



WILLIAM **McDONOUGH**, FAIA, INT. FRIBA

McDonough Innovation, Chief Executive

William McDonough + Partners, Architects, Founding Partner

MBDC, Manager and Co-founder

EDUCATION

Yale University, School of Architecture, Master of Architecture, 1976

Dartmouth College, Bachelor of Arts, Magna cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, 1973

ASSOCIATIONS

American Institute of Architects, Fellow; Founding Member, Committee on the Environment

American Society of Landscape Architects, Honorary Member

Royal Institute of British Architects, International Fellow

Urban Land Institute, Fellow

U.S. Green Building Council, Charter Member

William McDonough is a globally recognized leader in sustainable design and development through his work as an architect with **William McDonough + Partners**, an advisor to global leaders through **McDonough Innovation**, and consultant through **MBDC**, the creators of the framework of Cradle to Cradle Certified™ products. William McDonough has earned the reputation of being “the leading environmental architect of our time.” After building the first solar heated house in Ireland (1976), he designed the first “green office” in New York for the Environmental Defense Fund (1985) which set the modern green building movement in motion, inspired the formation of the U.S. Green Building Council and established many of the principles and practices that have come to define sustainable design.

Landmark projects—Herman Miller’s “Greenhouse” Factory and Offices; Gap, Inc.’s Corporate Campus (now YouTube’s headquarters); and Nike’s European Headquarters—were followed by other commissions that have become flagships of 21st century environmental design: Ford’s River Rouge, widely celebrated for its 10-acre “living roof”; NASA’s Sustainability Base, the “first space station on Earth” and one of the most innovative buildings in the federal portfolio; and Park 20|20 in the Netherlands, a new model of mixed-use, transit-oriented, Cradle to Cradle-inspired urban development.

Time magazine named McDonough “Hero for the Planet,” stating that his “utopianism is grounded in a unified philosophy that—in demonstrable and practical ways—is changing the design of the world.” McDonough was named to the inaugural TIME100 Climate List of the 100 Most Influential Leaders Driving Business Climate Action in 2023. In 2019 *Fortune* magazine named McDonough one of the World’s Greatest Leaders for his work in advancing Design for the Circular Economy™. McDonough is co-creator of the Cradle to Cradle Design™ framework and led the founding of the Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Products Program, a global standard for the design of safe, healthy products. He is a business strategist for leading global companies, and an advisor to government and international bodies as well as not-for-profits. He was the inaugural Chair of the World Economic Forum’s Meta-Council on the Circular Economy (2014-2016), and served on the Forum’s Global Future Council on Biodiversity and the Bio-economy.

In recognition of his visionary work, McDonough received the Presidential Award for Sustainable Development (1996), for exemplary leadership and public service; the U.S. EPA Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Award (2003), for groundbreaking innovations in product development; and the Smithsonian’s National Design Award (2004), for outstanding achievement in environmental design. He was awarded the Fortune Award for Circular Economy Leadership during the 2017 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, where he was introduced as “the father of the circular economy.”

mcdonough.com

innovation.mcdonough.com

mcdonoughpartners.com

mbdc.com

ACADEMIC

University of Virginia | Dean, School of Architecture and Edward E. Elson Endowed Chair, 1994–1999; Professor of Business Administration & Alumni Research Professor, Darden School of Business, 1999–present

King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) | Distinguished Research Professor, 2020–present

Tulane University | Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, 2009

Stanford University | Consulting Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering, 2004–2021

Living Archive Subject, Stanford University Libraries, 2012–present

University of Cambridge | Founding member, Sustainability Leadership Council, 2007–present

Yale University | School of Forestry & Environmental Studies Leadership Council, 2002–present

Arizona State University | International Board of Trustees for Sustainability, 2007–present

Instituto de Empresa, Madrid, Spain | Chair, Eco-Intelligent Management Center, 2004–2006

Cornell University | A.D. White Professor-at-Large, 1999–2004

Tongji University, Shanghai | Honorary Professor, 2004

CORPORATE LEADERSHIP

Unilever Sustainable Living Plan | Advisory Council, 2018–2021

Walmart | External Advisory Council, 2009–2013

SAP CEO Sustainability Advisory Panel | Member, 2011–2012

General Electric | Ecomagination, Board of Advisors, 2008–2009

Dow Jones Sustainability Index | Advisory Board, 2004–2014

VantagePoint Capital Partners | Senior Advisor, 2004–2014

Cherokee Sustainability Advisory Council | Member, 2004–2014

INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP

World Economic Forum

Global Future Council on Biodiversity and the Bio-economy | Member, 2018–2023

Global Future Council on the Future of Environment and Natural Resource Security | Member 2016–2017

Meta-Council on the Circular Economy | Chair, 2014–2016

Global Agenda Council, Future of Sustainable Construction | Chair, 2008–2009

Cultural Leader, 2002–2008

Global Agenda Council on Design | Member, 2010

United Nations

Sustainable Development Goals | Presenter and Panel Participant, 2014

Conference on the Environment & Development (UNCED: The Earth Summit) | Official Representative for Architecture and City Planning, International Union of Architects and the American Institute of Architects (dual role), Rio de Janeiro, 1992

Official Representative, New York, 1992

China-U.S. Center for Sustainable Development

U.S. Chair Emeritus of the Board of Councilors, 2009–present

U.S. Chair and Member of the Board of Councilors, 1999–2009

NOT-FOR-PROFIT

Fashion for Good | Co-Founder, 2017

Clinton Global Initiative | Advisor, 2013–2016

Cherokee-McDonough Challenge | Advisor, 2012–present

Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute | Co-Founder, 2009

Healthy Child Healthy World | Advisory Board, 2006–2011

Sustainable Packaging Coalition | Co-Founder, 2005

GreenBlue | Co-Founder, 2002

H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment | Board of Trustees, 2001–2004

President's Council on Sustainable Development | Special Advisor to President Clinton, 1993–1996

W. Alton Jones Foundation | Board of Trustees, 1992–1996

SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

TIME100 Climate List of the 100 Most Influential Leaders Driving Business Climate Action, 2023

World's 50 Greatest Leaders, *Fortune Magazine*, 2019

Award for Circular Economy Leadership, World Economic Forum, 2017

US Green Building Council Leadership Award, 2016

J.N. Darling Conservation Award, National Wildlife Federation, 2014

Rachel Carson Environmental Award, Natural Products Award, 2013

21st Century Visionary Science Leadership Award, U.S. EPA, 2008

Presidential Green Chemistry Award, President George W. Bush (for work with Shaw Industries/Berkshire Hathaway), 2004

National Design Award, The Smithsonian Institution, Cooper-Hewitt Museum, 2004

Benjamin Botwinick Prize for Ethical Practice in the Professions, Columbia University Business School, 2003

Hero for the Planet, *Time Magazine*, 1999

United States Presidential Award for Sustainable Development, President Clinton, 1996