

## Perkins Eastman DC

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### Member since 2023

Winner of the 2022 Clean Energy DC Award

## Reported Environmental Activities

### ✓ Environmental Policy/Sustainability Mission Statement

We design for a sustainable and resilient future. The bond between humans and nature is unbreakable, and we have an inherent responsibility to enhance the health and wellbeing of our people, our communities, and our planet. Embracing the patterns of nature, we strive to uncover the possibilities of design.

### ✓ Environmental Management System

In 2022, Perkins Eastman released our public Sustainability Resolution. This Resolution outlines six goals that reflect our company's social, economic, and environmental priorities. We have committed to becoming a carbon-neutral firm which we are accomplishing through an annual carbon reporting process, verified by a third-party. In 2023, we released our second annual *State of Sustainability*, a corporate sustainability report which included our first comprehensive firmwide carbon analysis. In 2023, we also submitted publicly to Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) without a score. As it relates to our work, we have been signatories of the *American Institute of Architects 2030 Commitment* for carbon-neutral designs since 2014. Every year we submit our current portfolio of projects to measure the known or estimated energy use of the designs. The goal is 100% predicted energy use intensity reduction by 2030.

Our projects submitted in 2022 showed an average of 49.82% predicted energy use intensity reduction, 1.02% higher than the industry average. We are committed to reducing the impact of the built environment on the greater environment through reducing the energy intensity, material selection, and resource-dependency of our designs.

### ✓ Environmental Team

At Perkins Eastman, our commitment to sustainability is deeply ingrained in our operations through our robust Sustainability Network. This network is dedicated to infusing sustainability principles into every facet of our work.

It is our expectation that every project has a designated Sustainability Lead as an integral part of the project team. This individual is responsible for asking key questions that address sustainable design considerations at every phase, monitoring, and tracking sustainability data, and connecting the project team with the firmwide Sustainability Team when needed. In addition, we have two Green Coordinators located in our DC office. Green Coordinators play a pivotal role in organizing sustainability initiatives by coordinating events, aiding in annual data collection, and actively engaging in monthly meetings aimed at enhancing sustainability outreach, cultivating a sustainable culture, and advancing progress throughout our office.

The Firmwide Sustainability Team is based in our Washington, DC office. The firmwide team covers a broad range of specialties, assisting directly with project designs and performance, and managing our internal sustainability initiatives and annual corporate reporting. The firmwide team reports to an internal advisory committee on a quarterly basis. The advisory committee is comprised of senior-level architects who serve as a sounding board for ongoing sustainability initiatives and progress in our projects and operational commitments. Regular reporting from our Director of Sustainability is directed to the co-CEO and the Executive Committee, ensuring continual communication and alignment of our sustainability efforts with the top leadership of the organization.

#### ✓ **Annual Environmental Goals**

- We strive to be a carbon-neutral firm – in both our operations as well as in our work with our clients.
- We strive to be curious – to use applied research to enhance and advance our work.
- We strive to think holistically – in terms of people and the planet, and at all scales of work.
- We strive 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.
- We strive to correct the inequities in our practice, our projects, and our communities, and to celebrate diversity and culture, which we believe enriches our design and our lives.
- We strive to lead with passive design, as this design strategy provides the key to both reducing future climate emissions and improving livability and resiliency as the impacts of climate change take hold.

As a signatory of the AIA 2030 commitment, it is our intention to reach net zero emissions in our projects and designs by 2030.

#### ✓ **Environmentally Preferable Purchasing**

In 2016, our team developed a Sustainable Operations Manual that includes a section on Supply & Purchasing. The goal outlined in this section states: “Reduce resources use, purchase environmentally responsible products, and improve employee health by reducing toxins.” It is our intention to reduce the environmental impact of the supplies we use and assure the supplies don’t have a harmful effect on their users. Looking ahead to 2024, we are dedicating increased efforts toward identifying and advocating for sustainably preferable

supplies, especially focusing on cleaning products, which will become the default choice for Operations Managers when making procurement decisions for their respective offices.

Being mindful of our role as architects, we acknowledge the significant impact that our material samples can have on our overall environmental footprint. To address this, we have established a partnership with Material Bank, a platform for receiving and returning material samples in a system that prioritizes reducing shipping emissions and waste. This collaboration not only facilitates our access to environmentally preferable materials but also enables us to make more sustainable choices.

#### ✓ **Commit to Environmental Restoration and Community Environmental Projects**

The Perkins Eastman DC office has a standing relationship with the District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA) with whom we have assisted with designing and constructing a community improvement project. This year we completed a low-impact Nature Trail amenity for the THEARC communities and partners to utilize – both providing a public amenity benefit as well as improving and enhancing the nature trail.

#### ✓ **Equity Considerations in all Activities**

We commit to fulfilling our Human by Design ethos through non-discriminatory, intersectional, and equitable business practices. We continuously strive to improve our methods to deliver sustainable cultural change emphasizing diversity, vitality, and conscious inclusion as essential to our work life.

In recent years, we have strengthened our partnership with the National Organization of Minority Architects (NOMA) by supporting the organization at both national and local levels. We were a Gold sponsor of the 2022 NOMA Unplugged Conference where six of our staff attended in-person and three virtually.

We have participated in the NOMA-sponsored Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) mentorship and career fair series since 2020. This nine-month engagement cycle aligns with the academic calendar and allows Perkins Eastman employees the opportunity to become mentors and advisors to students studying architecture. Perkins Eastman is committed to diversifying our staff, and by extension, the pipeline to the architectural profession.

#### ✓ **Solid Waste Reduction and Reuse**

In our DC office we have deployed a waste management system designed to encourage recycling and composting in an effort to reduce landfill disposal. This year, we removed all individual desk bins in favor of “neighborhood”/centralized landfill and recycling bins. We have found that this greatly increases the amount of waste that is being recycled. There is also composting available in the kitchens. In our kitchens, staff have access to reusable plates, cutlery, and other kitchen items. This reduces the need for disposable or plastic cups and cutlery.

For our work, we have partnered with the Material Bank, a company that provides material samples of architectural, construction, and design materials from a variety of suppliers. By working with Material Bank, not only do we reduce our carbon footprint related to material samples, but we are also eliminating material sample waste by sending our samples back to Material Bank to be reused or recycled.

#### ✓ **Recycling or Donation**

In our DC office, we have estimated that 2,527.5 pounds of materials have been recycled in 2023.

#### ✓ **Composting**

In our DC office, we have estimated that 2,982.5 pounds of materials have been composted in 2023.

#### ✓ **Water Conservation**

As part of our tenant fit-out process when moving into our office back in 2016 we pursued LEED for Commercial Interiors certification. As part of this effort, all our applicable water fixtures are *WaterSense* labeled and in total we meet a 32% reduction in potable water use through the use of low-flow fixtures.

#### ✓ **Stormwater Management**

Perkins Eastman does not own the base building in which our offices reside, and therefore we do not have control over the stormwater measures in place. However, as part of our design work in the city we work to not only meet rigorous stormwater management targets, but also to, whenever possible, visualize this green infrastructure for stormwater management especially within our design of DC schools, to help connect students with the local water cycle and provide opportunities for outdoor education. For example, at John Lewis elementary the site is equipped with pervious surfaces and bioretention ponds that students can walk around and over, which become localized catchment areas for reducing stormwater runoff. The rain gardens provide 16,766 cubic feet of volume, which exceeds the 90th percentile storm event.

#### ✓ **Energy Efficiency**

In the Perkins Eastman DC office, over 90% of equipment and appliances installed are EnergyStar rated. The lighting design of our spaces reduces the lighting power density by 31%. In addition, our office underwent fundamental and enhanced commissioning to ensure that systems are optimized and functioning as designed, further contributing to our energy efficiency.

And finally, the base building that our office resides in achieved an 81 Energy Star rating in the last year, largely due to LEED for Existing Buildings certification that it holds and maintains, as well as the contributions of the individual tenants such as ourselves.

### ✓ **Renewable Energy/Solar Panels**

While we don't own the roof area of our building to procure solar panels, we regularly support our clients in the design and procurement of renewable energy for their facilities. In fact, on our Dunbar Senior High School project, we helped DCPS secure one of the largest PPA agreements in the district, paving the way for DCPS to procure on-site photovoltaics across their entire portfolio.

### ✓ **Employee Commute/Customer Travel**

Two years in a row (excluding hiatus from 2020-2022), Perkins Eastman DC was the winner (Large Office) of the *ZGF Big Green Commute* competition. We have been in the top three every year since 2016.

The *Big Green Commute* is a week-long commuting challenge hosted by ZGF each May that challenges commuters in the Washington, DC region to Go to Work, Make a Difference. The competition was founded on the belief that change can be affected at a personal and community level. The competition coincides with Bike to Work Week and incentivizes commutes via walking and biking but also rewards participants for carpooling, taking public transportation, or driving electric vehicles.

As the winners of this competition, the Perkins Eastman DC office had the highest average of low-emission commuting into the office (walking or public transit). The DC office building offers a large, secured bicycle parking area in the basement and we have a firmwide pre-tax contribution option for metro cards. These offers incentivize non-driving commuting options for our employees.

### ✓ **Electric/hybrid vehicles, EV recharger station**

While our firm does not have any businesses vehicles, the office building that we occupy offers EV charging in the basement parking garage, supporting those of our staff who do own and drive electric vehicles to work.

### ✓ **LEED/Green Globes/Living Building Challenge/International Green Construction Code (IgCC)/Other**

The One Thomas Circle building is LEED for Existing Buildings Gold certified our office space is LEED for Commercial Interiors Gold certified.

### ✓ **Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS)**

One Thomas Circle is in compliance with BEPS. The EnergyStar score is 81, the Site EUI is 38.4 kBTU/sf/yr.

## ✓ Awards/Certificates

Perkins Eastman DC is the winner of the DC District Sustainability award in 2022, largely due to the sustainability of our design work. Below is a short list of some of the sustainability-specific design awards that our work has won in the city:

- The Wharf – 2023 Gold Award for New Developments with Sustainable Commendation, ICSC
- Banneker High School - Sustainable & Resilient Design Award, AIA Baltimore
- Banneker High School - Energy and Environmental Design Award: Washington, DC Section, IES Illumination Design Awards
- John Lewis Elementary School – 2023 Planet Positive Awards, Metropolis
- John Lewis Elementary School - Sustainable & Resilient Design Award, AIA Baltimore
- John Lewis Elementary School - Award of Merit Excellence in Sustainability, 2022 ENRMidAtlantic Best Projects
- Dunbar Senior High School - 2015 USGBC MD 10th Annual Wintergreen Awards for Excellence in Green Building: Educational/School Facility
- Dunbar Senior High School - 2014 AIA DC Presidential Citation for Sustainable Design
- Theodore Roosevelt High School - 2016 AIA DC Presidential Citation for Sustainable Design
- Stoddert Elementary School - 2012 US Department Of Education Green Ribbon Award
- Stoddert Elementary School - 2011 AIA/DC Presidential Citation for Sustainable Design
- Stoddert Elementary School - US Green Building Council (USGBC) National Capitol Region, Honorable Mention
- School Without Walls Senior High School - Washington Chapter AIA, Design Awards: Award of Merit in Historic Resources and Presidential Citation for Sustainable Design
- Watkins Elementary School - 2018 AIA DC Presidential Citation for Sustainable Design