



“Members should incorporate adaptation strategies with their clients to anticipate extreme weather events and minimize adverse effects on the environment, economy and public health”

AIA Code of Ethics

ADVOCACY DOES MAKE AN IMPACT IT IS TIME TO TAKE ACTION

YOUR VOICE HAS HELPED

As members of AIA Florida, we are positioned to represent design professionals regarding our communities in unique ways. We understand planning, policy and life safety matters. Additionally, we can contribute to conversation about local communities and conditions. Codes, ordinances, zoning, rules, permitting, inspections and planning are some ways that we can influence decisions affecting our communities for future generations. If not us who? If not now when?

LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Thanks to AIA Florida, advocacy efforts there were resilience measures passed in recent sessions.

2020: The Legislature passed bills related to climate change, including SB 178 by Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez (R-Miami), which requires a sea level impact projection study (SLIP study) prior to moving forward with public infrastructure projects in coastal areas.

“This is an important bill, and an important moment,” Rodriguez said. “It’s the first transformative piece of legislation that we’re passing that relates to the impact of climate. ... It’s been a long road with this bill ... There are a few special thanks that are well-merited, [including] the Florida Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.”

2021: The Statewide Flooding and Sea Level Rise Resilience bill was the first major piece of legislation to specifically address Florida’s looming problem of sea level rise. It created the Resilient Florida Grant Program to provide funding for resilience planning and projects.

2022: Legislation was adopted creating a statewide Office of Resilience and provided for the appointment of a chief resilience officer. It also requires the Department of Environmental Protection to submit a report on flood resilience and mitigation efforts to the governor and Legislature.

FAST FACTS

Florida faces ever-increasing threats from water intrusion from rainfall, storm surge, seasonal high groundwater, urban runoff, tidal flooding and sea level rise. As designers of the built environment actively engaged in resiliency, architects are uniquely qualified to advise on potential impacts and mitigation solutions.

Not only does the design of public space impact health, every aspect of the design of hospitals and clinics is an opportunity to improve patient experience and outcomes. Layout, cross-ventilation and material selection help reduce the transmission of disease, especially important as we deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 200 Florida architects are trained in the [Safety Assessment Program](#) ready to mitigate and respond in disaster to help communities survive and recover quickly.

Sources: <https://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/SLRGuidance-Doc.pdf>; <https://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/SLRGuidance-Doc.pdf>; <https://southeastfloridaclimatecompact.org/>