

**2025**

# **Sustainability Action Plan**

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**LEGAT**ARCHITECTS







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**Legat Architects has developed a Sustainability Action Plan (SAP) as part of the requirements set forth by the American Institute of Architects and the Architecture 2030 Challenge for signatory firms.**

This is a living document meant to guide the firm’s decision-making process as we move toward more environmentally conscious choices. The purpose of this document is to outline our firm’s internal corporate strategies to make our business as carbon-lean as we feasibly can. The team responsible for this iteration has categorized our Action Plan into four primary categories, outlined below.

Three categories of initiatives have been identified for implementation across market segments via action plans that are underway. The items marked as complete have been integrated into company operations or policy from previous editions of this SAP.

We encourage all employees to familiarize themselves with the initiatives outlined in this document to strive toward a more just, kind, and sustainable future.



**ENERGY**

We strive to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste acknowledging our capacity to influence the rate of global decarbonization.



**MATERIALS**

We educate our team and our clients in material waste reduction strategies and work to conserve resources and decrease accumulation in landfills.



**WELLBEING**

We infuse our practice with the knowledge that the built environment has an impact on our health, our communities, and our planet to make sure we are living and designing to elevate everyone’s wellbeing.



01/

# Energy



PURPOSE

Internal and external action items designed to increase energy efficiency and reduce energy waste within the overall framework of decarbonization. Limit and reduce energy use at Legat offices and events, and promote energy efficiency whenever possible on all projects.

ACTION ITEMS \_ In Place

1/ Encourage meeting participants to minimize carbon footprint by coordinating travel or digitizing meetings, limiting travel when possible.

- When possible, consider having meetings digitally. With the exception of contractually required construction administration visits, most meetings can be held online to maximize efficiency and save project hours.
- Employees should consider carpooling or taking public transit to work and project sites. This minimizes the amount of fuel used per person and saves the company money on mileage.
- Project teams should coordinate travel plans using public transportation when efficient.
- Inform consultants and clients of Legat’s desire to reduce carbon emissions and work with them to develop project-based procedures and goals.
- Educate consultants and clients on new forms of web-based collaboration when new technologies are introduced.
- Project teams are encouraged to use other collaborative platforms such as Miro, Trello, etc. to promote digital work. Benefits to company and employees include schedule flexibility, shared project record, and additional collaboration opportunities.

2/ Offer flexible telecommuting option to employees.

- To reduce firmwide carbon emissions, staff will have the option to telecommute one day per week or at the discretion of their studio director.

3/ The Sustainability Team created and disseminated first principles strategies that any new building can use as a basic approach to energy reductions.

- This document targets low-hanging fruit such as orientation, solid-to-glazed area ratios, R-values, and basic mechanical system information.
- This document is located on Legat’s internal servers at K:\Sustainable Design Resource\100 Internal Targets

4/ If available, provide information on and participate in local public transit incentives.

- LACH / LAGU / LAOB can participate in the Ventra Employee Transit Benefit Program, which provides pre-tax dollars to be used for transit refills on Metra, CTA, and Pace. Similar programs do not appear to be in place for Moline, Iowa City, and Columbus locations but will be evaluated as they appear.

5/ Initiate the use of Cove Tool, an internal energy modeling and daylight analysis program. Roll out the program firmwide and provide training to Sustainability Team members in each studio.



ACTION ITEMS \_ Ongoing Efforts

1/ Calculate Legat Architects’ operational energy use and carbon emissions by tracking utility costs, firmwide travel, etc. to establish the firm’s baseline emissions.

2/ Analyze carbon emissions data annually to target pathways for reductions.

3/ Institute a “power-down / monitor-off” policy.

- All computer monitors should be powered down at the end of each business day.
- All computers not needed for remote work should be powered down at the end of each day.

4/ A minimum of two energy models should be generated for all new construction and additions to comply with AIA 2030 Commitment guidelines and standard recommendations. Milestones for energy modeling should be established at 100% SD and 50% CD. Contracts should encourage both compliance energy modeling and LEED v4 energy modeling including energy reduction recommendations.

5/ Project managers will work with clients to obtain operational energy use data for new construction after 11-month walkthroughs. They will also collect energy use data of existing buildings for design purposes during building addition, renovation, and replacement projects.

6/ Recommend to all clients that commissioning agents be involved in the design process to review at milestones prior to bidding. Pertains primarily to new construction over 10,000 square feet.

7/ Provide training opportunities for employees to learn about drivers of energy use that can be implemented in conceptual design. Host internal charrettes to facilitate training in design solutions.

8/ Each studio will collect and disseminate energy reduction measures that it is able to implement. Examples include turning off monitors and computers at night if not working remotely, turning off all lights at the end of the day, and dimming or turning off lights during bright daylight hours.

9/ All new office build-outs or remodels will budget energy use reductions (e.g., occupancy/ vacancy sensors, automatic roller shades, air quality sensors, 100% LED lighting, automatic dimmable fixtures, BAS systems) from the initial phase as feasible depending on the lease agreement and building specifics.

10/ The company will initiate an annual Energy Month. All studios are encouraged to participate to lower our company carbon footprint as much as possible. The event will encourage low-energy commuting, computer use reduction, and decreased plug loads.





RELATED PROJECTS



**NET ZERO ENERGY AGRICULTURAL COMPLEX** Heartland Community College



**LAKE SHORE CAMPUS EXPANSION** College of Lake County



**SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING BUILDING** College of Lake County



02/

# Materials

PURPOSE

Reduce the material waste generated across all studios and provide educational opportunities to employees on best practices to reduce or divert waste.

STRATEGIES \_ In Place

1/ Encourage paperless technology for agendas, handouts, and presentations.

- All studios will provide technology for digital distribution, such as laptops or tablets.
  - Provide Bluebeam Studio links to clients, consultants, and contractors for increased coordination.
- 2/ Eliminate supply waste by eliminating single-use plastic containers.
- Purchase bulk creamer in cardboard or recyclable containers, rather than use single-use cups.
  - Remove disposable coffee/tea pods and replace with drip coffee machine.
  - Equip all office kitchens with reusable silverware, plates, and mugs.
  - When food is brought in from outside representatives, encourage family-style meals to limit individual packaging.
  - Reduce single-use plastic bottles and promote hydration. Equip offices with filtered water pitchers, refrigerator taps, or filtered faucets. Legat branded mugs/water bottles are provided to each employee for personal use.

3/ Establish for all studios recycling policies for typical recyclables (paper, cardboard, aluminum, plastic). Include a separate collection strategy for at least one additional material such as batteries, lamp bulbs, denim, etc.

- Offices to work with landlords to follow building's recycling program, if applicable.
- Establish waste-stream plan for hazardous waste and where to locally recycle electronic waste (batteries, devices, etc.).
- If available, create basic location-specific infographics to post near recycling, waste, and composting bins to clarify which items can be disposed in which bin.

4/ LACH — Work with ZeroLandfill Chicago to collect and deliver material sample donations biannually. ZeroLandfill Chicago makes material samples available to teachers, artists, and college programs.

ACTION ITEMS \_ Ongoing Efforts

1/ Standardize casting technology across all six studios.

2/ Update company printing policy to minimize paper usage.

- Change default print settings to use "Draft Mode" by default.
- Change default print settings to automatically print double-sided when applicable.
- Update email signatures to include a Legat-specific, customized message encouraging recipients to consider the environment before printing emails.

3/ Purchase TCF / FSC (sustainability forestry initiative) paper for general printing purposes.

- This paper contains less chlorine and contains recycled content.

4/ Prioritize sustainable materials in the interiors materials library and manufacturers that practice transparency with the use of harmful chemicals and carbon emissions in the manufacturing of their products.

- Materials binders are to be clearly labeled with sustainable criteria (Mindful Materials, EPD, HPD, Declare labels).

5/ Educate all employees about recycling and waste practices.

- If available, have building management provide lunchtime seminars so occupants can learn about their building's recycling and composting policies.
- Educate staff on items recycled by the building's recycling program.

6/ Encourage other waste-limiting or landfill diversion initiatives on a studio-by-studio basis.

7/ Recycle expired sample materials.

8/ Make efforts to reduce shipping and receiving packaging waste.





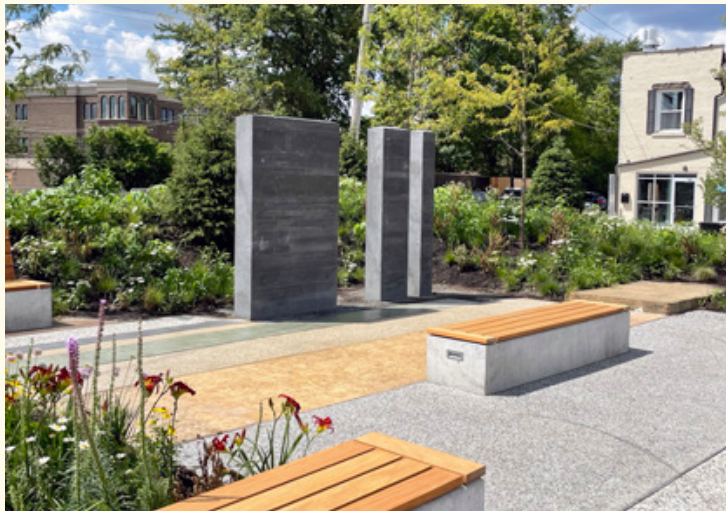
RELATED PROJECTS



ELEMENT MOLINE



JEFFERSON EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER  
Community Unit School District 200



METRA TRAIN STATION  
Village of Clarendon Hills





03/

# Wellbeing

## PURPOSE

Our employees are Legat’s number one resource. Thanks to research and science, we know how the built environment has an impact on our health, our communities, and our planet. We infuse our practice with this knowledge to make sure we are living and designing to elevate everyone’s wellbeing.

## STRATEGIES \_ In Place

1/ Commit to transparency and social justice. Legat earned its Just label in December 2021. This measuring tool helps us improve our policies for creating equitable and rewarding work environments.

2/ Reduce single-use plastic bottles and promote hydration. Equip studios with filtered water pitchers, refrigerator taps, or filtered faucets. Legat branded mugs/water bottles are provided to each employee for personal use.

3/ Establish an internal sustainability policy to share with venues, vendors, and meeting attendees.

- Upon request, provide a copy of Legat Architects’ current Sustainability Action Plan to relevant vendors.

4/ Build awareness on health and safety. Each new construction or major renovation project will use the WELL Health-Safety Rating as a benchmark. At the start of a new project, project architect/project manager will complete the online WELL Health-Safety Roadmap as a starting point for the discussion with owners.

5/ Sustainability Team generated a Sustainability Calendar to track related conferences, events, action days, and volunteering opportunities to increase firmwide awareness and participation.

## ACTION ITEMS \_ Ongoing Efforts

1/ Approach design thinking based on concepts that encourage building occupant, community, and environmental wellbeing. Project teams to discuss design-focused wellbeing topics with owner and establish project goals and priorities. The WELL Building Standard and its associated ratings are used as a resource and benchmark for research-informed design.

2/ Encourage the use of environmentally friendly cleaning supplies.

- Minimize staff exposure to harmful chemicals by using products with acceptable cleaning ingredients as defined in the WELL Building Standard, WELLv2 - X09 Cleaning Products and Protocol.
- Implement acceptable cleaning practices through staff training, cleaning protocols, and products.

3/ Promote indoor air quality awareness. Install air quality monitors to track indoor temperature, humidity, CO2 levels, VOCs, and particulate matter year-round.

4/ Promote healthy nutrition. Snacks and beverages provided on a daily basis at the studio will support a healthy diet. Favor food options with fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and limited artificial ingredients, refined grains, and added sugars.

5/ Encourage daily meal breaks and communal dining. Studios to have a dedicated eating space with tables and seating to accommodate at least 25% of the office staff.

6/ Prioritize indoor air quality on our projects.

- Assess ventilation – for renovation projects, have a qualified engineer assess the building’s ventilation system and evaluate potential modifications to increase supply of outdoor air. For more details see WHR / SA1 Assess Ventilation.
- Minimize emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) inside the building envelope. Specify low VOC interior products and finishes (flooring, furniture, fixtures, millwork, insulation, and ceiling panels) and wet-applied products (paints, coatings, adhesives, and sealants). See WELL v2 / X06 VOC Restrictions and LEED v4.1 standard / Low-Emitting Materials credit.

7/ Provide building storage areas for alternative modes of transportation (i.e. bikes, scooters, etc.) when expanding or building new office spaces.

8/ If possible, provide passive strategies (i.e. passive humidifiers, plants, operable windows) to maximize comfort in the work environment.





RELATED PROJECTS



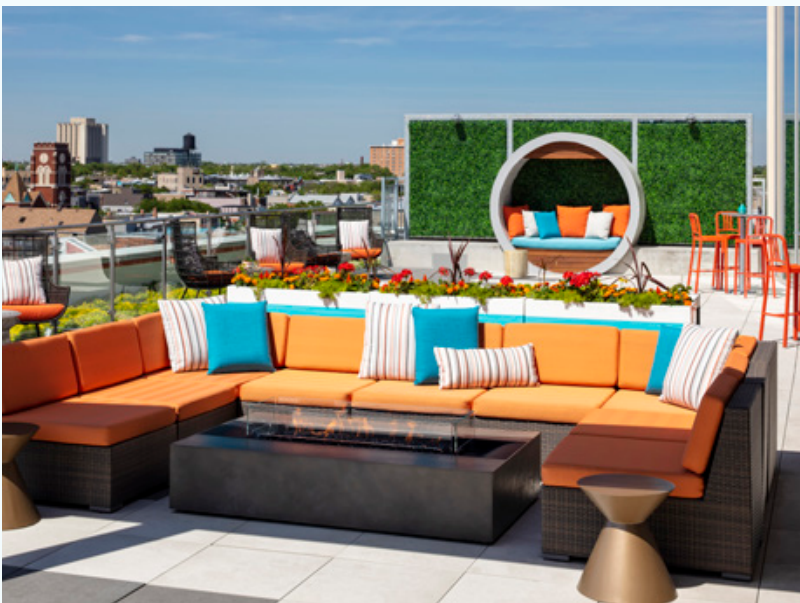
**BRIGHT FUTURES PRESCHOOL**  
Galesburg CUSD #205



**UI HEALTH WELCOME ATRIUM**  
University of Illinois Hospital



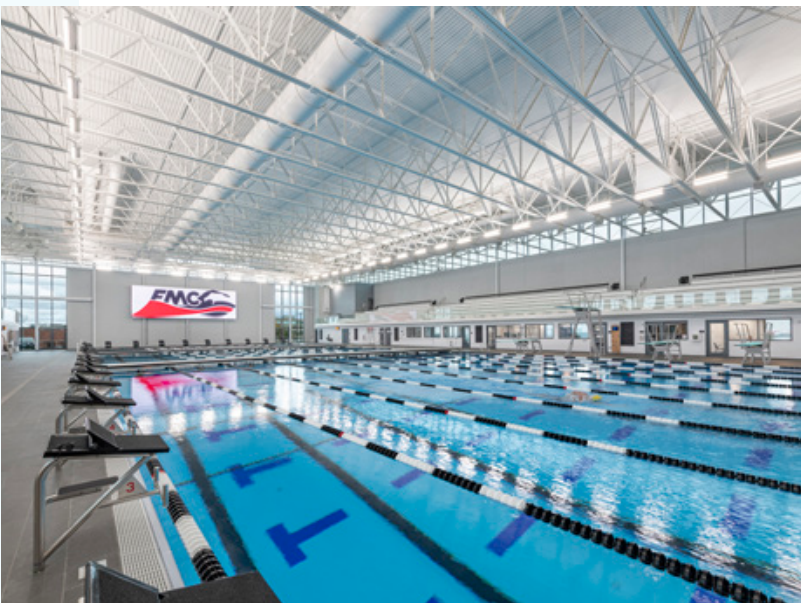
**OAKTON PAVILLION**  
Generations Healthcare Network



**KENNEDY ROOFTOP**  
Hyatt Place Chicago/Wicker Park



**MARK TWAIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
Bettendorf Community School District



**FMC NATATORIUM**  
FMC Aquatic Opportunities



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