



2017-2030 Sustainability Action Plan  
THE MILLER HULL PARTNERSHIP, LLP

# SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN





# SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN V2.0

1. Introduction

2. Implementation Outline



Bullitt Center, Seattle, WA

### OUR SUSTAINABILITY VALUES

Miller Hull has been at the forefront of exploring innovative site strategies and advanced building systems since our firm was founded. Our perspective on architecture deals intimately with the human impact and context of the buildings we design. We continually strive for innovative, sustainable design approaches and technologies that push building performance to the highest level because we are responsible stewards for our environment.

As a profession, our responsibilities to our community and to the environment are great. We are entrusted with and accountable for both human and environmental health with our work. At Miller Hull, we take efforts to employ the latest scientifically-verified and relevant data that continues to evolve and influence our field. We also follow the Precautionary Principle. Together with our clients, we work for a shared vision to create architecture that is environmentally responsible, equitable and resilient.

The goals, objectives and strategies outlined in this document embody our firm's values and represent our commitment to be rigorous with our high performing buildings. Through our design work and in our office operations, we work to be accountable for and continually improve upon each goal.

The Sustainability Action Plan and the strategies outlined within it work in concert with goals of staff training, business alignment and community engagement; those specific policies are enumerated through other Miller Hull operations groups and so are not included here.

# DESIGN WORK

### Goal A 100% Regenerative Design by 2030

#### Objective A.1: Target Net Positive Energy

- Achieve 2030 Commitment Targets
- Use energy modeling to support design decisions
- Implement daylight optimization studies on every project
- Implement envelope optimization studies on every project
- Identify local, state and federal incentive programs available for projects

#### Objective A.2: Target Net Positive Water (potable, gray and black water)

- Implement potable water saving strategies
- Use simple water cycle modeling to support design decisions
- Identify local barriers to water harvesting and reuse and develop case studies to address issues
- Incorporate water reuse strategies
- Identify local, state and federal incentive programs available for projects

#### Objective A.3: Contribute to site restoration

- Make reference ecoregion<sup>1</sup> part of the design conversation
- Determine the pre-development conditions for site water flow and infiltration

### Goal B: 100% Healthy Material Choices by 2020

#### Objective B.1: Design to achieve the LBC Materials Petal

- Vet all specified products for Red List compliance
- Design every project to be embodied carbon neutral
- Specify wood as FSC certified or 100% salvaged/reclaimed
- Specify products with disclosed ingredients through a Declare Label, C2C Gold or better rating, or properly disclosed HPD
- Specify products with an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) that makes 10% improvement of GWP over a forthcoming established baseline
- Every project sends at least 1 advocacy letter to a product manufacturer/industry supporting healthier materials
- Identify recycled content and/or local sourcing for final assembly

<sup>1</sup> Ecoregions are ecologically and geographically defined areas that are smaller than bioregions which are in turn smaller than ecozones. The concept behind identifying the proper 'reference' ecoregion is to design in line with the native processes of a site before human intervention may have caused disruption. Examples include identifying the pre-development site hydrology, native species and vegetation types of a particular ecoregion.



Willamette River Water Treatment Plant, Wilsonville, OR

## Goal C: Design to enhance occupant health

### Objective C.1: Design to optimize indoor air quality

- Optimize indoor air quality to reduce pollutants and CO2

### Objective C.2: Design to support natural human biological processes

- Incorporate lighting design to support circadian rhythm

### Objective C.3: Design to promote physical activity

- Incorporate active design strategies to encourage physical activity
- Utilize workstations that support healthy and active work habits

## Goal D: Ensure our design thinking supports our core values

### Objective D.1: Think smarter, not just bigger

- Identify the low-cost/appropriate technology for top 3 sustainability goals
- Engage with, support and partner with new design consultants that share our values
- Incorporate biomimetic strategies in our design and process work
- Design for resiliency in at least 3 areas (eg. Material selection, adaptability, urban agriculture)

### Objective D.2: Drive industry change through transparency

- Educate clients on the cost benefits of ongoing commissioning
- Perform Post-occupancy evaluations for all built projects to track occupant health, comfort, and the building's energy performance
- Make our sustainability efforts transparent and publicly available
- Seek out speaking opportunities to address behavioral change within the profession

### Objective D.3: Address the social and environmental justice impacts of our work

- Provide tools for employees to establish their own 'bias baseline'
- Create opportunities for education around environmental justice impacts of design work
- Develop, track and report a 'social justice' metric for our portfolio of work

# MILLER HULL OPERATIONS

### Goal A: Zero Solid Waste by 2030

#### Objective A.1: Reduce printing by 10% every year

- Reduce drawing set printing to single copy per office
- Eliminate business cards
- Track, measure and propose alternatives to other in-house printing

#### Objective A.2: Reduce consumption-related waste

- Provide reusable/compostable dishware for local vendor carry out
- Remove waste collection from individual desks to drive awareness and reduction of waste generation

### Goal B: Net Positive Water Operations by 2050

#### Objective B.1: Reduce flow and flush fixture use by 50% from UPC baseline

- Replace or upgrade all flow fixtures with lower flow options (lav, shower, kitchen sink)
- Work with landlord to replace or upgrade flush and flow fixtures to lower flow options

#### Objective B.2: Rainwater/condensate harvesting for water uses (Seattle)

- Establish and implement feasible non-potable measures
- Establish and encourage feasible potable measures
- If no implemented measures by 2030, relocate offices

#### Objective B.3: Rainwater/condensate harvesting for water uses (San Diego)

- Establish and implement feasible non-potable measures
- Establish and encourage feasible potable measures
- If no implemented measures by 2030, relocate offices



## Goal C: Carbon Neutral Operations by 2050

### Objective C.1: Reduce workforce gas-based commuting miles by 5% per person every year

- Establish employee carpooling program
- Increase incentives for non-combustion commuting
- Incentivize and invest in remote-work opportunities and technologies

### Objective C.2: Reduce business travel combustion-based miles and offset with impactful efforts

- Aggressively budget the total business miles traveled by air
- Incentivize ways to reduce combustion-based business miles traveled
- Implement an offset program that is more impactful than purchased carbon offsets

### Objective C.3: Achieve 2030 target of 30 EUI by reducing office energy usage by 10% every year

- Target 5% year over year reduction in equipment/appliance purchasing
- Ensure office space lighting is optimized for least use
- Adjust HVAC settings and seating arrangement to optimize for thermal comfort 'zoning' and energy reduction
- Work with landlord for a "deep green retrofit" at time of HVAC replacement (approximately 2025)

### Objective C.4: Reduce carbon footprint of food purchases by 5% every year

- TBD after conducting an inventory of current practices
- Ban pre-packaged beverages at lunch and learns



## Goal D: Restorative Office Environment

### Objective D.1: Comfortable workspace

- Survey employees bi-annually to assess thermal, acoustic and ergonomic comfort; implement change strategies at individual level
- Compete yearly (internally) to increase beauty/biophilia of offices
- Arrange individual workstations for maximum natural light
- Implement feedback system for open window opportunities

### Objective D.2: Encourage a healthy lifestyle

- Promote stairs instead of elevators via accessibility, lighting and aesthetics
- Incentivize activity programs
- Provide several 'active workstations'
- Provide workplace sleep support
- Provide healthy snack and meal options when food is provided by Miller Hull

### Objective D.3: Bolster office culture

- Enhance and celebrate worker appreciation awards (eg. Green Giant)
- Improve social equity
- Promote volunteering of time and money
- Provide more learning opportunities for non-work sustainability

### Objective D.4: Resiliency plan for workers

- Create and implement a resiliency plan for both offices
- Provide education for workers to bolster resiliency away from work

### Objective D.5: Sustainable Purchasing Policy

- TBD after conducting an inventory of current practices

