

## **APTI Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation**

1 August 2009

The Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation is volunteer-staffed with five subcommittees/focus groups. The subcommittees meet monthly by conference call. Below is the general schedule for calls with the focus groups.

### **Education and Research**

The Education and Research Focus Group was formed during discussions at the special workshop on Sustainability held in Montreal following the APT Annual Meeting. Its purpose is to support efforts within university-level programs in preservation and related disciplines to address the relationship between sustainable design and practice and historic preservation.

These efforts can be pedagogical or research-related. In addition to several phone meetings, the group also conducted a survey of preservation programs through the National Council of Preservation Education, and is compiling the results for dissemination both to the respondents and to the APT Technical Committee on Sustainability.

Conference Call: First Thursday of each month at 4:00 P.M. EDT/EST.

Chairpersons: Jeff Chusid [jmc286@cornell.edu](mailto:jmc286@cornell.edu)  
Ned Kaufman [ned@kaufmanconservation.com](mailto:ned@kaufmanconservation.com)

### **Climate Change**

The Climate Change committee has raised a list of preliminary questions and potential discussion points. They are as follows:

A. How can the preservation and reuse of historic structures influence climate change predictions and effects?

1. Inherently sustainable - passive heating/cooling, daylighting
2. Easily adaptable to sustainable standards - energy savings
3. Less energy used to upgrade historic buildings (compared to new construction - transportation and manufacturing compared to craft/labor)
4. Embodied energy not wasted
5. Historic buildings in downtown locations - public transport
6. Results: reduction in carbon emissions, or slowing rate of rise of carbon emissions ([www.350.org](http://www.350.org))
7. Historic landscapes - native plants (existing vs. native), retention of ecology, reduce erosion, irrigation
8. Problem: use of recycled materials coming from historic buildings

B. How does climate change impact historic structures, and how will preservation technology address these issues?

1. Preservation technology addresses changes of and repairs to building systems and materials; much information already known/quantified
2. Effects result of: flooding, excessive moisture, freeze-thaw cycles, abrupt changes in temperature
3. New solutions to effects of climate change on buildings can result of existing body of knowledge
4. Changes in restoration technology to respond to "green materials and products", especially cleaning and painting - no surfactants, naturally-based poultices, milk or clay paints (use of traditional/historic materials)
5. Acceptance of effects of aging materials (patina)
6. Performance modeling, operations management of historic buildings

C. How can APTI best contribute to or collaborate with a select few of the organizations currently discussing climate change and historic preservation issues?

1. Research and testing, documentation
2. Embodied energy and performance modeling case studies/statistics - ASTM
3. USGBC is an important partner to educate concerning sustainable preservation (i.e. non-LEED projects), also EPA
4. National Trust for Historic Preservation's Green Lab,
5. Heritage Canada, English Heritage, Heritage Scotland, Noah's Ark (much research is underway)
6. UNESCO / USICOMOS / WMF
7. Clinton Climate Initiative

Conference Call: Second Wednesday of each month at 4:00 P.M. EDT/EST.  
 Chairperson: Nancy Rankin [nrankin@jgwaarchitects.com](mailto:nrankin@jgwaarchitects.com)

### **Policy**

The Policy Subcommittee is studying existing federal, regional and local sustainability policies and incentives that target existing buildings and energy efficiency goals. Each policy will be judged for its potential affect on historic resources, and compared and contrasted with those in other regions. The goal is to discover best practices for policy formation regarding sustainability and preservation, providing a model for jurisdictions creating their own policies, and a tool for evaluating policies potentially harmful to historic resources.

Conference Call: First Friday of each month at 4:00 P.M. EDT/EST.  
 Chairpersons: Ilene Tyler [ityler@quinnevens.com](mailto:ityler@quinnevens.com)  
 Mark Huck [mhuck@parks.ca.gov](mailto:mhuck@parks.ca.gov)

### **Rating Systems**

The Ratings Systems and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Subcommittee continues to research the ways in which commercial and residential ratings systems treat existing and historic buildings. In the course of preparing articles for Preservation Forum Mike Jackson has surveyed residential ratings systems and Steve Tilly has looked at the primary commercial systems like LEED, Green Globes and BREEAM. They also participated in a National Trust Symposium to set a research agenda for LCAs, which holds the promise of providing a comprehensive yardstick that can fairly portray the sustainability of existing and historic structures, a yardstick that can be incorporated into existing ratings systems. The Committee's goals are to continue to monitor existing systems, lobby for improvements in their treatment of existing buildings, and to consider developing and promoting model local codes or guidelines that discourage demolition and support the retention of existing neighborhoods and buildings.

Conference Call: Third Monday of each month at 4:00 P.M. EDT/EST.  
 Chairpersons: Mike Jackson [mike.jackson@illinois.gov](mailto:mike.jackson@illinois.gov)  
 Steve Tilly [stevet@stillyarchitect.com](mailto:stevet@stillyarchitect.com)

### **Publications:**

The Publications Working Group has been involved in several projects during 2009. They include the facilitation of communication among the various subcommittees of the Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation, the assistance with the publication of a special edition of the *APTI Bulletin* on sustainable heritage conservation, the revisions of the Technical Committee's brochure and website, and the preparation of a bibliography on sustainable preservation, which will be posted on the APTI website. To join the Publications Working Group or to contribute citations for the bibliography, please contact the co-chairs.

Conference Call: First Thursday of each month at 4:00 P.M. EDT/EST.  
 Chairpersons: Dan M. Worth, AIA [dworth@bvh.com](mailto:dworth@bvh.com)  
 Roy Malcolm Porter, Jr., Ph.D., LEED AP [roymalcolmporтерjr@windstream.net](mailto:roymalcolmporтерjr@windstream.net)