

2030 Challenge – action plan

Gould Evans is committed to the 2030 Challenge. We are one of the American Institute of Architects' early adopters of this commitment to reduced energy usage.

Sustainable Design Goals:

All projects will be designed to reduce the amount of fossil-fuel based energy used, based on the 2030 goals for reduction. EUI targets will be established at the beginning of the project and be integral to the project parameters.

Every project will undergo the analysis and development of a comprehensive list of energy use reduction strategies. These strategies will be evaluated for initial cost, life cycle cost, and energy impact and prioritized for discussion with the owner.

Projects will document EUI goals and EUI achievements for inclusion in the firm-wide annual Design Metrics submittal.

Office-wide performance will be summarized in a tabular form illustrating our successes and challenges toward meeting the 2030 goals.

Staff Training and Education:

All associates are encouraged to study and pass the LEED exam and become LEED accredited. Costs of this accreditation are paid for by the firm. Each office will create a timeline for achieving 100% accreditation, and maintain that 100% once achieved.

Intensive focus on designing and detailing with building science principles is integral to our work. A partnership with Building Science Corporation provides 'on-call' and project specific technical expertise to every associate. Resources from BSC are shared via the intranet and contained within the Project Delivery Manual.

Research into new strategies and technologies, products, and systems will be an integral part of our design process. Seeking better solutions for our clients is an important aspect of our work.

Each office will develop sharing opportunities for project specific issues and discussions on a bi-monthly basis. Firm-wide we will share lessons learned and case studies through the use of our intranet.

2030 Challenge – action plan (cont.)

Sample specifications and contracts will continue to be developed to respond to energy efficient design criteria and green building products, and are shared via the Project Delivery Manual.

Each office will establish a resource person for sustainable design strategies. This contact list will be shared with all associates firm-wide to help establish sharing across locations.

Design Process Evaluation:

Through the annual internal Design Metrics evaluations we will discuss and recognize our performance toward the 2030 goals.

We will utilize an integrated design process that promotes early involvement of stakeholders and engages in collaborative design processes. Our clients will know that we bring this to every project for their consideration.

Development of relationships with like-minded consultants is critical to the success of our efforts and we will engage in the active solicitation of those partners.

We will track actual energy usage of our projects through gathering of energy data from our clients. This data will help us understand successful strategies and identify areas needing further study.

Sustainable Operations:

Annual carbon footprint analysis for each office will be conducted. Footprints created for 2008 will be the basis of comparison as we continue to show improvement each year, in the reduction of our energy consumption, materials usage, waste generation, and travel.

Office environments will undergo an evaluation to determine any carbon footprint reduction strategies such as purchase of energy star appliances and equipment, use low energy lamps, programmable thermostats, automatic shut-down policies, and use of daylighting.

Purchasing of supplies will correspondingly be evaluated for recycled content, and low waste generation. Reusable kitchen supplies will be utilized rather than disposable, and the use of individual disposable containers for drinks will be discouraged.

Individual office strategies will be developed that respond to local issues such as water consumption, public transportation usage, renewable energy, and others.

A public transportation incentive program for associates will be implemented in office locations where applicable.

The use of electronic meetings, carpooling, and reducing travel will be encouraged. Project opportunities will be evaluated based on potential travel impact.

Business Strategy:

The Gould Evans brand will incorporate sustainability through our involvement in our communities, the materials we distribute, the projects we design, and the associations we make.

We will produce case studies highlighting the sustainability strategies of our projects as well as our office operations.

Our associates will be encouraged to get involved in local and national sustainability efforts, and to be embedded in their local communities.

We will seek opportunities to contribute to projects and organizations in ways that expand their sustainability.