

YGH Carbon Policy

We have a responsibility to provide the best service we can to our clients. This includes our responsibility to investigate how our work influences the current climate crisis. We strive to design buildings and operate our office to be part of the solution, not further contribute to the problem.

Design Work

YGH has been an AIA 2030 Commitment signatory for 11 years, committed to tracking and reporting our project's progress towards the 2030 Challenge – a global target that all new buildings, developments, and major renovations shall be carbon-neutral by 2030. We are continuously striving to meet 2030 targets and in 2018 YGH was one of 16 (out of 252) firms that met the 70% reduction target across their entire portfolio. We also work closely with Energy Trust of Oregon, a regional organization, that assists owners in designing energy efficiency into their projects with technical assistance and cash incentives.

Additionally, we are strongly focused on reducing the embodied carbon in our projects. Making material choices based on embodied carbon and material life cycle analysis transparency information is a vital part of our design process.

We commit to:

1. Use BIM processing and Life Cycle Analysis to quantify embodied energy.
2. Choose project materials with embodied carbon in mind.
3. Look for options to absorb and/or sequester carbon emissions where possible.
4. Discuss with our clients their options for reducing the embodied carbon and operational carbon to promote a more carbon responsible or climate restorative building.

Office Operations

We not only strive to reduce our carbon footprint by encouraging bike and public transit commuting and remote meetings, we also offset our carbon emissions by purchasing third party verified carbon credits through the Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

We commit to:

1. Offset project travel mileage: cars, trains, and airplanes,
2. Offset employee commuter emissions.
3. Utilize car rental and car sharing companies that are offsetting their carbon.
4. Support remote meetings over in-person meetings whenever appropriate.
5. Provide discounted public transportation passes to employees for commute.
6. Provide walk/bike cash incentive to employees.
7. Purchase external goods from local or regional sources as much as possible.
8. Purchase office meals locally with local producers and utilize reusable dishware.
9. Utilize a shared local material resource library.