



## CLIMATE TAKE BACK CASE STUDY

# ARCHITECTS ADVOCATE

## Advocating for a healthy, livable and sustainable built environment

### WHAT IS IT?

Architects Advocate is a nonpartisan advocacy group of architecture and design firms committed to creating healthy and livable communities through their work, and advocating for action on climate change through progressive and clear public policy.

Its mission is to take 'Action on Climate Change – enacting meaningful legislation /policy to mitigate Climate Change'.

### HOW DID IT DEVELOP?

The network was started and is predominately centered on architecture and design firms in and around Chicago.

It was started in the firm of Krueck + Sexton Architects after Thomas Jacobs, a senior partner in the firm, put the idea to three other partners that they should seek to build a coalition of support across the Chicago architectural community for action on climate change through the built environment.

Within five weeks, the movement had grown to include 68 architectural firms, as well as 6 design and engineering firms. Today, it has over 850 firms and 1,000 members signed up.

### HOW DOES IT WORK?

Architects Advocate has two elements that lie at the heart of its work:

**Its mission** is to enact meaningful legislation and policy to mitigate climate change.

**Its core initiative** is to create a network

of architects and designers who agree to speak out publicly and share how their knowledge and actions create livable communities.

Architects and design firms are invited to join the network by signing up online to commit to do three things in support of the mission and core initiative: Show Your Support, Speak Up And Speak Out and Help Us Grow A Movement.

### HOW EFFECTIVE IS IT?

At only two years old, the movement's ultimate effectiveness in terms of changing policy and driving progress has yet to be proven. In terms of securing membership and mobilizing individuals, Architects Advocate has been highly successful. In early 2017, the coalition sent a letter signed by over 700 individuals and firms to US President Donald Trump, asking him to commit to healthy and prosperous communities.

More recent collaborations with the American Institute of Architects and its various environmental initiatives have also been greatly successful. So far two open letter signature drives in support of the US House Climate Solutions Caucus and in enduring commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement, drew thousands of signatures from politicians, academics, built environment professionals and major corporations.

### **WHAT ARE THE END PRODUCTS?**

Architects Advocate offers the means for members to effectively and easily support its three pillars of commitment. For each pillar, there is a 'toolkit' of useful material and facilities to quickly spread the word.

Members can use this toolkit to generate logos to be displayed on their premises, make videos, access key information that increases and supplements their own knowledge and use social media effectively to recruit new members.

### **WHO BENEFITS?**

Ultimately everyone who lives, shops or works in the built environment - which is pretty much all of us!

If Architects Advocate continues to grow in scale and reach, and manages to successfully drive progressive policy action to ensure that the built environment helps citizens live in healthy and prosperous communities across America, then it could potentially benefit millions of lives.

### **HOW CREDIBLE IS THIS?**

It is still in the early days for this movement, so its credibility in terms of being able to drive real progress on this agenda is as yet unknown.

However, Illinois has the distinction of being the highest-ranked state for LEED Certified space in the US for the last three years running, so the architectural

profession in the movement's backyard appears to 'walk the walk' in terms of practicing what they preach.

Although it will be some time before the results of the movement are known, this is a powerful network of professionals who have swiftly moved to seek to drive action on a major local and global environmental issue.

### **WHY WE LOVE THIS**

It is heartening and exciting to see businesses getting together and having the courage and conviction to publicly call for policies that can improve the health and quality of life of millions of citizens.

Architects Advocate has an inspiring and positive vision of the contribution that the built environment can make to the global fight against climate change to the local environment.

 [HTTP://WWW.ARCHITECTS-ADVOCATE.COM](http://www.architects-advocate.com)

# CLIMATE TAKE BACK

At Interface, we're convinced a fundamental change needs to happen in our global response to climate change. We need to stop thinking about how to merely limit the damage caused by climate change – and start thinking about how to create a climate fit for life.

**Our new mission is called Climate Take Back – and we invite you to join us.**

Find out more at our website [here](#)

**Interface®**

## LIVE ZERO

Aim for zero negative impact on the environment

## LEAD THE INDUSTRIAL RE-REVOLUTION

Transform industry into a force for the future we want

## LOVE CARBON

Stop seeing carbon as the enemy, and start using it as a resource

## LET NATURE COOL

Support our biosphere's ability to regulate the climate

