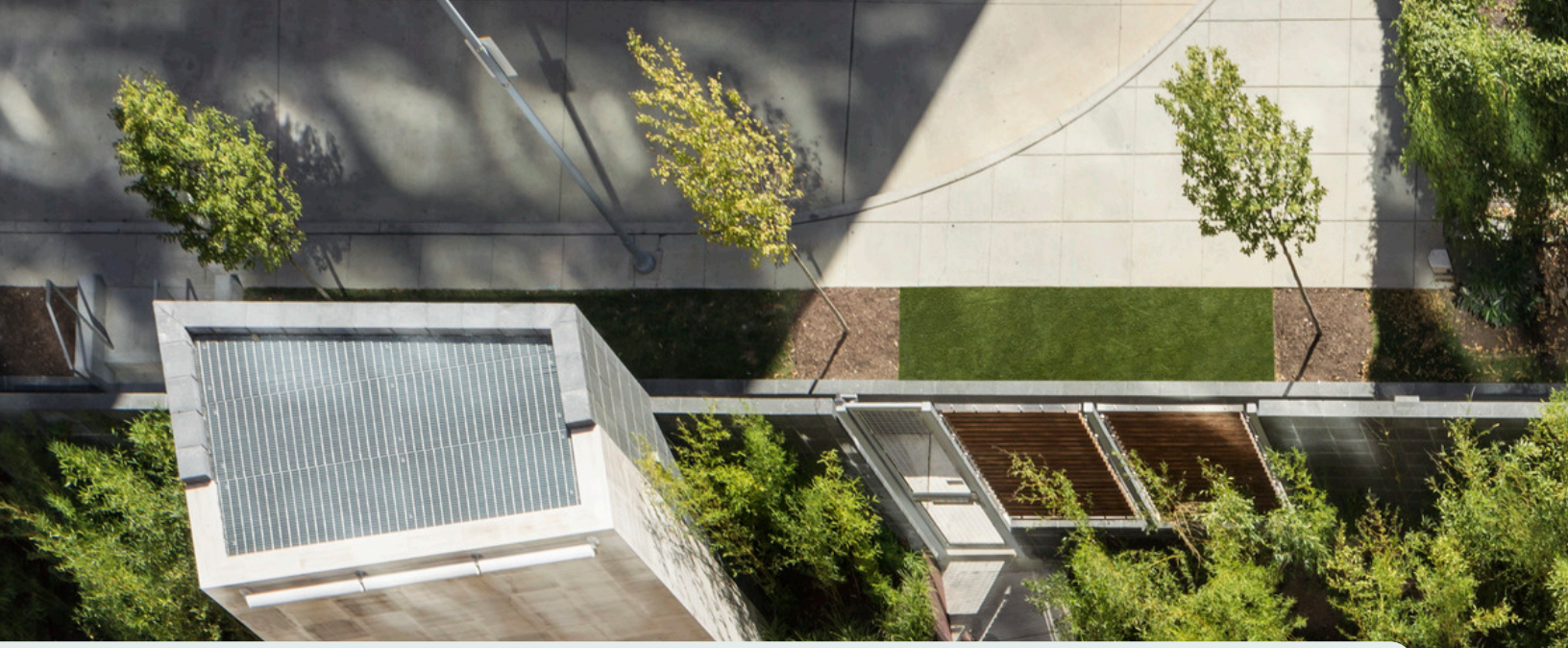
Sustainable
MATERIALS
ACTION PLAN

PERKINS EASTMAN

A Vision for Better Materials

At Perkins Eastman, we understand that the materials we choose have a direct and lasting impact on both people and the planet.

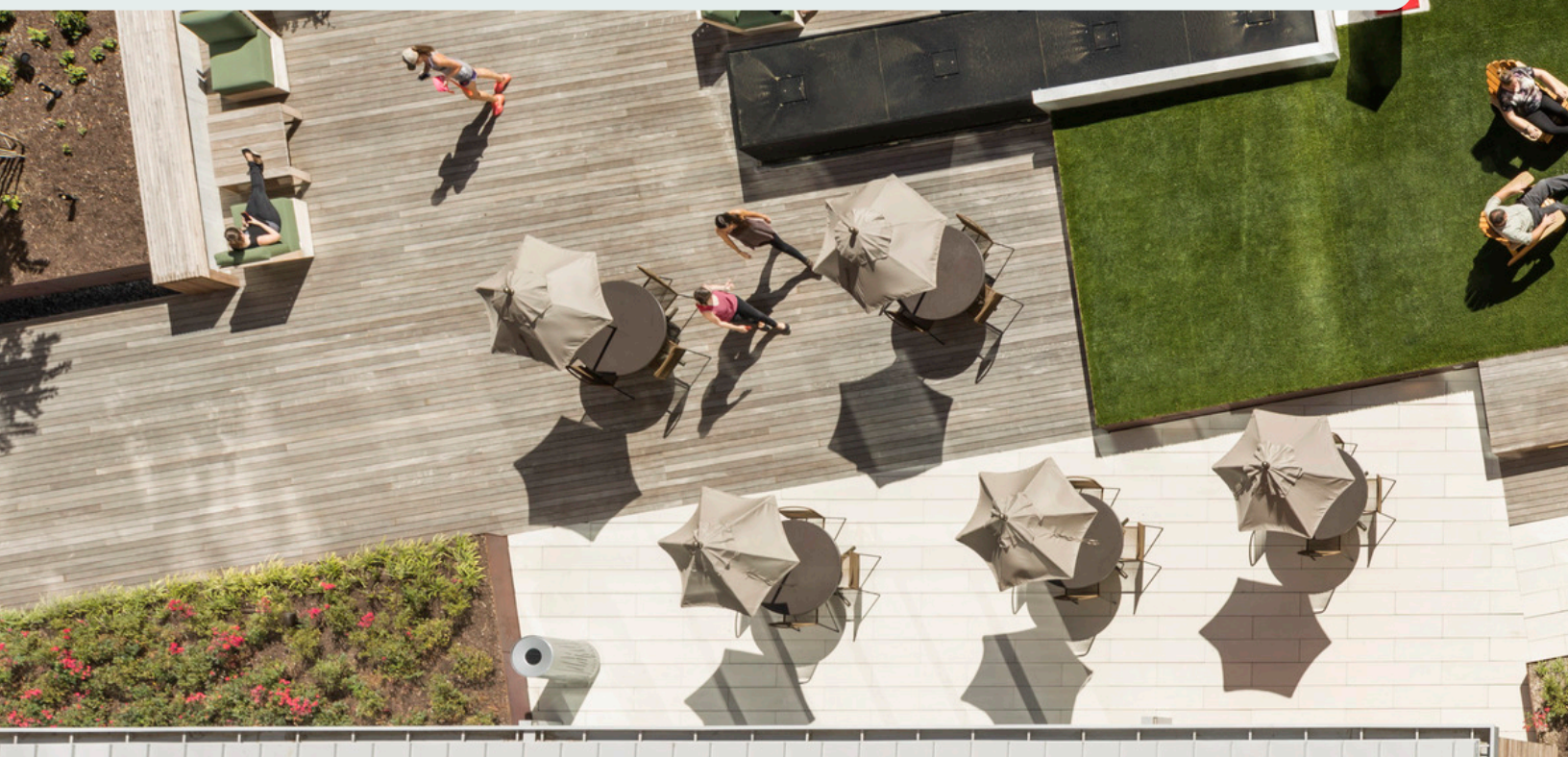
Our Materials Vision reflects our ongoing and evolving commitment to selecting and specifying materials that prioritize human and environmental health. We recognize that safer material production and selection are not just important—they are essential. Transparency, accountability, and industry alignment are foundational to driving meaningful change, even as we continue to navigate real barriers in the marketplace and the design industry. With these challenges in mind, we embrace our role—and responsibility—as designers to shape a more just, healthy, and sustainable future.



What is Material Health

AT PERKINS EASTMAN?

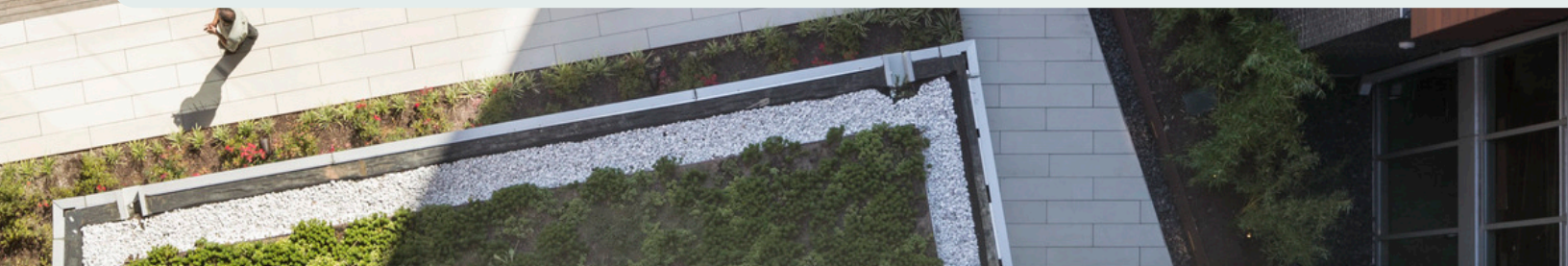
Our goal is for all of the materials we use to have a **net positive benefit** on human health, climate health, ecosystem health, social health and equity, and to contribute to a circular economy.



What does it mean that materials are integral

TO PERKINS EASTMAN AND OUR HUMAN BY DESIGN ETHOS?

This means making informed decisions rooted in the precautionary principle, demanding transparent and public disclosure, applying a holistic lens to material impacts (including human, climate, ecosystem, and social health), and committing to continuous improvement across all aspects of design and industry practice. At Perkins Eastman, this is central to our Human by Design ethos—recognizing that materials directly shape human experience and environmental well-being. Material health is not only about knowing—it's about acting by **choosing and advocating for better.**



Our Design Process
THROUGH HEALTHY MATERIALS

Good Design is...

Simple

Good design is beautifully simple—it shouldn't need a highly varied material palette to be beautiful. Strive whenever possible to simplify the material palette.

Intentional

Good designers are intentional—thinking first about what qualities are needed for their design and then selecting materials to best meet those qualities.

Informed

Good designers are informed—they know that every bit of material they select has an impact on our climate and our health. We design knowing where our carbon heavy hitters are—structure and envelope—concrete, steel, and glass, and design with carbon in mind.

Designed with Time in Mind

Good design is designed with time in mind—the aesthetics are not reliant on short-lived trends, the material palette is designed for durability to match the projected project life span, and considerations have been made for end-of-life.

After all of the above has been considered, only then can we move on to the next layers of smarter material selection. To be clear, **there is no magic material that can make up for poor design choices taken above**, that's why we start first with good design decisions to feed into better material selection to meet our material health goals at the end of the day.

Smarter
MATERIAL SELECTION

1 Does it have to be new?

Consider reuse/repurpose/salvage first.

2 Transparency

Transparency is only a stepping stone to get to the next step of optimization, but it is an important stepping stone nonetheless. We prioritize materials with transparency documentation, because without it, we have no data with which to inform our decisions around material health.

3 Optimization

Once we have the information, we can optimize our material choices. That optimization process looks like avoiding key classes of chemicals, focusing our efforts on high touch/high quantity materials, and selecting the best products to meet the needs—inclusive of material health considerations.

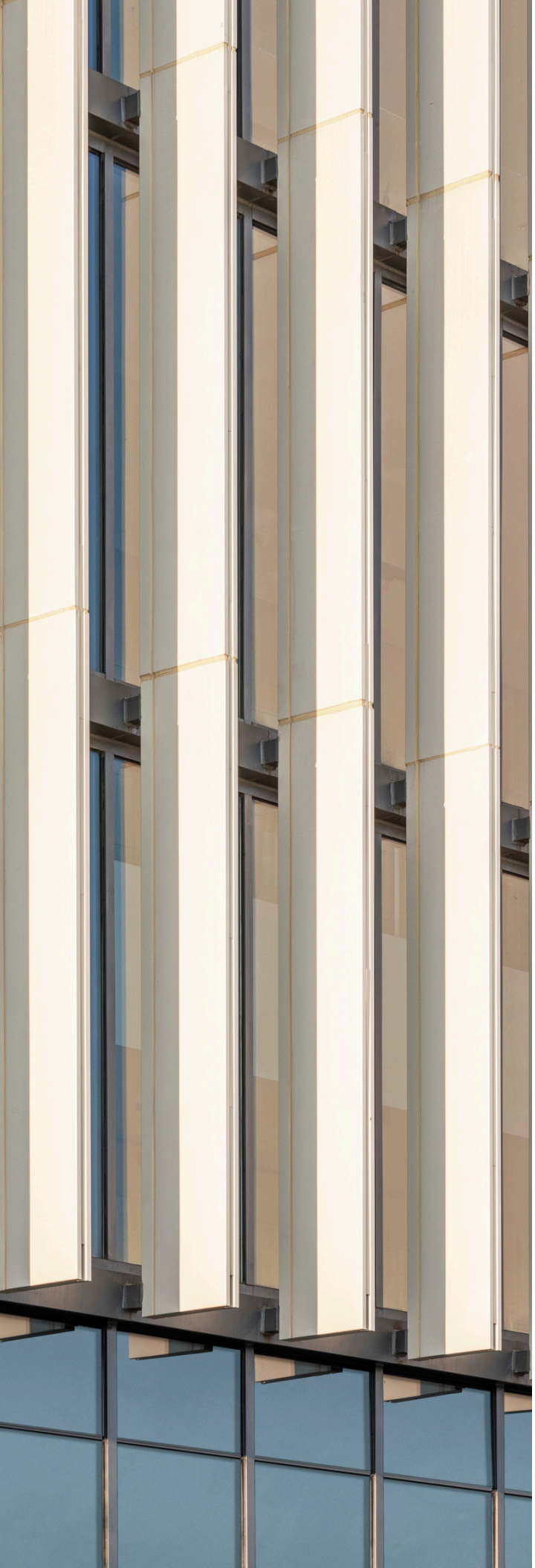
4 Follow Through

The final step is the most important—making sure we follow through. Integrating performance criteria into our specifications and submittal review processes are critical to communicating material health priorities to the construction team. We track our efforts and share our stories, knowing that we can only get better by sharing.


EATON HALL

Materials Action Plan

To translate our vision into action, we've created the following Materials Action Plan. This plan is meant to be a living document providing clear steps for our design teams to be able to act on our vision.



Materials Action Plan

Perkins Eastman's Materials Action Plan (MAP) aligns with mindful Materials' Common Materials Framework—structured in the five impact categories of: **human health, climate health, ecosystem health, social health & equity, and circular economy.** Through each of these impact categories we've identified specific actions that design teams can take to address material health in three different tiers—**Base, Better, and Best**. Here's how to use the MAP:

1. At the base level, all projects beginning in 2026 must meet the baseline mandatory requirements outlined in orange—the "Connect 4."

2. Beyond these minimum requirements, projects are encouraged to act beyond the minimum—this could include fulfilling all the baseline requirements in each impact category or conducting deep dives to achieve the Best levels on a impact category of their choice.

3. Some of the actions in the MAP can be met through careful material selection while some can be met through the use of a specific tool or resource—this is intentional, as we know that education, advocacy, and changes to our design workflows are necessary to achieve our goals.

4. A key feature of the MAP is the Multi-Attribute section—these actions are called out specifically because they offer cross-category impact—in most cases addressing all five material impact categories simultaneously, therefore providing more value.

Mindful Materials' Common Materials Framework

Human Health

Prefer materials and products which support and foster life throughout their life cycles and seek to eliminate the use of hazardous substances

Climate Health

Prefer materials and products that reduce carbon emissions and ultimately sequester more carbon than emitted

Ecosystem Health

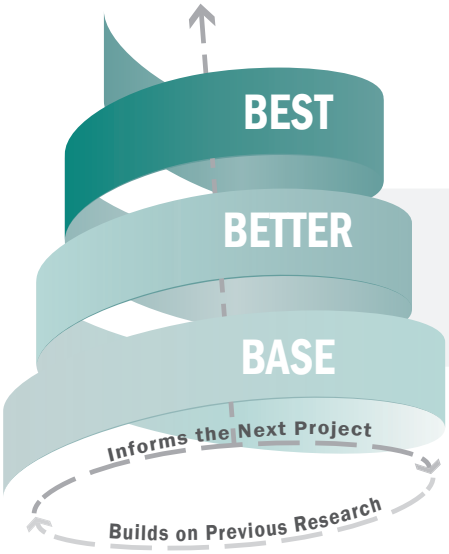
Prefer materials and products to support and regenerate air, water, and biological cycles through thoughtful supply chain management and restorative company practices

Social Health & Equity

Prefer manufacturers who secure human rights in their own operations and in their supply chains, and which provide positive impacts for their workers and the communities

Circularity

Support a circular economy by reusing and improving buildings, and by designing for resiliency, adaptability, disassembly, and reuse—aspiring to a zero-waste goal for global construction activities



Material Levels

Materials Action Plan

	Multi-Attribute	Human Health	Climate Health
BEST	**C2C** Select ≥5 products that are C2C certified **Living Product Challenge** Select 1 Product with Extended product Responsibility **Building Ease** Bring finish spec in BuildingEase **Playlist** Implement ≥10 products from your curated Playlist in Building Ease	**No Added Flame Retardants** Replace 1 product that normally contains added FRs **Playlist** Implement ≥10 products from 1 of PEs Playlist in BuildingEase **No PFAS** Replace 1 product that normally contains PFAS **Red List Free** Select ≥10 products that are Red List Free	**Carbon Strategies** Select at least 3 strategies ≥30% from PE's Embodied Carbon Plan **GWP** Replace 2 products with lower GWP from baseline **LCA** Run a Life Cycle Analysis in Tally or similar **Specs. limits** GWP Limits for Concrete, Steel, Asphalt or Glass
BETTER	**Playlist** Implement ≥5 products from Cross-Cutting Playlist in Building Ease **Material Quantities** Reduce product quantity (renovate/ reuse, use less finishes) **C2C** Select 3 products that are C2C certified	**Casework** Casework doesn't contain Added-Urea Formaldehydes **Playlist** Implement 5 products from 1 of PE's Playlist in Building Ease **No anti-Microbials** Don't use products that contain added anti-microbials **No Vinyl** Remove products that contain Vinyl (PVC's) **Red List Free** Select ≥5 products that are Red List Free	**GWP** Replace 1 product w/lower GWP from baseline **Carbon Strategies** Select at least 2 strategies ≥ 20% from PE's Embodied Carbon Plan **Wildcard** Explore other ways to reduce Climate Impact
BASE	**C2C** Select 1 product that is C2C certified	**Perkins Eastman's Minimum Requirements** **HPD or Declare** Select ≥5 products that have an HPD or Declare label **VOC Emissions Compliance** (CDPH, Greenguard, IEQ, etc) Select ≥10 products comply with emissions testing	**Carbon Strategy** Select 1 or more strategy from PE's Embodied Carbon Plan **EPD** Select ≥5 products that have an EPD

On your project, prioritize selecting materials that comply with this MAP that are:

Ecosystem Health

Social Health & Equity

Circularity

High Quantities

Sustainable Wood
All wood products contains FSC, SFI or manufactor letter confirming good practices

BIFMA Level
Select ≥5 products with BIFMA level certification

Design for Freedom
Participate in the pilot program

JUST or BCorp
Select 3 materials that come from a JUST or BCorp certified company

LEED Supply Chain
Follow the LEED pilot credit for social equity within the supply chain

Demo Circularity Walk
Identity 3 products for take back, reuse, re-purposing

LEED Circular Products
Follow the LEED Pilot credit for Circular products

High Touch

Local
Select ≥1 product sourced at least 500 miles from the project

Bio-based
Select at least 1 bio-based or natural derived product

Sustainable Wood
>50% of all wood products contain FSC, SFI or manufactor letters confirming good practices

BIFMA Level
Select ≥3 products with BIFMA level certification

JUST or BCorp
Select 1 material that comes from a JUST or Bcorp certified company

Hyper Local
Select 1 product or art piece sourced within 50 miles

Design for Freedom
Select 1 product of your high-risk list that complies w/ Design for Freedom

Recycled Content
≥10 products with recycled content w/ >50% post consumer

Demo Circularity Walk
Identity 1 product for take back, reuse, re-purposing

Low Touch

Sustainable Wood
Select at least 1 wood product w/ FSC, SFI, or manufacter letter confirming good practices

Local
Sourced ≥1 product US-Based/ Country Based

Design for Freedom
Identify all high-risk products on the project

FreeSpace PE JUST
We did this for you! Social equity within the project team

Recycled Content
≥5 products with recycled content w/ >50% post consumer

TakeBack
Select 1 product with a take back program


Human by Design
Geostone
PINCH
MEMENTO
BRICCO
TRAVEL
RAGNO
TEXTURE
daltile
PANORAMIC
Upholstery - Patterns
Upholstery - KT Collection
Back2Back
STONETALK
GRAINSTONE
WOODTOUCH
LOMBARDIA
STONE PROJECT
CORNERSTONE
TREND

Healthy Materials Workflow

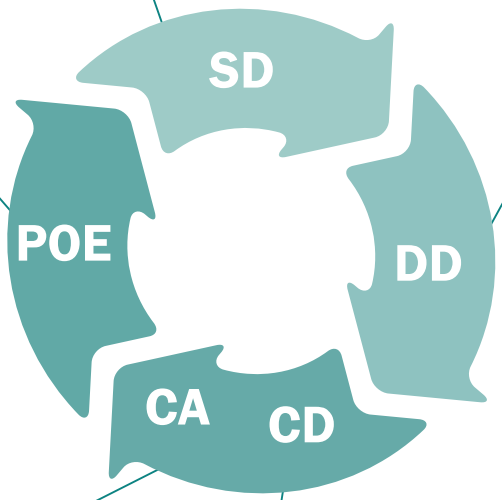
A GUIDE FOR MATERIAL HEALTH ACTION ACROSS A PROJECT LIFECYCLE

Concept/ Schematic Design

Set Goals, Prioritize Impact

During goal-setting, identify targets on the Materials Action Plan.

Track the “Good Design Is” principles on page 8.



Design Development

Evaluate and Improve

Create an initial list of materials.

Use the Healthy Materials Playlists by Practice Area (COMING SOON) as a curated starting point.

Construction Documents

Verify and Communicate

As materials are selected, keep track of targets identified on the Materials Action Plan.

For products that don’t meet at least one impact category criteria, review for material alternatives that comply.

Integrate performance criteria into specification language to communicate to the construction team why certain materials are in the project—informing potential substitutions.

Construction Administration

Review and Follow Through

During submittal reviews, confirm alignment of any product substitutions with Materials Action Plan goals/targets.

Track final material selections against Materials Action Plan targets to ensure goals are met.

Post Occupancy Evaluation

Learn and Improve

When possible, gather feedback on how installed materials are performing in use from users and facility managers.

How We Are Baking In Material Health

SUPPORTING INITIATIVES TO THIS VISION

Culture

Vision and Action Plan
This document is defining clear benchmarks for material performance aligned with the AIA Materials Pledge and industry standards, creating a roadmap that guides healthier, lower-impact material decisions across projects.

Education
To support this vision, we will host eduation sessions around this vision and roll-out a tools and resources to support its use.

Materials Subcommittee
We have a group of individuals driving these initiatives, supporting the development of resources to make smarter decisions easier for all of our project teams.

Outreach and Advocacy

AIA Materials Pledge Reporting
We are entering our third year of reporting under the AIA Materials Pledge, continuing to track results and measure progress toward healthier and lower-impact material choices across projects.

Industry Initiatives
We actively participate in industry initiatives such as mindful MATERIALS, AIA, the Carbon Leadership Forum (CLF), and A&D networks to share what we've learned and stay aligned with leading efforts advancing healthier and lower-carbon materials.

Tools and Resources

Digital Library Tools

Material Bank and Building Ease
We are partnering with Material Bank and BuildingEase to develop curated **"Material's Playlists"** to reduce time spent on material research while improving access to vetted, high-performance products for each of our practice areas.

Physical Material Libraries

Library Steering Committee
We have established a Library Steering Committee to define entry-level criterias and a materials policy that can be consistently applied across locations.

Specifications Effort

Specifications Updates
We are updating specifications to include ready-to-use "grab and go" options with clearly defined performance thresholds, allowing teams to quickly integrate healthier and lower-impact material requirements into project documents.

Glossary

This is a quick reference to the terms, certifications, and frameworks that shape our Materials Vision. These concepts are not new requirements; they are well-established tools used across the industry to help us design healthier, lower-carbon, more socially responsible, and circular buildings—aligned with the AIA Materials Pledge and mindful materials.

Human Health

No Added Flame Retardants
Products without added brominated or halogenated flame retardants, reducing exposure to harmful chemicals.
https://healthymaterialsbuildings.org/flame-retardants

No PFAS
Eliminates "forever chemicals" that persist in the environment and pose health risks.
https://www.epa.gov/pfas

Playlist
A curated list of products verified for health and sustainability attributes across the AIA Pledge categories.
https://buildingease.com

Red List Free
Products free of the chemicals identified on the Living Building Challenge Red List.
https://living-future.org/declare/declare-red-list/

Casework — No Added Urea-Formaldehyde
Cabinetry built without UF resins, reducing off-gassing and improving indoor air quality.
https://www.epa.gov/formaldehyde

No Antimicrobials
Avoids added antimicrobial artificial agents (unless intrinsicly non microbial like copper) required for performance, reducing damaging and unnecessary chemical exposure.
https://hpdcollaborative.org/antimicrobials/

No Vinyl (PVC-free)
Products that avoid vinyls (including PVC's) to reduce lifecycle toxicity and environmental impact.
https://www.healthybuilding.net/vinyl

HPD or Declare
Product transparency disclosures showing material content and health impacts.
HPD: https://www.hpd-collaborative.org
Declare: https://living-future.org/declare/

VOC Emissions Compliance
Materials meeting verified indoor air quality emissions testing (CDPH, Greenguard Gold, EC1, etc.).
https://www.epa.gov/indoor-air-quality-iaq/volatile-organic-compounds-impact-indoor-air-quality

Climate Health

Carbon Strategy
From Perkins Eastman's Carbon Plan, strategies to reduce carbon impacts through material selection, specification, and design choices.
https://carbonleadershipforum.org

GWP (Global Warming Potential)
Indicator of a material's climate impact, usually reported in kg CO_2e in an EPD.
https://ghgprotocol.org

LCA (Life Cycle Assessment)
Assessment of environmental impacts across a product's or building's full lifecycle.
https://www.buildingtransparency.org

Spec Limits (Embodied Carbon Thresholds)
Setting maximum allowable GWP values by product category.
https://se2050.org/ec-carbon-limits/

EPD (Environmental Product Declaration)
Verified environmental impact report for products, following ISO standards.
https://www.environdec.com

Wildcard (Alternative Reduction Strategies)
Flexible pathway to implement any impactful method to reduce climate footprint (reuse, alternate design, etc.).
https://carbonleadershipforum.org/material-reuse/

Ecosystem Health

Sustainable Wood (FSC/SFI/PEFC)
Wood sourced from responsibly managed forests with verified sustainable practices, or from sources with responsible claims.
FSC: https://www.fsc.org
SFI: https://forests.org
PEFC: https://www.pefc.org

Local (Regional Materials)
Products sourced within 500 miles to the project site to reduce transport impacts and support local ecosystems.
https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-management-materials-local-governments

Bio-based
Products derived from renewable biological sources (e.g., natural fibers, agricultural by-products).
https://www.biopreferred.gov

BIFMA Level
Third-party certification evaluating furniture sustainability across materials, energy, health, and social impacts.
https://www.levelcertified.org

Social Health and Equity

Design for Freedom
Framework to eliminate forced labor risks in building material supply chains.
https://www.designforfreedom.org

JUST Label
A transparency label for social equity performance of organizations.
https://living-future.org/just/

B Corp Certification
Certification for companies meeting high social and environmental performance and governance standards.
https://www.bcorporation.net

LEED Supply Chain Pilot
Pilot credit encouraging companies to disclose supply chain practices related to human rights.
https://www.usgbc.org/credits/pilotcredits

Hyper-Local
Select 1 product or art piece sourced within 50 miles supporting community economies.

FreeSpace PE JUST
Firmwide effort at Perkins Eastman to adopt JUST as a social equity framework internally and in projects, documentatin available for this button.
https://living-future.org/just/

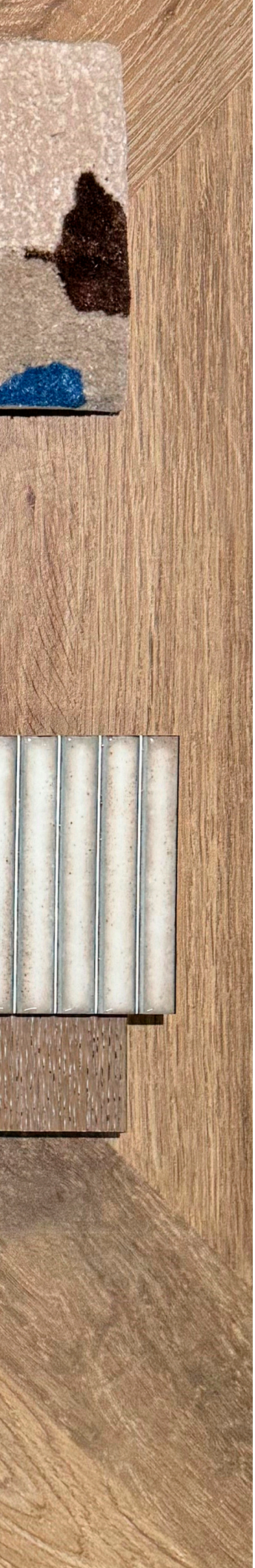
Circularity

Recycled Content
Materials with verified with at least 50% post consumer recycled content to reduce virgin extraction.
https://www.epa.gov/smm/sustainable-management-materials-recycling

TakeBack/Manufacturer Take-Back Program
Product return programs enabling reuse, refurbish, or recycling at end-of-life.
https://circulareconomy.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org

Demo Circularity Walk
Exercise to identify project opportunities for salvage, reuse, and circular construction strategies.
https://buildreuse.org

LEED Circular Products Pilot
Pilot credit recognizing products designed for durability, reuse, and circular design strategies.
https://www.usgbc.org



Next Steps

Each year, our Material Action Plan will be updated to reflect the current marketplace, leading industry guidance, and our progress as a firm. We will add detail to our requirements and provide the support necessary for implementation. We will work to expand and empower our network of material champions to help support the Material Action Plan, disseminate information, and push our work forward.

The industry is quickly moving towards increased knowledge and awareness of materials impact. We need to move ahead as quickly as possible. Materials represent an exciting opportunity for us as designers to maximize our positive impact on our communities and environment!

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Guayaquil
Irvine
Kansas City
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Mumbai
New York
Oakland
Philadelphia
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