

## ASCE COP26 Communique

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is dedicated to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. Critical to this charge, we believe climate change should be addressed through decisions and policies which encourage the resilience and sustainability of our nation's infrastructure.

We urge leaders at all levels of government to commit to:

- Reduce carbon emissions in the built environment to net zero as rapidly as possible given the statements in the [\*Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5 °C\*](#) (IPCC, 2018) which indicates that, if society doesn't achieve net zero by 2050, extreme climate and weather events will get markedly worse.
- Work with engineers, owners, and others responsible for physical infrastructure to adapt for a changing climate; and
- Ensure these commitments provide a net benefit to affected communities.

ASCE supports the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement and urges the use of the most current scientific data, engineering design standards, codes, and regulations to facilitate design adaptation and to address climate change and carbon reduction. The well-being of future generations depends upon the actions of policy makers and teams comprised of decision-makers, project owners, and engineers.

In this regard we call upon the participants in the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) to support<sup>1</sup>:

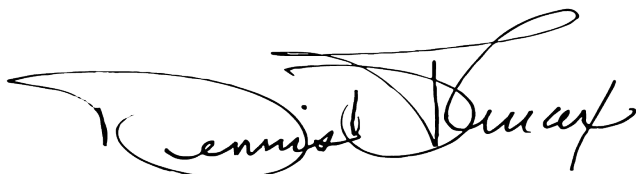
- Government policies that encourage anticipation of and preparation for impacts of climate change on the built environment.
- Revisions to engineering design standards, codes, regulations, and associated laws that strengthen the sustainability and resiliency of infrastructure at high risk of being affected by climate change.
- Research, development, and demonstration to advance recommended civil engineering practices and standards to effectively address climate change impacts.
- Cooperative research among engineers and climate, weather, and life scientists to gain a better understanding of the magnitudes and consequences of future extremes.
- Informing practicing engineers, project stakeholders, policy makers, and decision makers about the uncertainty in predicting future climate and the reasons for the uncertainty.

- Developing a new paradigm for engineering practice in a world in which climate is changing but the rate and extent of change and subsequent impacts cannot be projected with a high degree of certainty.
- Identifying, by region, critical infrastructure most threatened by a changing climate and inform decision makers and the public.

ASCE applauds the work of the COP26 and stands ready to work with the conveners and others to ensure that planning, engineering design, construction, operations, and maintenance of physical infrastructure is being conducted with resilience and sustainability as key components.

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<sup>1</sup>[ASCE Policy Statement 360 - Impact of climate change](#) (Adopted by the ASCE Board of Direction on July 16, 2021)



Dennis D. Truax, Ph.D., P.E., DEE, D.WRE, F.NSPE, F.ASCE  
ASCE President 2022



Thomas W. Smith III, ENV SP, CAE, F.ASCE  
ASCE Executive Director