C. *Public Policy: Architects are Environmentally Responsible*

The creation and operation of the built environment is undergoing radical transformation to eliminate climate change pollution, enact environmental justice, and address other crises. ~~require an investment of the earth's resources. Architects must be environmentally responsible and advocate for the sustainable use of those resources.~~ Architects are a critical part of leading these transformations.

1. ~~Sustainable Architectural~~ Practice ~~and Sustainability~~

a. The AIA advocates for a sustainable built environment that includes healthy physical environments and equitable access for all.~~policies, programs, and incentives that promote energy efficiency and renewable energy, materials information transparency, resource conservation, and the protection of water resources. We rely on the development, evaluation and use of codes, standards, and evidence-based rating systems to achieve healthy, resilient buildings and communities for all members of society.~~ The built environment is undergoing a rapid transformation of energy systems, transportation modes, construction materials, cultural shifts, and more. We need to be nimble to prioritize policies that support a cost-effective and equitable transformation.

b. The AIA values and actively seeks allies and communities to work together on a shared vision for the urgent and critical transformation towards a sustainable and equitable built environment. ~~acknowledges that many current planning, design, construction, and real estate practices contribute to an imbalance that can have disastrous long- term planetary effects on the health of human and natural systems and threaten their survival.~~

c. We rely on the development, evaluation, and use of codes, standards, and evidence-based rating systems to achieve healthy, resilient buildings and communities for all members of society. ~~Architects, as system thinkers and leaders in the design of the built environment, must engage communities to promote solutions that lead to equitable access for all and use their expertise to design healthy, carbon neutral, and adaptive buildings and communities~~.

d. The AIA advocates and provides resources to help architects and firms meet sustainable goals and standards. ~~for communities to join with us in changing the course of the planet's future by supporting governmental and private sector policies and programs, including the development, evaluation, and use of codes, standards and evidence-based rating systems that promote the design, preservation, and construction of sustainable communities and high-performance buildings. (approved December 2017)~~

2. Energy Efficiency ~~and Carbon in the Built Environment~~

a. The AIA advocates for policies, programs, and incentives for energy efficiency ~~and renewable energy~~ for the planning, design, construction, and operations of buildings. These strategies reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change, lowering risks and costs for our clients and the public.

b. ~~Architects must prioritize energy efficiency and renewable energy to~~ The AIA advocates for ~~achieve~~ carbon neutral new construction and major renovations by 2030 (AIA 2030 Commitment) and a carbon neutral built environment by 2050 (2050 Imperative).

c. The AIA supports policies that radically reduce carbon pollution, including passive design, energy efficiency, electrification, demand-response, and transportation integration with buildings, as well as the equitable and rapid transition to a carbon neutral electricity grid.
~~(approved December 2017)~~

3. ~~Materials and the Built Environment~~ **Energy Renovations Toward Net Zero**

~~a.~~ The AIA advocates for ~~programs,~~ policies ~~, and practices~~ that support existing building retrofits to increase passive performance, resilience, energy efficiency, electrification, demand response, renewable energy, and to reduce carbon pollution. ~~inform a holistic approach to selecting and using building materials. Materials significantly affect human and ecosystem health, well-being, climate, and social equity.~~

b. ~~Architects' ability to understand life-cycle impacts is fundamental to the art, craft, and science of architecture and to making positive material choices that support a healthy, prosperous world.~~ The AIA advocates for comprehensive consideration of carbon and other benefits of building reuse. Many existing buildings are historically significant or contribute to the character and identity of the built environment. ~~supports transparent, clear information on the content of building materials and furthermore urges manufacturers to develop materials that are free of toxic substances, minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and are environmentally and socially responsible. (approved December 2017)~~ Energy and decarbonization retrofits should leverage these buildings' inherently sustainable features and be appropriate and sensitive to each structure.

4. Materials and Embodied Carbon toward Net Zero

a. The AIA supports policies and practices that identify and significantly reduce the embodied carbon of construction materials and processes, including transparency using Life Cycle Assessment and disclosure of material ingredients and health risks. AIA supports materials research to develop low-carbon and carbon-negative construction materials.

b. AIA supports policies and practices that create a more circular economy, including building reuse, deconstruction,

product refurbishment and repair, and warehousing of salvaged products to support a materials reuse marketplace. Architects can support this transition to a circular economy through specifications that include salvaged materials, minimal toxins, products that can be reused, and that are de-constructable and recyclable.

5. Equity and Environmental Justice

    c. The design of the built environment impacts many aspects of health, including physical, mental, social well-being, and community health. The AIA advocates for policies and procedures that support equitable design, including underserved populations, to reduce air and water pollution, support active lifestyles and community cohesion, biophilia, and economic benefits.

    d. The AIA provides support to firms to increase diversity in our profession, design teams, and community engagement.

4.6. Residence and ~~Adaptation~~ Land Use	a. The AIA ~~supports~~ advocates for policies~~, programs, and practices~~ that ~~promote adaptable and~~ increase the resilience~~t buildings and~~ of communities to survive and thrive during and after shocks and stressors, especially those that rely on passive and nature-based systems. ~~Buildings and communities are subjected to destructive forces from natural and human-caused hazards such as fire, earthquakes, flooding, sea level rise, tornadoes, tsunamis, severe weather, and even intentional attack. The forces affecting the built environment are evolving with climate change, environmental degradation, population growth, and migration; this alters long term conditions and demands design innovation. Architects design environments that reduce harm and property damage, adapt to evolving conditions, and more readily, effectively and efficiently recover from adverse events. Additionally, the~~ The AIA supports member training and active involvement in disaster assistance efforts, providing ~~valuable~~ insights and aid to communities before, during, and after a destructive event.
	b.The AIA advocates for policies that promote housing affordability, preserve and restore natural ecosystems, equitably protect human health, and support low-carbon transportation choices.
	~~(approved December 2017)~~

5.
Design for
Human Health in
the Built
Environment

~~The AIA advocates for policies, programs, research, and practices that promote physical, mental, and social well-being through design. Good design advances equitable access to well-being, physical activity, safety, and environmental quality, among other measurable health benefits. Architects should adopt systematic frameworks to consider health impacts throughout the life of a project working in collaboration with public health professionals and allied organizations. Architects should implement design solutions that promote well-being, and facilitate healthy environments for all members of society.~~
~~(approved December 2017)~~

6.
Land Use and
Environmental
Planning

~~As design professionals, we advocate for responsible land use and environmental planning to reduce hazards and other environmental risks, and in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.~~

    c. Land use strategies such as deed restrictions, setbacks, and eminent domain can be a necessary means for government to retain lands for public safety and benefit for the near and long term. ~~Only under special and unique circumstances should eminent domain be used for projects that will ultimately revert to private ownership, and it should be considered a strategy of last resort, applied when a clear and compelling public need and benefit is demonstrated, after an open, broad-based, and transparent community planning process, to ensure environmental justice.~~ Eminent domain should be applied in <u>limited circumstances after considering the value of existing land uses and communities,</u>~~ways that fairly consider the value of existing land uses and communities, while~~ respecting citizens' rights, equity, all community stakeholders, and community history.
~~(approved December 2017)~~

    7. <u>Water and Site</u>

        a. <u>The AIA advocates for policies that use and reuse water responsibly within buildings and sites, protect aquifers and watersheds, anticipate changing freshwater availability, and protect water quality by managing stormwater runoff, especially those that rely on nature-based systems</u>.