

SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

2024

stx

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OUR CALL TO ACTION

Through this Sustainability Action Plan, STV is affirming our commitment to strategically and equitably improve our design and planning efforts — for the wellbeing of our communities, ecosystems, and the generations that will follow us.

Our Commitment

This document serves as a starting point for firm-wide introspection: an invitation to our colleagues to embrace what's possible for a truly sustainable design profession. As a professional services firm dedicated to transportation and social infrastructure — envisioning and designing solutions spanning healthcare, education, justice, transit, highways, bridges, water, and more — we are honored to play a role in shaping the public realm. Through our commitments to the communities we work in, our team is critically assessing how to evolve our practice and portfolio.

What does it mean to design “sustainably”? At STV, sustainable designs embrace high-performance design solutions informed by environmental impacts, including those extending beyond project site bounds; collaborative processes of ideation that eliminate social and environmental inequities; and systems thinking that enables climate adaptation and mitigation for resilient communities.

Guided by the framework for developing a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) as outlined by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), this document outlines STV's current processes, short-term action items, and long-term goals as a pathway to evolve our practice. We aim for this plan to serve as a point of reference that facilitates sustainable design coordination efforts across our firm, and a tool to hold ourselves accountable to annual progress towards carbon reduction efforts and beneficial social and environmental impacts. Focused broadly on best practices across STV's design process, reporting methods, internal education, advocacy, and operations, our SAP goes hand in hand with our 2023 Embodied Carbon Action Plan, which focuses specifically on embodied carbon reduction strategies within structural designs. As an integrated architecture and engineering firm, both plans align with industry-wide decarbonization challenges and commitments, including but not limited to Architecture 2030, SE 2050, and MEP 2040.

STV is proud to be a Corporate Gold Member of the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) and a Corporate Member of both the Institute for Sustainable Architecture and the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure. With our 2,800+ team members in 57+ locations across North America, STV's widespread presence provides us with an opportunity that we take seriously — to embed sustainable practices into every project and to contribute to effective climate action at a significant scale. Together, we embrace this challenge.

DESIGN AND APPROACH

How our project teams incorporate sustainable design practices.



ADVANCE
EQUITY



REDUCE
EXCESS
RESOURCES



REUSE
MATERIALS



PROMOTE
GREEN
PRACTICES

1 Current Practices

- At STV, we aim to deliver projects aligned with our sustainability goals (Figure 1).
- Our integrated design teams host sustainable design charrettes to outline and evaluate project goals during the initial design phases, considering topics including material selection, energy, water, and associated emissions.
 - *Tools such as Zero Tool are leveraged to calculate pEUI (projected Energy Use Intensity) baselines. Energy modeling can support EUI compliance.*
 - *Our Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) teams can evaluate project-specific renewable energy opportunities.*
- Our Infrastructure Economics team regularly monitors and advises on funding opportunities that incentivize and enable sustainable design approaches.
- We embrace sustainable design certification frameworks (including LEED, Fitwel, Green Schools Guide, and Envision) in alignment with client goals.
- Cross-industry teamwork is key to our sustainable design approach; we work to nurture existing and new partnerships to strategically advance sustainable design opportunities.

2 Next Areas for Action

- Inform clients of opportunities to specify lower Global Warming Potential (GWP) values. Reduce polluting materials such as red list chemicals and high VOC contents.
- Integrate STV's Carbon Dashboard into our design process as a resource to evaluate emissions impacts associated with material selection.
- Apply tools such as [AIA's Design for Equitable Communities](#) toolkit to evaluate additional opportunities for equitable design considerations.
- Expand the use of material life cycle assessments (LCAs), whole-building life cycle assessments (WBLCAs), and whole life carbon assessments (WLCAs) to measure and reduce negative environmental impacts within our designs.

3 Long-Term Goals

- Develop a living STV Design Playbook to advance fluency in best practices for sustainable, resilient, and equitable development.
- Refine our design process to nurture systems thinking; strengthen our internal procedures for interdisciplinary coordination.

Figure 1: STV Sustainability Goals

GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING

How our sustainable design portfolio is holistically evaluated.

1 Current Practices

- Collecting embodied and operational carbon data across applicable projects.
 - Reporting relevant performance data to the AIA 2030 Design Data Exchange (DDx) and SE 2050 platforms annually.
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2 Next Areas for Action

- Establish baselines as informed by internal and industry emissions data.
 - Identify trends and outline next steps for productive carbon reduction efforts.
 - Analyze completed projects to identify best practices and lessons learned.
 - Compare design phase data against actual performance data through post-occupancy assessments; evaluate these analyses to improve future designs.
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3 Long-Term Goals

- Collaborate across STV to ensure all teams feel empowered to analyze portfolio data.
- Share both success stories and lessons learned with clients, industry working groups, and other collaborators.

NYSOGS Harriman State
Office Campus Building #4



EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY

How we educate our teams and expand industry knowledge.

1 Current Practices

- STV's internal, multidisciplinary Sustainable Design Champions meet monthly to share knowledge surrounding emerging sustainable technologies, internal sustainable design growth opportunities, and lessons learned.
 - Informational sessions tailored to individual clients are curated and presented to outline sustainable design strategies across their projects.
 - Our colleagues collaborate within national roundtables, workshops, and working groups across emerging and evolving sustainability topics.
 - Research programs are developed for graduate-level students to advance sustainable design practices across the design industry.
 - STV's SE 2050 Embodied Carbon Action Plan (ECAP) promotes the reduction of embodied carbon emissions within structural designs.
 - STV is a member of the AIA Large Firm Roundtable (LFRT) to promote and share sustainable best practices.
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2 Next Areas for Action

- Increase the number of accredited sustainability practitioners among STV staff.
 - Create design toolboxes that explore sustainable design concepts and compile industry resources to benefit our design teams.
 - Create and promote opportunities, both within STV and the broader industry, that incentivize research and advancement of sustainable design solutions within our firm. Advance opportunities for recognition of sustainable design professionals and sustainable project design awards.
 - Collaborate with local material suppliers to identify materials and equipment with improved environmental impacts.
 - Leverage our national presence to engage with local organizations, universities, and forums to expand conversations surrounding reduced carbon emissions and additional environmental impacts.
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3 Long-Term Goals

- Promote active participation and leadership of our colleagues within associations dedicated to improving sustainable design concepts.

OPERATIONS AND OUTLOOK

How our corporate operations apply sustainability principles.

1 Current Practices

- Corporate office leases are evaluated across sustainable design criteria such as occupant health and wellness, accessibility, building efficiencies, and lighting.
 - Material circularity and recycling efforts are implemented when decommissioning leased spaces.
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2 Next Areas for Action

- Set reduction targets for energy, lighting, carbon, and waste across our national offices.
 - Develop a Corporate Sustainability Playbook that outlines our current property evaluation, selection, interior fit-out and procurement, and decommissioning procedures.
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3 Long-Term Goals

- Analyze interior fit-out options to ensure environmental impacts inform design decisions.
- Explore opportunities to reduce environmental impacts of STV operations, including those associated with staff travel and commuting.

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