



The Association for Preservation Technology International  
*Association internationale pour la préservation et ses techniques*

**TC•SP**  
Technical  
Committee on  
Sustainable  
Preservation

## APT Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation (TC-SP)

The APT Technical Committee on Sustainable Preservation was formed in 2004 to provide an arena for discussion, review, and information sharing. It aims to educate APT members on the relationship between historic preservation and environmental sustainability.

Co-Chair Mark Brandt	<a href="mailto:mtb@mtbarch.com">mtb@mtbarch.com</a>
Co-Chair Nancy Rankin	<a href="mailto:nrankin@jgwaarchitects.com">nrankin@jgwaarchitects.com</a>
Co-Chair Cory Rouillard	<a href="mailto:trembc@gmail.com">trembc@gmail.com</a>
Secretary Jason Wright	<a href="mailto:jasonkennethwright@gmail.com">jasonkennethwright@gmail.com</a>

We currently have five **Focus Groups**, which address a range of topics, interests, and purposes.

**Education & Research**  
**Climate Change**  
**Life Cycle Impacts**  
**OSCAR - the Online Sustainable Conservation Assistance Resource**  
**Outreach & Alliances**

For more information, please contact the co-chairs of the focus groups to get involved and to join in the regularly scheduled group conference calls. (See following pages.)

In addition, this past year we have:

- Organized a special plenary on “Historic Buildings and the Race to Net-Zero Carbon” as well as a sustainable preservation networking reception for APT 2017 Ottawa
- Broadened group outreach to allied organizations, including AIA, RAIC, ICOMOS
- Contributed to public review of ASHRAE 34 Energy Guideline for Historic Buildings
- Secured additional outside funding from HPEF to continue development of OSCAR

In previous years, we have:

- Organized “Building Science and Systems” workshop with PETC for APT 2016 San Antonio
- Guest Edited a Special Issue of the APT *Bulletin* on Climate Change and Preservation Technology (Vol. 47:1, Spring 2016)
- Contributed to the review of an NPS Preservation Brief on flooding and sea level rise
- Contributed to “Renewing Modernism” symposium with TC-MH for APT 2015 Kansas City and subsequent narrative summary “*Toward Consensus Principles for Practice*”

This year’s goals and ways to get involved include:

- APT 2018 Buffalo - 50th Anniversary programming and APT *Bulletin* contributions
- Public release of OSCAR 2.0 for 50th Anniversary celebrations
- Zero Net Carbon - continuing the conversation with allied organizations
- Engage APT with UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda items supporting cultural heritage.



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## Education & Research Focus Group

Co-Chair Hugh Miller

[hcmfaia@comcast.net](mailto:hcmfaia@comcast.net)

Co-Chair Susan Ross

[susan.ross@carleton.ca](mailto:susan.ross@carleton.ca)

### description

The APT TC-SP Education and Research (E&R) Focus Group was organized ca. 2008. It supports efforts of faculty and students within University-level programs in related disciplines to address the relationship between sustainable design/practices and historic preservation/heritage conservation. The group exchanges resources such as course syllabi, new references and calls for papers to conferences or publications, maintains a list of relevant thesis work, and it advises APT on key academic/research institutions and organizations with Sustainable Preservation related interests.

### format

The central endeavor of the E&R Focus Group is its regular monthly phone call open to all members, with occasional guests from other organizations. The calls include both an agenda and open time for discussion of recent events and resources. The timing of the call is established by doodle polls for January-June and July-December to maximize availability according to participant's teaching/project schedules, and cover time zones from the UK to Pacific Coast.

### **Upcoming calls**

- Mon. Oct. 23, 11-12 EST
- Wed. Nov. 22, 11-12 EST
- Wed. Dec.20, 11-12 EST

### **Conference call Information**

- Dial: 1-888-354-0094
- International Dial in: 1-206-596-0331
- Conference Code: 5938216111#

### goals and accomplishments

**Survey on education:** In 2013, the E & R Focus Group conducted surveys of preservation/conservation U.S. and Canadian colleges and universities through the NCPE (USA) and the NRHE (Canada) and found that most were teaching something about sustainability. Approaches varied from a single class, to a course, to a specialization. As a result of these surveys, regular participants of the Focus Group calls expanded to over a dozen professors teaching in the U.S., Canada and overseas, with a broader outreach to its mailing list of about 30 interested individuals.

**Research agenda:** Through its calls, the Focus Group maintains an ongoing discussion of the 'Sustainable Preservation research agenda', including in discussion of emerging issues of interest to the broader TC-SP such as the relationship of "Zero Net Carbon" and historic buildings, and the roles APT may play with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) for joint training. Members bring their areas of expertise and research to discussions, including areas such as energy, climate and comfort, flood mitigation planning, socio-economic sustainability and housing affordability, the sustainability of modern heritage, heritage and waste, holistic thinking and future-proofing. In 2017, the Focus Group is exploring ways the Open System Thinking may be applied to decision-making in historic preservation.

**Thesis oversight:** Through their various academic roles, E&R Focus Group members regularly referee thesis research; a list of SP related thesis and dissertation has been compiled and is periodically updated. Student perspectives are vital to this focus group and both graduate students involved in thesis work, and undergraduates in professional programmes have been encouraged to join the calls. In 2016,



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building on recent thesis level research, four Focus Group members – including 3 recent graduates – compiled a *Literature Review on Climate Change and Cultural Heritage Conservation*. This was distributed to interested organizations and is available on the TC-SP page of the APT website.

**Reviews:** The E&R Focus Group contributed to the review of *ASHRAE Guideline 34P, Energy Guideline for Historical Buildings*, with active ASHRAE committee member Amanda Webb providing an important liaison. On going reviews of this work will now be coordinated through TC-SP. Select members may also at times be invited to provide comments on various APT documents, including *APT Bulletin* journal articles in special issues, such as the ones on climate change or cultural landscapes.

**Call notes:** Detailed notes are kept of the monthly calls, including on information shared via email between calls. These notes going back to 2012 can be made available to anyone interested in joining. The group is looking to compile the references and links to educational and research materials exchanged over the years as a compendium of key SP education and research references, organizations and events.

**specific ways in which new members can get involved**

Please contact Susan Ross or Hugh Miller for more information or to let us know you plan to call in.



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## Climate Change Focus Group

Co-Chair Joe Oppermann      [joppermann@jkoa.net](mailto:joppermann@jkoa.net)  
Co-Chair Ann Horowitz      [annhorowitz@me.com](mailto:annhorowitz@me.com)  
Co-Chair Ilene Tyler      [ilene.tyler@gmail.com](mailto:ilene.tyler@gmail.com)

### description

The purpose of the Climate Change Focus Group is twofold: to consider the effects of climate change on the cultural resources of the built environment, and; to assess/promote appropriate responses.

### format

- Chairs: monthly conference calls – First Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 pm (starting Nov. 2017)
- Membership: quarterly conference calls – Second Mondays 1:00 – 2:00 pm (starting Nov. 2017)

### this past year's accomplishments

- Focus Group formed in August – September, 2017, around a nucleus of three chairs.
- Mission Statement & Action Plan agreed upon October 1, 2017.

### current goals

First Year (2018)

- Establish subgroups
- Identify and target information sources and kindred organizations/ make contact/ establish relationships/ begin monitoring and distilling data
- Select topics, commit speakers and develop program outlines for Miami 2019
- Develop/submit policy statement for adoption by APT Board

Second Year (2019)

- Finalize and conduct workshops and sessions for Miami Annual Meeting
- Monitor research groups, distill data, begin disseminating information
- Involve the scientific community and kindred professional organizations
- Pursue programs independently and jointly with kindred professional groups

### specific ways in which new members can get involved

Members are needed for virtually every activity of the four categories of the Action Plan.

#### **Action Plan:**

To pursue this mission, we have divided our efforts into four categories:

#### 1. THE SCIENCE

##### *Objectives:*

Gather and Disseminate pertinent information about how Climate Change and the kinds of environmental condition resulting from Climate Change are affecting and can potentially affect the cultural resources of the built environment.

##### *Actions:*

- Gather:



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- o Establish communication with entities which monitor such information: information officers of NPS, UNESCO, ICOMOS, etc. and draw in the scientific community, including the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), NOAA, NASA, colleges and universities at the forefront of this research, etc.
- o Identify and interact with established research and monitoring centers *inside* the US, such as the NPS Regional Monitoring Centers.
- o Identify and interact with established research and monitoring centers *outside* the US, such as Canada, Scotland, etc.
- o Follow up with authors of commissioned reports
  - o Steven Smith: *Effects of Climate Change on Cultural Resources (2012)*
- o Identify potential speakers, workshop leaders, contributors to the *Journal*, etc.
- Disseminate:
  - o Seek/Promote articles within APT: *Journal*, sessions at APT Annual Meeting, *Communique*, etc.
  - o Seek/Promote joint articles with kindred professional organizations, such as AIA HRC and AIA COTE, RAIC, AIC, ASLA, and state and local chapters, etc.
  - o Organize/Conduct APT seminars and workshops (Miami 2019), etc.
  - o Organize/Conduct with kindred professional organizations: workshops (Miami 2019), etc.
    - o Sustainability, Environment, Climate tracts, other topics?

## 2. VULNERABILITY

### *Objectives:*

Gather and Disseminate pertinent information about the collateral damage from Climate Change (e.g. Tourism, Property Values, Coastal Wetlands, etc.)

### *Actions:*

- Gather:
  - o Peter Cox: UNESCO research on climate change effects on historic buildings
  - o Historic Scotland monitoring
  - o Stephen Smith: USC Applied Research Division
  - o Find articles on economic impacts
  - o Merging of SLR data with NR locations
- Disseminate:
  - o Seek/Promote articles within APT: *Journal*, sessions at APT Annual Meeting, *Communique*, etc.
  - o Seek/Promote joint articles with kindred professional organizations: AIA HRC, AIA COTE, RAIC, AIC, ASLA, etc.
  - o Organize/Conduct APT seminars and workshops (Miami 2019), etc.
  - o Organize/Conduct with kindred professional organizations: seminars and workshops (Miami 2019), etc.

## 3. MITIGATION

### *Objectives:*



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Develop/ Promote initiatives to reduce/ slow the rate of Climate Change (Mitigation of Green House Gas Emissions, etc.)

*Actions:*

- Develop:
  - Policy statement (akin to New Orleans Charter) on APT's support for mitigation (slowing the rate of climate change). Also look at similar efforts that may be underway at AIC, Historic Scotland, Historic England, Green Building Council, ASHRAE, others
- Promote:
  - Promote work, initiatives of APT members
  - Seek/Promote articles within APT: *Journal*, sessions at APT Annual Meeting, *Communique*, etc.
  - Seek/Promote joint articles with kindred professional organizations: AIA HRC, AIA COTE, RAIC, AIC, ASLA, etc.
  - Organize/Conduct APT seminars and workshops (Miami 2019), etc.
  - Organize/Conduct with kindred professional organizations: seminars and workshops (Miami 2019), etc.

#### 4. ADAPTATION

*Objectives:*

Develop/ Promote sound preservation practices to protect cultural resources at the levels of Building/Site, City/Region, National/International.

*Actions:*

- Develop/Promote:
  - Prepare Policy Statement (that includes mitigation and adaptation positions) on Climate Change for adoption by APT and others.
  - Seek/Promote articles within APT: *Journal*, sessions at APT Annual Meeting, *Communique*, etc.
  - Seek/Promote joint articles with kindred professional organizations: AIA HRC, AIA COTE, RAIC, AIC, ASLA, etc.
  - Organize/Conduct APT workshops, etc.
  - Organize/Conduct with kindred professional organizations: workshops, etc.
  - Gather adaptation solutions that have been implemented by APT members – reach out to local chapters for this info as members in the field are implementing adaptation strategies on a regular basis.
  - Disseminate adaptation solutions through *Communique*.
  - Develop on-line clearinghouse of adaptation strategies.



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## Life Cycle Impacts Focus Group

Chair Lori Ferriss

[lori.ferriss@goodyclancy.com](mailto:lori.ferriss@goodyclancy.com)

### description

The Life Cycle Impacts Focus Group was formed to study and disseminate practice-oriented information about Life Cycle Assessment and its application to historic and existing buildings.

### format

As a Focus Group of one, this is still TBD.

### this past year's accomplishments

The LCI Focus Group was formed in early 2016. An ongoing effort of the group is to create an annotated bibliography of existing literature, databases, and digital tools on the topics of life cycle assessment and embodied environmental impacts in the context of building reuse. A product of this work is the Life Cycle Impacts Glossary that will be disseminated to the TC-SP and joint-plenary attendees here in Ottawa.

### current goals

The goal of this group is to inform the APT membership about best practices in LCA for existing buildings and to create a common vocabulary on the topic of life cycle environmental impacts to better equip the preservation community to participate in broader discussions about carbon and energy impacts of the built environment. In addition to progressing the annotated bibliography described above, goals for the coming year are to connect with peer groups such as ICOMOS and the Carbon Leadership Forum and to create a platform for preservation practitioners to share their LCA results to help the community establish peer reviewed, benchmark data.

### specific ways in which new members can get involved

Involvement in any form is welcome. Specific tasks could include:

- reviewing an article for the annotated bibliography
- joining a peer group and reporting on initiatives and relevant discussions happening across the field
- sharing your own case studies of LCA applied to preservation and renovation projects.



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## OSCAR Focus Group

Chair Cory Rouillard

[trembc@gmail.com](mailto:trembc@gmail.com)

### description

OSCAR is a free interactive web application for design professionals engaged in the sustainable rehabilitation of historic buildings. OSCAR's holistic building evaluation and design approach helps to maximize the health, energy efficiency, and conservation of built historic assets without compromising their heritage value. The OSCAR Focus Group is building the web app and populating it with relevant information.

URL: <http://oscar-apti.org>

### format

Most recently, OSCAR coordination has happened through individual emails and calls. The OSCAR team would like to get back to the regularly scheduled calls of past years. The timing of calls is as yet TBD.

### this past year's accomplishments

- Cory Rouillard and UX Designer Katrina Ambrose completed "100% Design Development" of the redesign of OSCAR v2.0. This work was done with the generous support of the Historic Preservation Education Foundation (HPEF) Partners in Training program. See the OSCAR site for more information: <http://oscar-apti.org/the-site-it-is-a-changin/>
- OSCAR has a new logo and new overall look under development.
- OSCAR has been awarded a second grant by the HPEF Partners in Training program. This grant will be used to finalize the UX design and begin to implement on the site. We are very grateful for their continued support!
- OSCAR was the voice of APT at the People's Climate March in Washington, DC on April 29, 2017. See the OSCAR site for more information: <http://oscar-apti.org/oscar-is-going-to-dc/>
- Carly Farmer and Cory Rouillard co-wrote a peer-reviewed paper entitled: "The Feasibility of 'OSCAR' as an Information System for Sustainable Rehabilitation of Built Heritage". Carly presented it at the 26th International ICOMOS-CIPA Symposium in Ottawa, Canada on September 1, 2017. The paper has been published on the International Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) Archives and indexed on Scopus. See the OSCAR site for more information: <http://oscar-apti.org/oscar-went-to-cipa-and-got-published/>
- Susan Evans has been hard at work updating the Sustainability Bibliography. Since starting in August, she has added over 50 entries. In the coming months she will also correctly tag the existing entries that are missing this information.

### current goals

- finalize UX design
- fully implement OSCAR v2.0 for release at the 2018 Conference in Buffalo
- conduct initial brainstorming workshops
- convert the workshop results into new content for OSCAR
- work with other TCs (such as TC-MH) to start getting their content online



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**specific ways in which new members can get involved**

- help develop tutorial presentation for other TCs
- help organize brainstorming workshops
- compile known research into “content” pages for OSCAR. Select a topic of choice within the OSCAR framework. This may include a material, a sustainability improvement strategy, or a case study.
- search for relevant funding partners
- serve as a peer reviewer for the content that has been written to date
- other suggestions: <http://oscar-apti.org/oscar-is-ready-to-learn/>



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## **Outreach & Alliances Focus Group**

Co-Chair Joe Oppermann      [joppermann@jkoa.net](mailto:joppermann@jkoa.net)  
Co-Chair Michael Patrick      [MPatrick@barnesvanze.com](mailto:MPatrick@barnesvanze.com)

### **description**

The Focus Group has two components, “Outreach” to groups outside the APT, and “Inreach” to members and groups within the APT. “Outreach” has been focused on connecting with like-minded organizations to share knowledge and resources, and to make better known the resources that the APT can bring to many current topics of concern. “Inreach” has been focused on helping the APT to formulate a clearer statement of itself and its mission, and to communicate that more robustly to its members, especially with the goal of broadening participation in the many activities of the APT and the TC-SP.

### **format**

Currently the Focus Group is the two Co-Chairs, and we communicate as needed.

### **this past year's accomplishments**

- ASHRAE GPC 34: Energy Guidelines for Historical Buildings – helped solicit comments from TC-SP membership and consolidate response to AHSRAE
- Communique – Collated and edited Committee news
- Brochure – in progress on updated Brochure
- TC-SP Time Line – in progress on creating a time line of the formation and accomplishments of the TC-SP since its beginning
- Made initial “Outreach” contact with AIA HRC and AIA COTE in preparation for Annual Meeting

### **current goals**

- Complete the new Brochure
- Complete the Time Line
- Create a process for continual updates of Brochure as a live document on the web site
- Use Brochure and Time Line to help TC-SP membership understand the opportunities for broader engagement
- Develop contacts with like-minded organizations

### **specific ways in which new members can get involved**

- Find and submit relevant information for inclusion in Brochure, on an ongoing basis
- Help gather information on completed and upcoming events
- Strategize ways to disseminate information to engage a broader cross-section of members
- Help identify like-minded organizations and potential projects for collaboration

*Current as of: October 2017*