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TRANSFORMATION TO ZERO SUMMIT

PRELIMINARY REPORT-OUT: DECEMBER 2016



TRANSFORMATION TO ZERO SUMMIT

EVENT OVERVIEW

On October 15, 2016, Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI), New Buildings Institute (NBI), and Architecture 2030 convened a group of building industry thought leaders and supporters to collaboratively define a roadmap toward a zero carbon built environment by 2050. The event was hosted at Rocky Mountain Institute's office in Boulder, CO following the successful Getting to Zero National Forum in Denver, CO.

The stated purpose of the summit was to:

- **Call for zero net carbon** by highlighting building efficiency, zero net carbon buildings, and zero net carbon communities as key to mitigating climate change
- **Create an accord** of buildings industry thought leaders and passionate parties capable of affecting change
- **Pave the path** forward by establishing the roadmap for getting to zero carbon emissions from buildings that addresses funding opportunities, partners who can ignite and implement change, and policy levers
- **Drive investment** in the best approaches to combatting climate change using building efficiency and renewable energy
- **Inspire, compel, and lead** the industry in accelerating the transition to a clean energy future using the leverage of three influential building efficiency thought leading organizations and our networks of dedicated partners

The day started with inspiring presentations by Amory Lovins and Ed Mazria. Amory emphasized the importance of the built environment in helping to decarbonize the grid most efficiently and cost-effectively. Ed's presentation underscored many of the important opportunities to drive zero net carbon buildings through policy, code, and accord.

The following activities then focused summit participants on defining and exploring the future of the buildings sector in the near- and long-term, with the goal to drive toward zero carbon by the year 2050. The context and outcomes of these discussions are outlined in further detail below.



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DISCUSSION 1: DISRUPTIVE STATEMENTS AND FOCUS AREAS

The first discussion focused on the statements that RMI, NBI, and Architecture 2030 defined to describe the disruptive activities that could enable the transformation to a zero carbon building sector by 2050. These statements provoked dialogue in several key areas, focusing discussions on near-term efforts that would enable a zero carbon building stock in 2050.

The disruptive statements defined prior to the event were:

1. The entire building sector can be zero net carbon
2. The building industry can accelerate the renewable energy market
3. The zero net carbon building industry can change manufacturing
4. A zero net carbon economy can promote resiliency and social justice solutions

The following conversation was intended to delve deeper into each of these focus areas to define key issues and opportunities. It largely focused on the first statement (The entire building sector can be zero net carbon), but the group's work is intended to focus on all four disruptive statements over time.

While the team has compiled detailed notes of the discussion, the following key themes summarize the areas that this group identified as the highest priority to focus on in the near term:

- Invigorate the virtuous cycle of code adoption and incentivize reach codes and standards
- Generate demand for zero net carbon across priority markets, like:
 - Cities and States
 - Corporate real estate portfolio owners
 - School districts
 - Government stakeholders
 - Residential developers
- Cause a shift in scale from individual buildings to the portfolio- and program-scale for:
 - Communications
 - Case studies
 - Tools and processes
 - Value proposition
 - Engaging the key stakeholders (e.g., a CEO rather than a building owner)
- Establish a public policy basis for carbon pricing and rate reform
- Expand solutions beyond first movers
- Drive movement in cultural and community spaces

SETTING INTERIM GOALS: TIMELINE ACTIVITY

The discussion shifted to focus more directly on identifying short- and long-term priorities in the context of the areas identified above. The first step was to identify key goals, actions, or accomplishments necessary to achieve zero carbon by 2050, and to place these items on a timeline from 2016 to 2050. After assembling the timeline, the group voted on the top actions to prioritize. The resulting timeline is shared on the following page.





The team has developed detailed documentation of this timeline, which can be shared in a future report-out. The key points were synthesized in discussion 2 and are summarized below.

DISCUSSION 2: KEY FOCUS AREAS MOVING FORWARD

The final discussion focused on choosing the interim goals and actions that the group should prioritize moving forward. This conversation built off of the disruptive statements in addition to the prioritized list from the timeline. After a good deal of discussion and debate, the team settled on the following areas of focus for RMI, NBI, Architecture 2030 to emphasize in both the roadmap to zero carbon that they would ZINC, as well as in future collaborations with this group:

1. Generate global demand for zero net carbon buildings and materials by targeting specific real estate sectors. Specific sectors of interest included:
 - a. Public (government) sector
 - b. Schools
 - c. Portfolios
 - d. Districts
 - e. Design communities
 - f. Underserved communities (including multi-family and low income)
 - g. The financial sector
 - h. Manufacturers
2. Drive a national model for targeted reach codes and standards. Incorporate renewable energy (on- and off-site) as well as carbon, carbon pricing, and embodied carbon
3. Develop a policy template for point-of-sale building energy upgrade strategies
4. Focus on capacity building and workforce training for building and retrofitting high-performance buildings
5. Link investor risk to performance outcome (e.g. Investor Confidence Project (ICP)). This could include developing a retrofit process and certification that builds trust and drives an investable product
6. Work toward valuing and benchmarking embodied carbon in new construction

The group also noted that the roadmap should also include priorities on financing, social justice solutions, and cultural acceptance and adoption of zero net carbon. These areas of focus were identified for future goal-setting sessions.

MOVING FORWARD

RMI, NBI, and Architecture 2030 see a need to align their organizations' current activities in building efficiency and carbon reductions with the key focus areas listed above in order to identify critical gaps. Identifying these gaps can result in new strategic operations and new partners to help achieve this vision. We have always known that tackling these issues will require close coordination with our partners, and believe that a gap analysis of our three organizations is a necessary first step to operationalizing the outcomes of the Transformation to Zero Summit and engaging with additional partners under an aligned framework.

In the coming months, we plan to deliver a comprehensive and collaborative report detailing our aligned strategy moving forward. We will craft a communications plan focused on sharing this strategy and engaging with this group and other partners, as well as develop fundable projects that bring us closer to a zero carbon future. We have already made progress in driving new initiatives and a high-level approach together. With your support, we can align together now toward a zero carbon future.

To quote Edward Mazria,

“The task we face is daunting. Working separately, we could accomplish something significant in each of our respective spheres. But by working together, we actually have a chance to influence the course of history - and we will.”



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