

**Subject:** connecting the COTEs

Greetings, COTE leaders,

I'm Kira Gould, and I'm a member of the national COTE Advisory Group, a group of volunteers on the national committee.

Some of our 2005 goals include:

- promote our Measures and Metrics of sustainable design (see attached; please share with your members)
- run the annual Top Ten Green Projects awards (which use the Measures & Metrics)
- pursue legislation to support sustainable design and development
- study ecological literacy in architecture education (funded by Tides Foundation grant)
- green the AIA convention (planning for LA 2006)
- augment COTE web site (including expansion of the green RFP tool)
- increase contact with state/local COTEs (including web updates and possibly conference calls)

I'm handling communications. I want our site to be (among other things) a place where you can find out what other chapters are doing and how to reach them. To this end, please send me (by 12/01/04) a brief update of what you've done in 04 (or what you are planning for 05)... Brad Nies with Kansas City COTE has already submitted (see his report attached as example); I'll take any length or format and will edit before posting.

Also attached is the local contact list (which will be up on our site, [www.aia.org/cote](http://www.aia.org/cote) soon). Please make sure your info is accurate and that your COTE web site is listed here if you have one. I need updates by end of year; 05 list will be posted in early January.

I am putting together a short guide to setting up a chapter; if you have suggestions about what to include (including any lessons you've learned), I would welcome those (by 12/15/04), and if you are willing to be listed as a resource for others, please say so.

If you or your members have other ideas for site content (or other things), please send them along!

We are always eager to hear from people who might have time to help with national initiatives (our goals exceed the available time of our small team). If your chapter includes people who may have some time to volunteer on one of our efforts, please send us these suggestions and contact info.

We are also looking to strengthen the COTE relationship with other organizations. Please ask your members who among them are active at the national level with groups such as CSI, ULI, APA, ACSA, ASLA, SBIC, and others. We need those people to be liaisons for COTE (this is a communication effort, not a time-consuming task). We would also like to hear from people who are active in other Knowledge Communities (the Communities By Design group has a Sustainability Task Force, for instance; we'd love liaisons on all of those). Send them our way!

We are building a COTE "bookshelf" -- the best of the best books on daylighting, water use, and more -- and we need your help. We'll use Measures of Sustainability and other categories to group books: land use, site ecology, community / connection, water use, energy performance, energy security, materials/construction, light / air, bioclimatic design, long life / loose fit, sustainable design (general), philosophy, economics, regionalism, urbanism, justice, process. Please consider asking your members to send me their suggestions (with category) by end of year.

Finally, please send out the Top Ten Green Projects 2005 reminder (pdf [attached](#)) to your members and others in your communities. The early submittal deadline is December 31 and last deadline is January 31. We have a very strong jury this year, and we know that there's excellent work out there... help us get the work out and break 100 submittals for the 05 awards! (And be thinking about great people we should consider for our jury pool for future years, too.)

Thank you for your patience, if you've read this far!... and for your hard work for sustainable design.

It was nice to see several of you in Portland at Greenbuild, and I hope even more will be in Las Vegas in May for the AIA conference... we are planning some COTE events there and will keep you apprised as those firm up.

I look forward to hearing from you and to finding ways to support the important work of COTE at all levels.

Kira