

"Racism is a Public Health Crisis:" Top 10 Ways the Built Industry Can Take Action Against Environmental Injustice Today!

Lauren Hildebrand, *Sustainability Director, Steven Winter Associates, Inc.*

Bill Walsh, *Healthy Building Network*

Christopher Bland, *Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital*

ABSTRACT

On October 18, 2021, NYC The New York City Board of Health declared racism a public health crisis Monday and passed a resolution that recognizes the impact racism has had on people of color. New York City's Board of Health listed several specific actions tied to its declaration in a press release. These include working with other agencies to beef up data by reporting deaths, injuries and health conditions by race; pinpointing and amending policies that have contributed to racial health disparities; and plans and budgets on a wide range of matters that affect health like transportation, education, housing and economic opportunities. Using this framework, what are some of the most crucial and cost effective ways that the built industry can start addressing equity and environmental justice, particularly in affordable housing in New York City, effective immediately?

BIOGRAPHY

Lauren Hildebrand is a Sustainability Director at SWA. Her work focuses on sustainable and high performance residential and commercial building design, construction, renovation, and operation. Ms. Hildebrand's expertise includes: sustainable design integration; indoor air quality and energy performance testing; and implementing project certification for both commercial and residential programs, such as LEED®, ENERGY STAR®, NYSERDA, NJ Clean Energy, and Enterprise Green

20th Annual New York State Green Building Conference

March 31 to April 28, 2022

<https://www.esf.edu/greenbuilding/>

Communities. Awards presented to her clients include the 2013 USGBC NJ Urban Green Project Award. Ms. Hildebrand works as a LEED® for Homes Green Rater and verifies implementation of the LEED® for Homes criteria. She is an integral part of the initial strategic planning sessions and workshops with builders, architects, and homeowners based on the LEED for Homes program. She also partners with and implements criteria for Enterprise Green Communities (EGCC), NYSERDA's Multi-Family Performance Program, and the ENERGY STAR® Multi-Family High-Rise Program Certification. Ms. Hildebrand also has experience with a variety of commercial and mixed use projects, including LEED® for New Construction, Commercial Interior, Core and Shell, and Schools. In addition to her project experience and program guidance, Ms. Hildebrand manages classroom training and curriculum development for architects, owners, developers and building management staff on green and high performance building design strategies, cost effective building system operation, and energy-saving maintenance practices.

20th Annual New York State Green Building Conference

March 31 to April 28, 2022

<https://www.esf.edu/greenbuilding/>