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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

<ORGANIZATION> examines opportunities for energy savings, emissions reduction through building improvements

Groundbreaking project paves the way for U.S. cultural institutions to lead on climate

CITY, STATE--In celebration of <EVENT SUCH AS OCTOBER ENERGY EFFICIENCY MONTH>, <ORGANIZATION> is excited to announce our participation in the leading-edge research project, [Culture Over Carbon]. The effort, funded with a National Leadership grant by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), led to the first ever sector-wide analysis of energy use by U.S. cultural institutions. The project engaged 133 diverse organizations, from zoos to historic homes, to analyze their building's energy use and provide recommendations for efficiency improvements that will save money and lower carbon emissions that are fueling climate change.

Using less energy to run the buildings where we live, learn, and work is one of the critical climate solutions because the [built environment represents 39% of U.S. global carbon emissions] Collectively, the 201 buildings examined use 1 billion kilowatt hours per year—that's one quarter of the energy produced at Hoover Dam. A 20% savings across the portfolio would save roughly $20 million a year in energy bills and reduce carbon emissions equal to taking 10,000 cars off the road.

"This project will help <ORGANIZATION> make the strategic energy management decisions needed to save critical funds through lower energy expenses and reduce carbon and other GHG emissions," said <NAME, TITLE>. "The money we save can be invested in programs for our members and visitors. Even more importantly, by working together, the 133 Culture Over Carbon participants can create industry change toward buildings that are healthier, more comfortable places and better for the environment."

Cultural institutions experience the impacts of climate change through risk and damage to living and material collections, buildings and natural spaces, and the lives of staff and community members. They are also uniquely positioned to showcase solutions and lead by example in the communities we serve. The analysis and recommendations will help individual institutions

reduce operating costs to improve their financial condition, pursue capital funds for energy-related projects, and prepare for expected changes in energy availability and regulations.

Participating organizations worked with New Buildings Institute researchers to provide a year of energy data and in return they received a diagnostic FirstView report showing how the building is performing compared to other similar buildings and recommended areas for energy efficiency improvements. The in-depth energy use analysis will inform data-driven decision-making about investments and strategic planning to help reduce operating costs, pursue capital funds for energy-related projects, and prepare for changes in energy availability and regulations.

To learn more visit: https://ecprs.org/engagement/culture-over-carbon/

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ABOUT <ORGANIZATION>

<BOILERPLATE>

ABOUT CULTURE OVER CARBON

The Culture Over Carbon project provides cultural institutions actionable data and recommendations to understand how their buildings use energy, help create roadmaps to reduce energy at individual institutions and the sector as a whole, and lower carbon and other greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to reduce their impacts on climate change.

Under the project, 130 cultural institutions from across the country provided energy use data for over 200 buildings. Analysts evaluated the data, looking for field-wide use patterns and provided recommendations for key efficiency actions. Recommendations were also provided to prepare institutions for expected building code and policy changes that may impact them.

This project is funded by a National Leadership grant (2021-2023) from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and supported by these organizations.