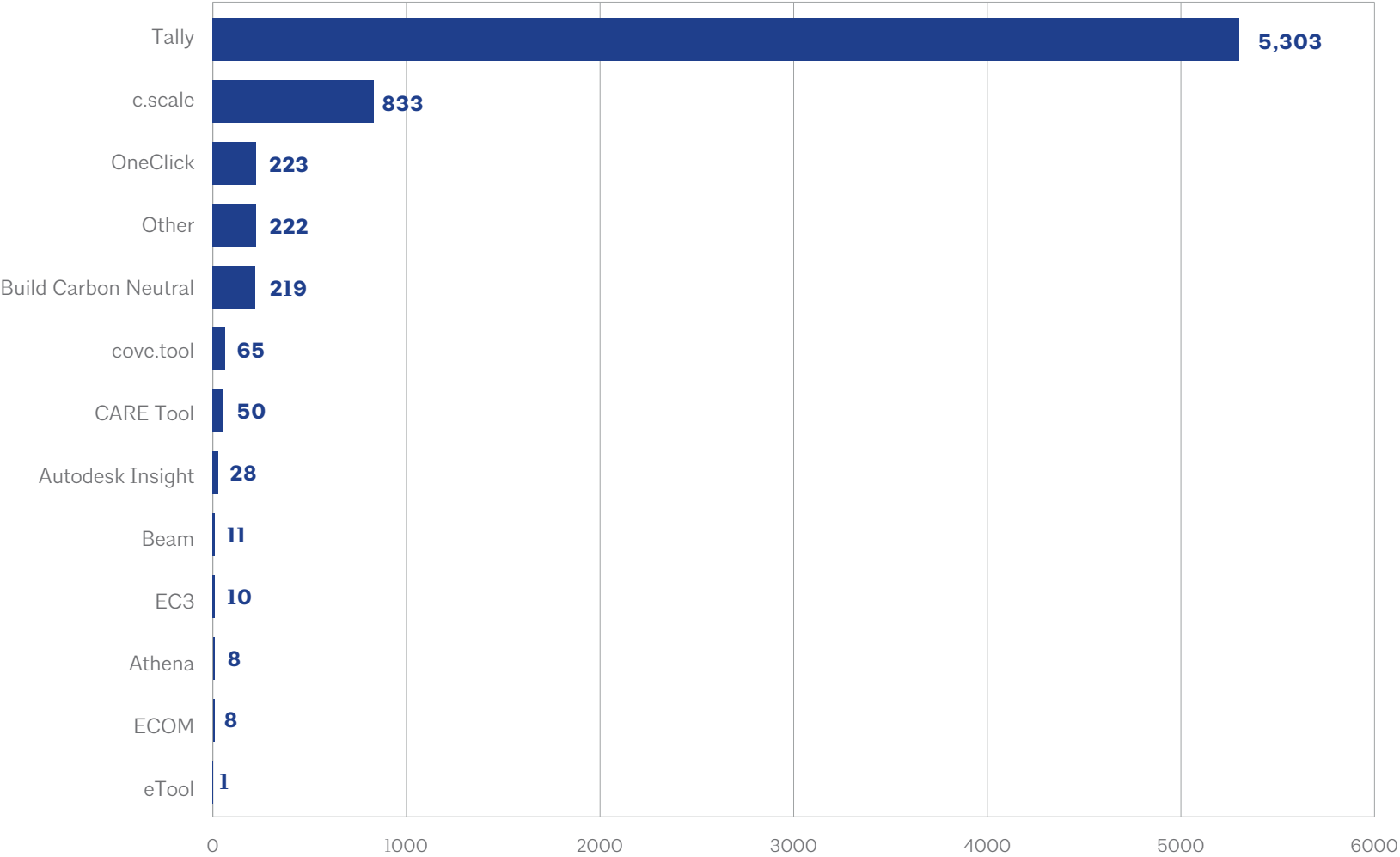
PROJECTS REPORTING EMBODIED CARBON BY USE TYPE



2025 debuted an updated way of tracking embodied carbon aligned with the ECHO reporting schema, including a table with the same scope and life-cycle stages as previous years but with numerical inputs instead of yes/no fields. This contributed to a decrease in projects reporting embodied carbon because was a brand-new interface.

It was possible to only record the embodied carbon intensity for a whole project by choosing the table override feature, but this was also new. Embodied carbon reporting should increase again for 2026 as firms familiarize themselves with this updated reporting schema. Technology platforms are also aligning themselves with this new table, which should ease reporting in the future.

REPORTED EMBODIED CARBON MODELING TOOL BY PROJECT COUNT



Tally and c.scale (now both developed by c.scale) are the most predominant tools for 2025 which is expected to continue. 2026 will featured expanded API connections with these tools to facilitate easier embodied carbon reporting.

Resources

- [Designing for Decarbonization: Tools & Strategies for Architects AIAU series](#)
- [AIA-CLF Embodied Carbon Toolkit for Architects](#)
- [SE2050 Design Guidance for Reducing Embodied Carbon in Structural Systems](#)
- [What’s Old Is New: The Business Case for Adaptive Reuse](#)
- [2025 CLF Material Baselines](#) and [2025 CLF Embodied Carbon Benchmark Report](#)
- [Carbon Avoided Retrofit Estimator \(CARE\) tool](#)

SECTION 6.

CASE STUDIES



Photo by Trent Bell Photography

CASE STUDIES / SMRT Architects Case Study

SMRT ARCHITECTS

Seven years of consistent AIA 2030 reporting has revealed a clear pattern at [SMRT Architects](#): projects that use energy modeling significantly outperform those that do not. That finding has become as valuable internally as any individual project result, shaping how the firm approaches modeling, client conversations, and design decision-making firm-wide.

John Calvin Stevens founded an architecture firm in Portland, Maine in 1884. Over his 56-year practice, he designed over 300 domestic, religious, commercial, and institutional projects in the area. Following a merger in the early 1980s, the firm grew into what is today SMRT Architects & Engineers. SMRT now features five offices across Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and New York, and supports around 135 employees. A JUST-certified firm, SMRT emphasizes high-performance design and a culture of designing with purpose, growing through innovation, and empowering their people. In addition to advanced energy and lifecycle modeling, they specialize in whole-life carbon modeling, WELL certification, and Passive House.

SMRT signed on as AIA 2030 signatories in 2019 and have been reporting consistently since then. 2025 marked their seventh reporting cycle, featuring 38 projects and 1.5 million square feet, a 50% increase over 2024. As Principal and Sustainability Leader, Brad Baker states: “Growth has made the annual submission more than a reporting exercise; it has become a longitudinal dataset that helps us evaluate how our design processes influence building performance.”

To ease reporting burdens and increase modeling uptake across the firm, a Sustainability Coordinator is assigned to project teams. They help teams determine when to engage an energy modeler, support the process, translate recommendations into design decisions, and report to a central database. SMRT has also established carbon-modeling tiers: every project that meets the relevant scope criteria receives, at minimum, benchmarking and conceptual energy modeling, with additional modeling requirements based on project size and complexity. On the embodied carbon side, Carbon Champions lead internal education and publish findings across the firm.

Firmwide project results are shared internally twice a year, once in the spring while projects are being evaluated, and again in the fall after the release of this annual report. There is also an interactive dashboard that gives all staff access to real-time project performance data. As embodied carbon modeling grows in importance, SMRT is expanding into whole-life carbon modeling to help clients understand long-term impacts that are difficult to evaluate without quantitative analysis. The consistent delta in performance outcomes between modeled and non-modeled projects continues to reinforce the value of modeling as a design tool, not simply a reporting requirement.



University of New England, SMRT Architects, photo: Ryan Bent Photography

SMRT CARBON TRACKING DASHBOARD

Overview

Top Projects

Active Projects

2030

SE2050

MEP2040

SMRT

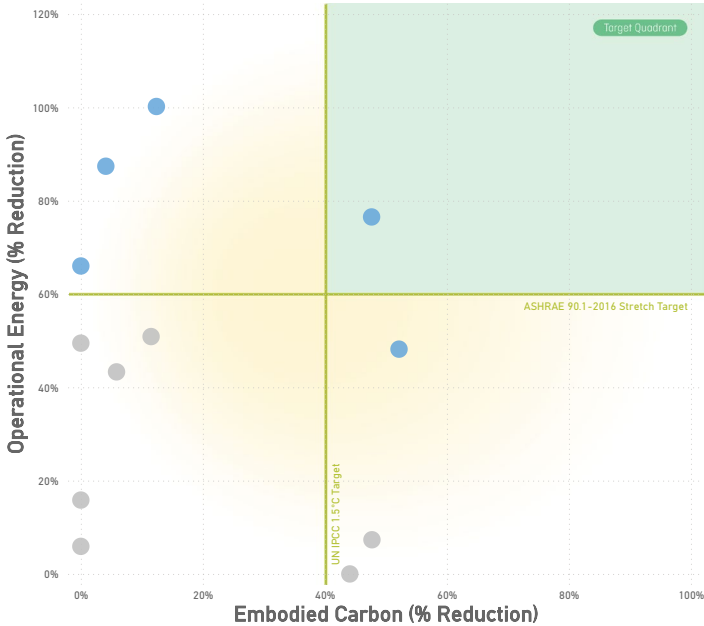
Top Projects

- 1 Airport Project
- 2 Muti-family Housing Project
- 3 Maine Office Building
- 4 Skilled Nursing Facility
- 5 Athletic Center

See Active Projects →

- ① The embodied carbon, or Initial Construction Emission Intensity, is measured as a reduction from a WBLCA baseline using the same design but modeled with industry-average EPDs and standard material assumptions.

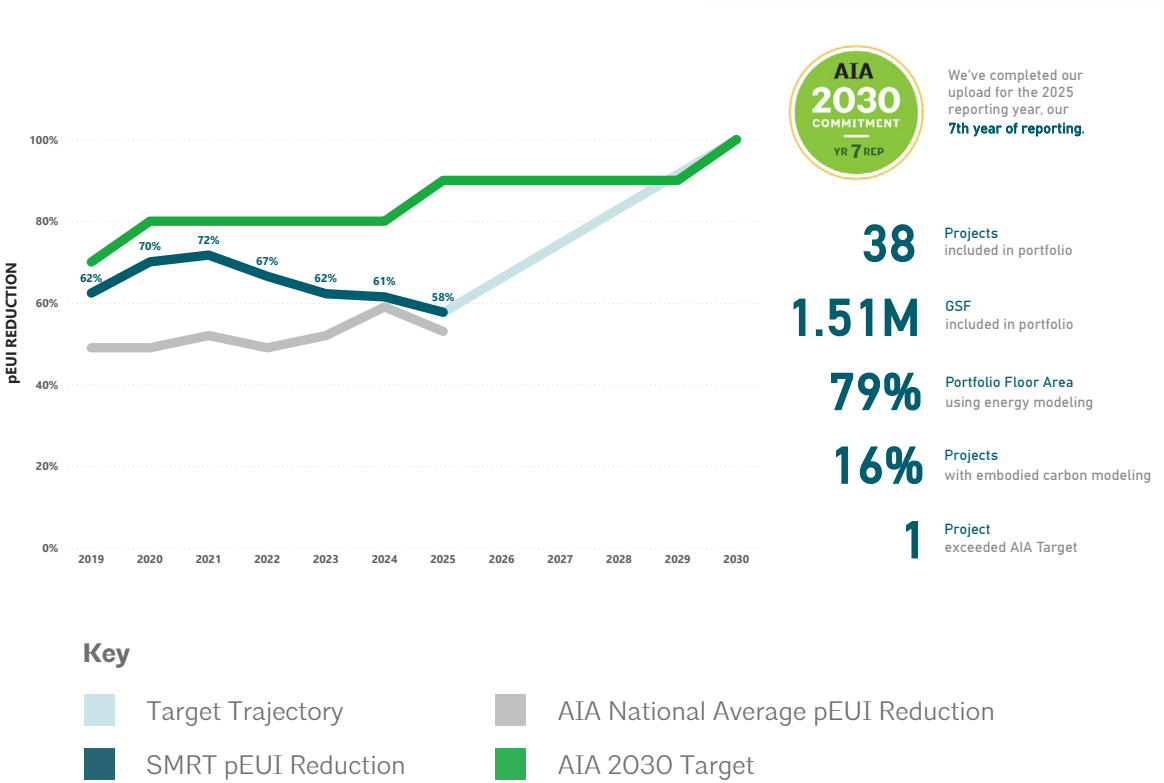
② The operational energy or annual Predicted Energy Use Intensity value (pEUI) is mapped as a Net pEUI - meaning that any on-site and/or off-site renewable energy production is deducted from the project's energy demand (Gross pEUI).



“By reviewing our portfolio annually, comparing our results with national averages, and using AIA resources, we have strengthened our ability to implement effective strategies, engage clients, and make performance-informed design decisions. Just as importantly, seven years of data have given us a compelling internal teaching tool. The consistent performance gap between modeled and unmodeled projects demonstrates that modeling is not simply a compliance or reporting task; it materially improves design outcomes.”

—Brad Baker, AIA, Principal and Sustainability Leader

PORTFOLIO pEUI REDUCTION BY REPORTING YEAR



CASE STUDIES / Noll & Tam Architects Case Study

NOLL & TAM ARCHITECTS

Located in the Bay Area with offices in Oakland and Berkeley, [Noll & Tam Architects](#) was founded in 1992 to provide “uncommon spaces for the common good.” Primarily focusing on libraries, civic spaces, educational facilities and animal care, Noll & Tam weaves sustainability into every project. As Ned Reifenstein, Associate Principal and Director of Sustainable Design states: “Environmental stewardship, careful use of resources, and reducing embodied carbon are all inherent in our understanding of the common good.”

They became 2030 signatories in 2019 and have been reporting every year since. The transition was easy due to the firm’s structure; the Ecology Group, which had developed the Sustainability Action Plan, turned its focus to 2030 Commitment reporting. The group quickly began monitoring projects on the boards and interviewing team members to gather relevant reporting data. This helped the firm take stock of their yearly projects and become more integrated. The Ecology Group of about six people takes the lead in collecting data and have developed a project spreadsheet to track past reporting metrics, current phase information, and key data. From there, a dedicated project team member updates the metrics and prepares to upload them to the DDx.

Given the institutional nature of their clients—often public organizations in California—operational and embodied carbon goal setting comes naturally. Teams typically reference meeting or exceeding California’s Title 24 Energy Codes and advocate for full electrification where feasible. This also makes reporting fuel sources to the DDx easier during the reporting window. While they have not found custom dashboard creation necessary, they use C.Scale’s summary reports in the tracking process as well as their internal spreadsheet. They also focus on operational and embodied carbon internal education that features internal experts, AIA courses, and external specialists.

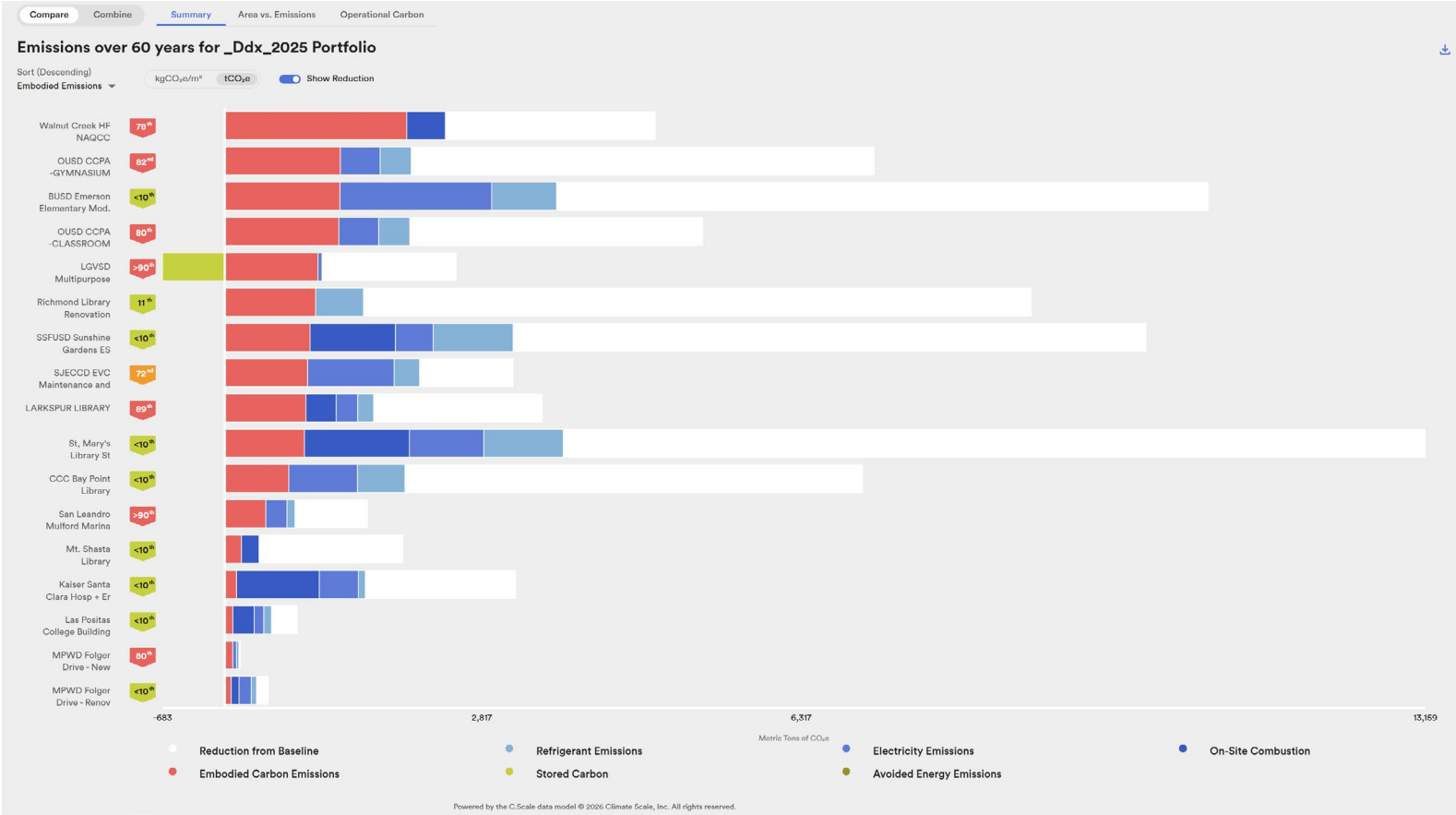
“Being a signatory helps to ensure our goal of continuous improvement. It helps us account for measurable performance goals, maintain focus on sustainability initiatives, and set high-performance expectations for both our staff and consulting partners. As we’ve gained more experience, we’ve streamlined the process, shifting our focus from the mechanics of collecting data to understand the resulting trends and patterns to inform future decisions.”

—**Ned Reifenstein**, Associate Principal and Director of Sustainable Design



Zero Net Energy Larkspur Library & Community Space, photo: Emily Hagopian

EMBODIED CARBON C.SCALE DASHBOARD FOR RELEVANT DDX PROJECTS



SECTION 7.

CONCLUSION



Photo by Yoshihiro Makino

CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION

In the face of continued federal and state rollbacks of climate action policies and incentives, the A&D industry continues to move forward in its efforts toward decarbonization because it is the right thing to do. 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.”

It is now time to make a change in the 2030 Commitment’s goals, and even its name, as we approach 2030. Look forward to more information about energy (fuel) sources and grid mixes in future reporting cycles, as well as an emphasis on pEUI over % reduction from a 2003 CBECs baseline. While these changes will not affect 2026, there will be a shift in the emphasis on certain metrics going forward.

An increasing focus on pEUI as the main efficiency metric will become clearer, as well as the introduction of total carbon metrics, combining operational and embodied carbon measurements and ranges of performance. For firms not yet reporting embodied carbon metrics, this will become increasingly important, and even necessary, for achieving an understanding of total carbon metrics.

2026 featured the integration of an Energy Star Portfolio Manager connection via API. Those firms who have access to measured energy performance metrics for their projects can now close the performance and pEUI/EUI loop. This connection informs and centers what is fully achievable for different use types and will increase importance in setting performance ranges. For instruction on how to connect your ESPM projects to the DDx , please visit the [Connecting your DDx project with Energy Star Portfolio Manager](#) DDx help page.

More than fifteen years of reporting and accountability have built more than an annual dataset. They have produced the internal tracking systems, performance cultures, and professional commitments that the next phase of decarbonization requires. Architecture 2030’s [Beyond the Numbers report](#) identifies that foundation as what makes the path ahead achievable and describes tracking operating emissions alongside energy efficiency as the first step toward whole-life emissions accounting. We continue to partner with [Architecture 2030](#) to determine recommendations and practices to decrease reliance on fossil fuels and their

respective dirty emissions. In the 2030 Beyond the Numbers report they highlight improvements in emissions: “at the national level, building sector operating emissions have dropped 31.2% from 2005 to 2024, even as the United States added roughly 70 billion square feet of new construction.”

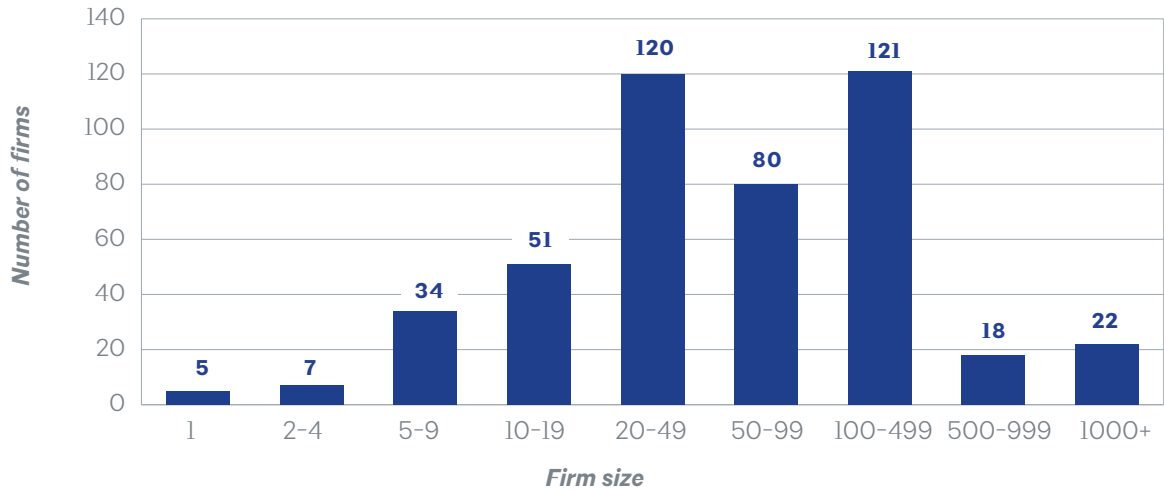
The original 2030 Challenge asked the profession to eliminate fossil fuel energy consumption in new buildings and major renovations. A reduction measured against a 2003 baseline asks how efficiently we are consuming fossil fuels. The more direct question is whether we are consuming fossil fuels at all, and how close each project comes to zero operating emissions. Reaching zero operating emissions requires three interdependent levers—energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy—and architects have their role to play with each.



2026 COTE® Top Ten Award winner, Seattle Convention Center Summit Building, LMN Architects, photo: Adam Hunter

REPORTING SIGNATORIES

NUMBER OF FIRMS REPORTING BY FIRM SIZE



REPORTING SIGNATORIES

The 15 signatories who met the 90% pEUI reduction target across their entire portfolio are highlighted in green. The bold signatories have reported 90+% of the years since they signed onto the Commitment.

- A3C Collaborative Architecture
- AC Martin
- Access Architecture
- Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture**
- aecom
- Aggregate Studio, PLLC
- Albert Kahn Associates, Inc.
- Allied8 Architects
- Alliance**
- Alvarez-Diaz & Villalon
- Amenta Emma Architects
- Anderson Hallas Architects, PC**
- Anderson Mason Dale Architects
- Ankrom Moisan Architects, Inc.
- Ann Beha Architects
- ARC/Architectural Resources Cambridge
- Arcadis
- Archll Inc
- archimania**
- Architects FORA
- Architects Hawaii Limited

- Architects Mosher Drew**
- Architectural Nexus, Inc.
- Architectural Resources Group
- Arcturis
- Arkin Tilt Architects**
- Arrowstreet
- Atelier Ten
- Atkin Olshin Schade Architects
- AWH Architects**
- Ayers Saint Gross
- Bailey Edward
- Bala Consulting Engineers
- Ballinger
- BAR Architects & Interiors**
- Barley|Pfeiffer Architecture**
- BBT Architects
- Bergmeyer
- Beyer Blinder Belle Architects & Planners, LLP
- BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group
- bKL Architecture LLC
- BKSK Architects
- Blackney Hayes Architects

REPORTING SIGNATORIES

Blair + Mui Dowd Architects, PC

Bloom Companies, LLC

BNIM Architects

Board & Vellum

Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

Bora Architecture & Interiors

Boulder Associates, Inc.

BranchPattern, Inc.

Brandon Architects, Inc.

BRIBURN

BRIC Architecture

Brooks + Scarpa Architects, Inc.

Browning Day

Bruner/Cott & Associates

BSA

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

CetraRuddy Architecture DPC

Charles Cunniffe Architects

CICADA Architecture/Planning

Clark Nexsen

Clayco / LJC

CO Architects

Common Arts

COOKFOX Architects

Cooper Carry

Cordogan Clark & Associates

Corgan

Cornerstone Architecture Inc.

Coscia Moos Architecture

CPL Architects and Engineers

CS&P

CTA Architects P.C.

Cuningham Group Architecture

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.

DesignBridge, Ltd.

Dewberry

DIALOG

DIGSAU

DiMella Shaffer

Dimension IV - Madison, LLC

DLR Group

DMAC Architecture & Interiors

DRAW Architecture + Urban Design

DS Architecture

DSGN Associates, Inc.

DSK Architects + Planners

dSPACE Studio

Duda Paine Architects

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

Engberg Anderson Architects

English + Associates Architects,

Inc

Ennead Architects

Epstein

ESa

ESG Architecture and Design

Eskew+Dumez+Ripple

EUA

EwingCole

EXP

Farr Associates

FCA

Feldman Architecture

Fennick McCredie Architecture

FFA Architecture and Interiors, Inc.

FGM Architects

FIELD ARCHITECTURE

Field Paoli Architects

Finegold Alexander Architects

Flad Architects

Frederick + Frederick Architects

FXCollaborative LLP

G70

gbA Architecture & Planning

GBBN

Gensler

GFF

GFT

GGLO

Glumac, A Tetra Tech Company

Goettsch Partners

Goody Clancy

Grace Design Studios

Green Hammer

Gresham Smith

Grimm and Parker

Grimshaw

Group 4 Architecture, Research +

Planning, Inc.

Gruen Associates

Guidon Design

GWWO Architects

Hacker

Hanbury

Handel Architects, LLP

Hargis Engineers, Inc.

Harka Architecture

Harley Ellis Devereaux (HED)

Harriman Architects + Engineers

Hart Howerton

Hartshorne Plunkard Architecture

Hasenstab Architects, Inc.

Hayes Group Architects

hb+a Architects

HDR

Heliotrope Architects

Hennebery Eddy Architects, Inc

HGA Architects and Engineers

HGW Architecture

HKIT Architects

HKS

HLW International, LLP

HMC Architects

HMFH Architects, Inc.

Hoefer Welker

HOK

Holabird & Root

Holly and Smith Architects

Holst Architecture

Hord Coplan Macht

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REPORTING SIGNATORIES

Re:Vision Architecture	Smith Seckman Reid, Inc.	TCF Architecture	Vinci/Hamp Architects Inc.
RINKA	SmithGroup	Teass \ Warren Architects	VMDO Architects
RMW architecture & interiors	SMMA	TEF Design	Voith and Mactavish Architects
RNT Architects	SMNG A Ltd.	Ten Over Studio	Ware Malcomb
Robbins Architecture, Inc.	SMP Architects	TenBerke	Warrenstreet Architects, Inc.
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RODE Architects	Snow Kreilich Architects	The Beck Group	WBRC Architects/Engineers
Ross Barney Architects	Solomon Cordwell Buenz	The Green Engineer, Inc.	Weber Thompson
Rossetti	SOM	The Miller Hull Partnership	Weinstein A+U
ROWELL BROKAW ARCHITECTS	SopherSparn Architects, LLC	The Sheward Partnership	West Work
Rowland+Broughton	Spacesmith LLP	The SLAM Collaborative	Wheeler Kearns Architects
RSP Architects	Speranza Architecture	Thornton Tomasetti	Wight & Company
Ryan A+E, Inc.	SSOE, Inc.	TLC Engineering Solutions	William Rawn Associates
Sage and Coombe Architects LLP	Standard Architecture Design	TLCD Architecture	WINTER HOLBEN
Salazar Architect Inc.	Stantec Architecture	Todd Jersey Architecture	WJW Architects
Sanders Pace Architecture	Steinberg Hart	Tower Pinkster Titus Associates	WMB Architects
Sasaki Associates	STG Design	Trahan Architects	Woods Bagot
Schadler Selnau Associates P.C.	Studio Completiva	Trapolin-Peer Architects	Woods + Dangan
Schenkel Shultz	Studio Gang Architects	Treanor	Workbench
SEA	Studio Ma	Trivers Associates	Wright Heerema Architects
Searl Lamaster Howe Architects	Studio VARA	tvdesign	WRNS Studio
SERA Architects	studio2G Architects, LLP	Union Studio Architecture &	WRT
SGA	STUDIOS architecture	Community Design	WXY architecture + urban design
Shears Adkins Rockmore Architects	STV	Urban Design Perspectives	Y.A. studio
Shepley Bulfinch	SWBR	UrbanWorks, Ltd.	Yarrow Architecture LLC
SHP	Synthesis Incorporated	Utile	Zakrzewski Architectural
Siegel & Strain Architects	Taylor Design	Valerio Dewalt Train Associates	Engineering, LLC
SILLMAN	TBDA	Van Meter Williams Pollack LLP	ZeroEnergy Design
SLATTERY	TCA Architects	Vanderweil Engineers	ZGF Architects LLP
Smith Gee Studio	TCA Architecture + Planning, Inc.	VCBO Architecture	Ziger Snead Architects

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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For more information and resources, visit aia.org/2030Commitment

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Image Credit: Joseph Romeo
This project received a 2026 COTE® Top Ten Award

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Architect Credit: Mithun
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Architect Credit: SMRT Architects
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Image Name: Marie Selby Botanical Gardens
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