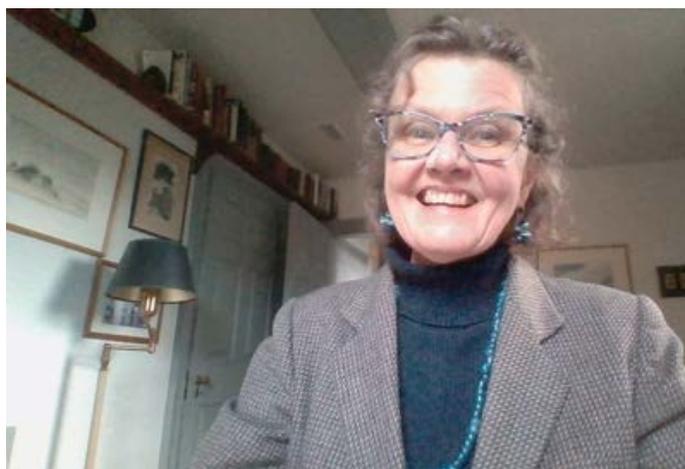


Sustainable Furnishings Council eNewsletter December 2020



Year End Message from Susan Inglis, SFC Executive Director



News from our friends at [EcoWatch](#) is of a new study, published in the journal [Nature](#), which reveals that human-made stuff now out-weighs all the biomass on our planet. The stuff we have made, much of it relating to the built environment, is heavier than all the living plants and animals on Earth. THAT is HEAVY! And it is a reminder that we must accelerate our work to reduce our environmental footprint if we are to have any hope for the continuation and the betterment of life as we know it. When we surveyed all SFC members recently about your priority concerns, you asked for help in accelerating action within your own companies and supply chains. SO we have it in the works. The newest benefit of SFC membership is participation in Working Groups that will focus on different aspects of sustainability: reducing carbon emissions; maintaining health and wellness; ensuring social equity; reducing waste; managing water; and incorporating circularity. An invitation to participate, along with info on logistics will be coming your way in early January. Please plan to join in these important conversations. They are sure to be helpful to you immediately, as well as to ensuring a healthy future. Let me know what you think - we are in the design phase and your input would be useful.

In the meantime, as we are completing a dark and difficult year, I invite you to consider LIGHT. There are many ways in which you all bring LIGHT into the world. Here we are in the Hanukkah season, soon after Diwali, and surrounded by colorful Christmas lights in the lead up to the first of twelve days. LIGHT is an important topic as we approach the shortest day of the year! Darkness can overwhelm us, just as trying to reduce our environmental footprint can numb us to meaningful action. But each SFC member has a significant corporate commitment to sustainability, and SFC maintains our commitment to realizing all these hundreds of commitments. Expect 2021 to bring many opportunities for sharing and learning from one another, and expect there will be much to celebrate.

Happy Holidays!

Please contact [Susan](#) or [Angie Kenny](#), Member Services Manager.
See all [Benefits](#) of SFC Membership

SFC Educational Opportunities

Consider LIGHT



Pam Bailey

CURREY & COMPANY eangee[™]
home design



Sustainability Essentials Webinar

Thursday, December 17, Noon - 1 PM EST

Join SFC for an important discussion of LIGHT in this season of shortening days. Illumination frees us from the gloom and when it is done right can lighten more than the mood. [Currey & Co's Pam Bailey](#), [Eangee's Shay Elder](#), and [Randall Whitehead](#) will describe choices in lighting design as well as corporate commitment. We will hear about the use of reclaimed and recycled materials that LIGHTEN the load in waste streams, and the use of efficient lamps that LIGHTEN the load on electrical grids. Further we will learn how a responsible company's efforts to take care of all their communities lightens the mood as well as the environmental footprint.

Sponsored by

**furniture
lighting
& decor**

Do you have questions about getting the most out of SFC membership and educational programming including GREENleaders? Join us for ANSWERS about those things, too!

[Register Today](#)

Did you miss our Annual OPEN SFC Membership Meeting? Check out the [recording](#)!

[COVER Connect: Sustainability in Practice](#)



January 12-15, 2021

SFC's Susan Inglis joins a panel that includes Michael Christie of The Ruggist, Allie Gardner of GoodWeave, and Reto Aschwanden of Label STEP to talk with Ben Evans, HALI Editor, about how we support our reach in taking practical steps to reduce environmental footprint.

[Register Today](#)



This popular 6-hour exam program provides an excellent grounding in sustainability issues and offers practical solutions for growing an eco-friendly home furnishings business. Developed in 2009 by a LEED AP, in conjunction with the Sustainable Furnishings Council, the course is now updated with input from experts in the field including ranking staff of World Wildlife Fund, Rainforest Alliance, and National Wildlife Federation. It delivers a comprehensive overview, cutting edge advice, and inspirational ideas in 6 units. GREENleaders training gives designers, retailers, manufacturers, reps, and others the knowledge and credentials they need to become experts in sustainability.

Try GREENleaders [online](#) — learn at your own pace!

Approved by GBCI for 6 CE hours and registered with IDCEC for .6 HSW CEUs (6 ceu). Please visit our [website](#) for more details on this comprehensive training program.



Time to renew Your GREEN AP?
[Renewal Form](#)

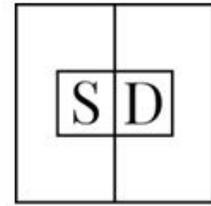


Membership News

SFC Welcomes Our New Members....

Badcock & more Since 1904
HOME FURNITURE

**LOOSE
PARTS**



...and Thanks Those Renewing!

LaDIFF



STICKLEY
SINCE 1900



COMPOCLAY

THOM FILICIA
Design Lifestyle Interiors

Thyme & Place
DESIGN
Sharon L. Sherman

**furniture
WORLD**



OMNIA
Personalizing Comfort



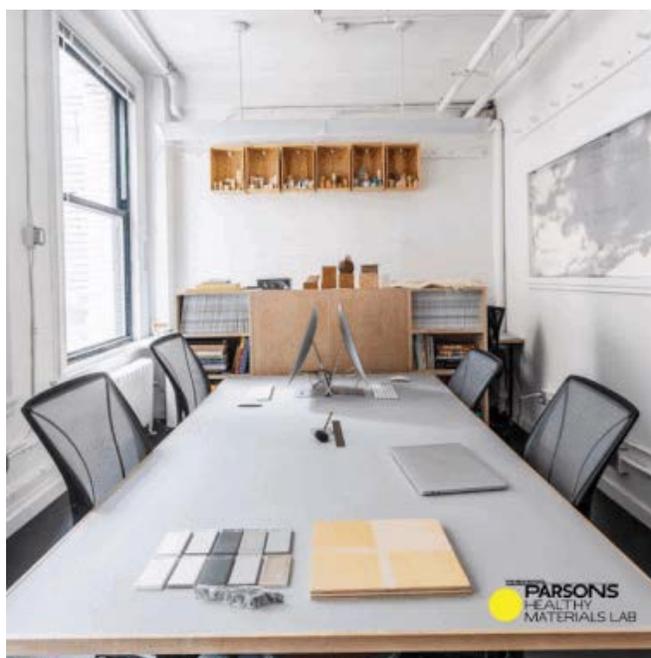
FEIZY



Design Momentum



[Healthier Materials and Sustainable Building Online Program](#)



A series of courses developed by Healthy Materials Lab at Parsons School of Design offers a comprehensive education, delivered by experts, on materials and how they impact human health. Deepen your knowledge of material health and exceed your clients' expectations.

23.5 IDCEC (HSW) CEUs

[Registration is currently OPEN](#)



Biodiversity Benchmark Launched



Why Biodiversity? Why Now?

Against the background of the Covid-19 pandemic, forest fires, and increasing evidence of continued dramatic species loss, the importance of biodiversity has never been so clear. Biodiversity is vital for human health and livelihoods. Living organisms – plants, animals, and micro-organisms – interact to form complex, interconnected webs of habitats and ecosystems, which in turn supply a wide variety of contributions to people and all life on earth.

We have no time to lose!

[Learn More](#)



RRS is working on establishing a textile MRF, perhaps in NC. Such a site would ensure that textile waste becomes textile product feedstock. Your textile waste problems could become part of the solution, especially if you are in NC. To get involved, contact [Marisa Adler](#) at RRS.

I'll Tell You What's Rotten

New Narratives By Jamie Facciola, [Furniturecycle](#)



If this was a bruised banana, would you throw the whole thing away?

I bet you'd think to add it to a smoothie, or banana bread, or maybe you'd cut out the bad parts and put it on your cereal or yogurt.

My dad's solution was always to cut it in half and fry it.

We grow up learning the peel is separate from the fruit. We're encouraged to find creative uses because we know that the fruit is still nutritious and tasty—despite the shell's condition—and that wasting food is a travesty, for the environment and for society.

Why hasn't the same education been provided for stewarding furniture? Why aren't we taught to look past the shell (upholstery) to consider the condition of the frame underneath? Why do our systems still judge an entire piece's worth based on its outermost layer?

As food rescue and composting programs mature and scale, I often wonder why furniture rescue has fallen behind in education and infrastructure.

Maybe it's because the majority of furniture is truly disposable: single-use, low quality stuff. Perhaps the industry outgrew the "durable" moniker decades ago but hangs onto the illusion for survival. If this is the reality, could furniture soon be regulated like disposable plastic packaging? Are furniture waste brand audits in our future?

On the contrary, what if that's not the case? What if the furniture industry does still produce durable goods? Then the current outlook is equally bleak, since over 24 billion pounds of it gets thrown away.

Either way, we have a furniture waste crisis.

See more [@furniture.cycle](#)



HFA offers resources to members and others in the industry

The Home Furnishings Association is here to help members during this new economy. On this [page](#), members will find the information they need to navigate these difficult times — from small business loans to human resource issues to special tax benefits. And because we believe our greatest benefit as an association is collaboration, we're posting stories from our members just like you about best practices that are working.

[Learn More](#)



AUCTION TO BENEFIT HUNGER RELIEF.
NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENTED BY



Celebrating Hearts & Heroes

The HEARTS Awards start with an auction to benefit No Kid Hungry - [BID NOW](#) - before January 12 - on these amazingly transformed plates!

A one-time special event, The HEARTS Awards, held at the Dallas Market Center, during the Total Home & Gift Market, June 23-29, 2021, will celebrate hearts and heroes who showed outstanding leadership, empathy and service during the pandemic. SFC is proud to participate. Honorees have been [announced](#) by Dallas Market Center and will be celebrated at a gala next summer.

[Learn More](#)



USGBC-LA events support sustainability and build community around the greater Los Angeles region through education, thought leadership, and valuable connections. Every event from local Branches, Committees meetings, Trainings, Tours, Conferences, or even Ping Pong is a moment designed to lead to impact and action. Please join us!

Click [here](#) for all events or [here](#) for the Talent Portal.

Click [here](#) for other upcoming community events brought to you by our partner organizations.



**UL 3600: Proposed First Edition of the Standard for Measuring and Reporting
Circular Economy Aspects of Products, Sites, and Organizations**

UL is developing a new standard to cover methods and metrics for measuring aspects of the Circular Economy. Aspects include, but are not limited to, materials flows and the impacts of those flows. The standard is split into two major parts: measuring the material flows (measurement methods) and measuring the impacts of those flows (analytics).

The metrics and measures are focused on materials and the flow of those materials as a result of the activities of companies and from the products manufactured by those companies. In addition to the materials and flows, activities and impacts from those materials and flows in other parts of the supply chain should be included where they represent significant impact and will be used as modifier on the material flows.

If you are interested in serving on the Standards Technical Panel (STP) 3600, which is in charge of developing this new UL 3600 standard, please contact [Caroline Treuthardt](#).



2020 FSC Leadership Awards

The Forest Stewardship Council is thrilled to let you know that **Sustainable Furnishings Council** has been selected as a 2020 FSC Leadership Award winner in the **Nonprofit Organization** category. "Our selection committee unanimously agrees that your commitment to responsible forest management makes you a true leader."

SFC is truly honored by this recognition. Thank you!

Click [here](#) to read more!

FSC by the numbers as of November 2020

2,450 CoC Certificates, US	3,748 Companies CoC certified, US
46,176 CoC Certificates, Worldwide	35.1 Million Acres Certified forest area, US
154.5 Million Acres Certified forest area, US & Canada	545.8 Million Acres Certified forest area, Worldwide

WHAT'S IT MADE OF?



What's it made of?

The ["What's it made of?" Initiative](#) is a joint initiative of SFC, [American Sustainable Business Council](#), [Center for Environmental Health](#), [Healthy Materials Lab at Parsons School of Design](#), and others to encourage transparency in supply chains and stimulate innovation for the reduction of harmful chemicals in furnishings. Take the [pledge](#) and learn more about avoiding VOC's like formaldehyde, flame retardants, highly fluorinated stain treatments, antimicrobials and PVC, or vinyl!



Ready for the next step?



Thank You to Our Generous Sponsors!

Mitchell Gold
+Bob Williams
HOME FURNISHINGS


NATUREPEDIC
ORGANIC MATTRESSES

Room&Board®
HOME FURNISHINGS

saatva

New HQ for SFC!

SFC has moved to a new High Point office - in the Radio Building, 164 South Main Street. Come see us when it is safe! In the meantime, send all correspondence to our new mailing address: P.O. Box 21, High Point, NC 27261.

This message sent from:
Sustainable Furnishings Council

PO Box 21
High Point, NC 27261
United States
www.sustainablefurnishings.org

If you no longer wish to receive mailings from the SFC, you can [unsubscribe](#) from this mailing or [opt out](#) of all future mailings.