

# Embodied Carbon Reduction: Guidance, Steps, Results

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# Let's Talk About

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- ANSI 1500
- Analysis Tools
- Operational and Embodied Carbon: Modeled Versus Actual
- Drivers
- Action Items
- Case Studies
- Questions/Answers/Discussion

# RESNET/ANSI Standard 1550

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The RESNET/International Code Council **Standards Development Committee 1500 — Embodied Carbon** is responsible for proposed Standard RESNET/ICC 1550 to provide a **standardized method to calculate and report the embodied carbon impact of homes.**

# RESNET/ANSI Standard 1550

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**HERS ratings and the HERS carbon index** are a very large and growing part of the **residential market**.

Raters also provide services for **PHIUS, Energy Star and DOE Zero Ready Homes** programs.

Creating a standard that enables **HERS raters** to create an embodied carbon assessment using the **same area-based models they already build to do their energy ratings**.

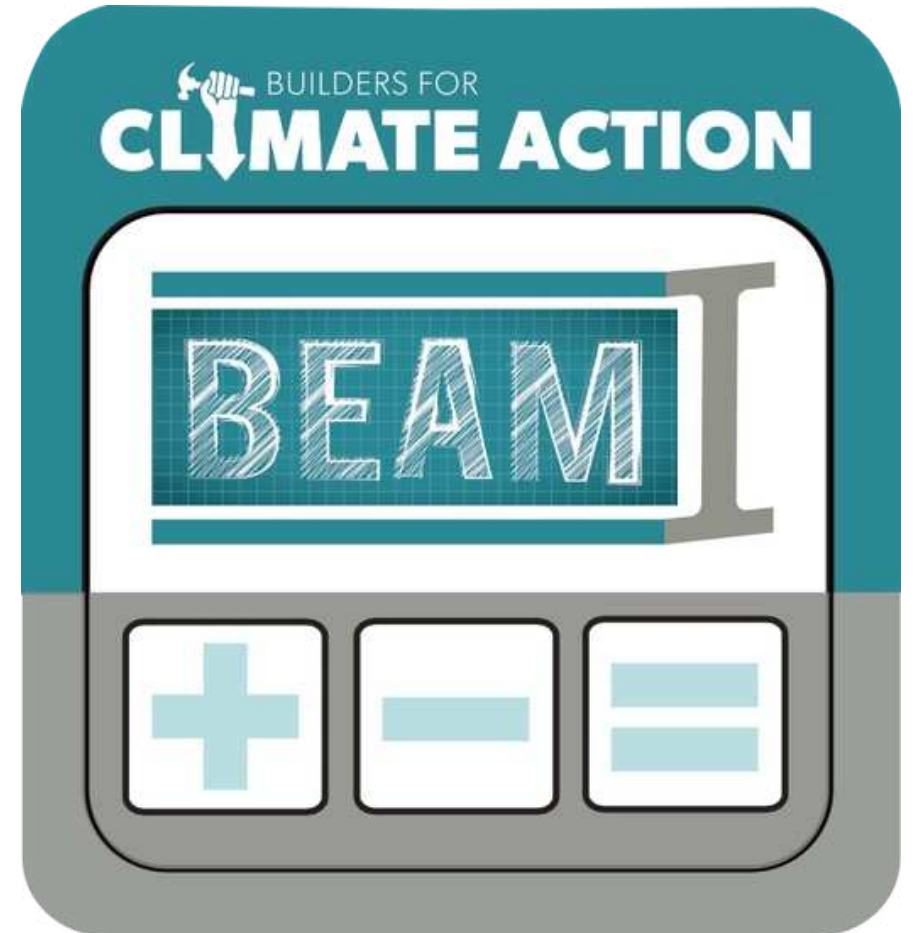
# Tools for Analysis

TOOL	Early Design Hotspot	Enclosure Comparison	Individual Material Comparison	LCCA + ESG	Net Zero Carbon	Residential	Retrofit Avoided Carbon	Whole Building LCA
<u>Autocase</u>				x				
<u>BEAM</u>	x	x	x			x		
<u>Building Ease</u>			x					
<u>CARE</u>							x	
<u>COVE</u>	x							
<u>EC3</u>			x					
<u>eTool</u>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<u>Kaleidoscope</u>		x						
<u>OneClick</u>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<u>PH Ribbon</u>		x			x			
<u>Tally</u>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<u>ZGF</u>			x					

# Tools for Analysis

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- Direct side-by-side material comparisons
- Assembly comparisons
- Design development
- Whole building models and comparisons
- “Alternative” materials with EPDs or LCA studies



# Tools for Analysis

## 1- INPUT DIMENSIONS

on the **project sheet**.

ex: 100 m<sup>2</sup> of exterior walls.

BUILDING EMISSIONS  
ACCOUNTING  
FOR MATERIALS

Input Units: **Metric**  
 Input Legend:
 

Required for saving projects
Used for materials calculations
Non-essential
Read only

CLIMATE  
ACTION

### Project Information

Project Name	Insulation Comparison	Construction Year	
Designer		Number of Bedrooms	
Engineer		Stories Above Grade	
Builder / Developer		Total Floor Area	m <sup>2</sup>
Development Project		Above Grade Conditioned Area	m <sup>2</sup>
Address		Below Grade Conditioned Area	m <sup>2</sup>
City			
Province / State (Can./US only)			
Country	Canada		
Building Type	Single Detached House		
Construction Type	New Construction		
Project Development Stage	Schematic Design		

### Basic Instructions

- Fill in this sheet according to the Input Legend above.  
Tip: If your plans are PDFs, you might like to use this free tool to help take measurements from them: [PDFtoim](#)
- Specify materials in the section sheets listed along the bottom of the window from "Footings & Slabs" to "Garage." The sequence is not important.
- Review material selections in the REVIEW sheet.
- View material carbon results in the RESULTS sheet.

For full instructions and more, see the [BEAM User's Guide](#)

### Building Dimension Inputs (Excluding Garage)

DIMENSION NAME	QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	USED TO CALCULATE TAKE-OFFS FOR
CONTINUOUS FOOTINGS VOLUME	0.0	m <sup>3</sup>	Length (m) x Height (m) x Width (m) <small>Exclude: garage</small>	Continuous (aka "strip") foundation wall footings (exterior and interior)
COLUMN PADS & PIERS VOLUME		m <sup>3</sup>	Total volume of discontinuous column footings, pad, piers, etc. <small>Exclude: garage</small>	Discontinuous footing elements aside from continuous footings (ext. and int.)
FOUNDATION WALL AREA	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	Total foundation wall surface area (centerline length x height) <small>Includes: basement, party walls. Excludes: openings, garage foundation</small>	Foundation & basement wall insulation (ext. and int.), interior framing, and wall cladding
FOUNDATION SLAB AREA	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	Total foundation slab surface area <small>Exclude: garage slab</small>	Aggregate base, sub-slab insulation, slab, and basement flooring
EXTERIOR WALL AREA	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	Surface area of exterior walls. <small>Includes: gable ends. Excludes: window &amp; door openings, party walls, garage walls</small>	Framing, insulation, sheathing, exterior cladding, and interior cladding of exterior walls
WINDOW AREA		m <sup>2</sup>	Area of window frames (preferable) or rough openings <small>Includes: full glazing area, skylights. Excludes: garage windows</small>	Windows of main building
PARTY WALL AREA		m <sup>2</sup>	Wall area that partitions this unit from others <small>Typical for townhouses &amp; apartment units</small>	Party wall framing, insulation, sheathing, and interior cladding
INTERIOR WALL AREA		m <sup>2</sup>	One side only (i.e. centerline) of all interior walls. <small>Includes: interior door area. Excludes: exterior, garage partition and party walls</small>	Interior wall framing and cladding (assumes both sides of walls are finished by default)
FRAMED FLOOR AREA		m <sup>2</sup>	Above grade flooring area <small>Excludes: basement floor slab, and floor openings</small>	Floor framing, subfloor, floor insulation, finish flooring
FINISHED CEILING AREA		m <sup>2</sup>	Total finished ceiling area <small>Includes: basement ceilings. Excludes: garage ceilings</small>	Ceiling cladding
ROOF INSULATION AREA	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	Area associated with roof insulation <small>Typically equal to the ceiling area directly below the roof</small>	Flat or sloped roof insulation
ROOF SURFACE AREA		m <sup>2</sup>	Roofing surface area. Calculated with roof pitch <small>Excludes: overhang</small>	Roof framing, decking, roofing, and insulation parallel to roof surface
TIMBER FRAMING VOLUME		m <sup>3</sup>	Total volume of wood in heavy timber posts & beams <small>Separate inputs for steel found in Structural Elements section</small>	Mass timber framing elements

Introduction -
PROJECT -
Footings & Slabs -
Foundation Walls -
Structural Elements -
Ext. Wall



# Tools for Analysis

## 2- SPECIFY + SELECT

on the **section sheets**,

Specify additional factors -> e.i.



ex: Compare 100m<sup>2</sup> of different cavity insulation with R-Value: 20 and select materials by checking the box.

EXTERIOR WALLS						SUBTOTAL (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e)		BUILDERS FOR CLIMATE ACTION
CATEGORY	MATERIAL	QUANTITY	UNITS	%	SELECT	NET EMISSIONS (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e)	EMISSIONS (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e)	
<b>STRUCTURAL SHEATHING</b>						271		
<b>GYPSUM PANELS</b>								
	Gypsum panels - glass mat / USG / Securock EcoAir 430 / 1/2"	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	611	611	0
	Gypsum panels - glass mat / 5/8" Type X / Gypsum Association [Industry Avg   N.America]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	542	542	0
	Gypsum panels - glass mat / 1/2" / Gypsum Association [Industry Avg   N.America]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	471	471	0
<b>ORIENTED STRAND BOARD (OSB)</b>								
	OSB sheathing / 5/8" / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	385	385	0
	OSB sheathing / 1/2" / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	308	308	0
<b>PLYWOOD</b>								
	Plywood / 3/4" / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	418	418	0
	Plywood / 5/8" / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	349	349	0
	Plywood / 1/2" / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	279	279	0
<b>WOOD BOARDS</b>								
	Wood / SPF / 3/4" boards / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	120	120	0
<b>CAVITY INSULATION</b>								
<b>HIGH R-VALUE CAVITY INSULATION</b>						R-VALUE: 20.0		
	Aerogel blanket / Aspen Aerogels / RS 6/inch	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	6,499	6,499	0
<b>SPRAY POLYURETHANE FOAM - HIGH DENSITY</b>								
	Spray polyurethane foam - High Density (HFC gas) / R 6.3/inch / SPFA [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	5,995	5,995	0
	Spray polyurethane foam - High Density (HFO gas) / R 6.5/inch / SPFA [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,744	1,744	0
<b>SPRAY POLYURETHANE FOAM - CLOSED CELL</b>								
	Spray polyurethane foam - Closed Cell (HFC gas) / R 6.6/inch / SPFA [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	4,635	4,635	0
	Spray polyurethane foam - Closed Cell (HFO gas) / R 6.6/inch / SPFA [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,465	1,465	0
	Spray polyurethane foam - Closed Cell (HFO gas) / Huntsman / Heatlok Soya HFO & Heatlok HFO / R 6.5/inch	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	882	882	0
<b>SPRAY POLYURETHANE FOAM - OPEN CELL</b>								
	Spray polyurethane foam - Open Cell / R 4.0/inch / SPFA [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	500	500	0
<b>SHEEP WOOL INSULATION</b>								
	Wool / Havelock Wool / Loose fill / R 4.4/inch	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	271	620	349
	Wool / Havelock Wool / Batts / R 3.6/inch	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	354	926	573
<b>MINERAL WOOL BATT INSULATION</b>								
	Mineral wool batt / Owens Corning / Thermafiber UltraBatt / R 4.3/inch	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,409	1,409	0
	Mineral wool batt / Rockwool / ComfortBatt R24 (5.5") / R 4.4/inch	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	600	600	0
	Mineral wool batt / [BEAM Avg]	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	597	597	0
	Mineral wool batt / Rockwool / ComfortBatt R15 (3.5") / R 4.3/inch	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	461	461	0
	Mineral wool batt / Rockwool / Safe'n'Sound, ComfortBatt / R 3.8/inch	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	461	461	0
	Mineral wool batt / Rockwool / ComfortBatt R14 (3.5") / R 4.0/inch	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	415	415	0
	Mineral wool batt / Rockwool / ComfortBatt R22 (5.5") / R 4.0/inch	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	415	415	0
	Mineral wool batt / Rockwool / ComfortBatt R24 SS (6" Steel Studs) / R 4.0/inch	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	415	415	0



# Tools for Analysis

## 3- REVIEW

materials selection on the review sheet.

Quickly identify selected materials with **highest** and **lowest** carbon footprint

BEAM		CLIMATE ACTION		REVIEW PROJECT MATERIALS			11,745	13,519	1,774
SECTION	CATEGORY	MATERIAL	NET EMISSIONS (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e)	CARBON EMISSIONS (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e)	CARBON STORAGE (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e)				
Footings & Slabs	CONTINUOUS CONCRETE FOOTINGS	Concrete - 0-28 MPa, 0-14% FA/SL, GU / CRMAA [Industry Avg]   CA	1,225	1,225	0				
Footings & Slabs	CONCRETE SLABS	Concrete - 0-28 MPa, 0-14% FA/SL, GU / CRMAA [Industry Avg]   CA	2,645	2,645	0				
Footings & Slabs	REBAR FOR CONTINUOUS FOOTINGS	Rebar / Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute [Industry Avg]   N.America / 12M	60	60	0				
Footings & Slabs	REINFORCING MESH FOR SLAB	Welded wire mesh / Serfas / 6' x 6' x 6kg / Norway	107	107	0				
Footings & Slabs	SUB-SLAB INSULATION	EPS foam board / R 4.0/inch avg [BEAM Avg]   US & CA	656	656	0				
Footings & Slabs	AGGREGATE BASE	Aggregate / US Average [Industry Avg]	106	106	0				
Foundation Walls	CONCRETE FOUNDATION WALLS	Concrete - 0-28 MPa, 0-14% FA/SL, GU / CRMAA [Industry Avg]   CA	928	928	0				
Foundation Walls	REBAR FOR FOUNDATION WALLS	Rebar / Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute [Industry Avg]   N.America / 12M	90	90	0				
Foundation Walls	CONTINUOUS INSULATION	XPS foam board / R 5.0/inch [BEAM Avg]   US & CA	328	328	0				
Exterior Walls	LIGHT WOOD FRAME WALLS	Wood / SPF / 2x4 Lumber / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg]   US & CA	256	256	0				
Exterior Walls	STRUCTURAL SHEATHING	Plywood / 1/2" / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg]   US & CA	279	279	0				
Exterior Walls	CAVITY INSULATION	Wool / Havelock Wool / Loose-fill / R 4.4/inch	271	620	349				
Exterior Walls	CONTINUOUS INSULATION	Wood fiber board / DUTEX / Multi-Therm / R 3.8/inch, 40, 60, 80, 100, 120, 140, 160, 180, 200 mm	-382	387	769				
Exterior Walls	ADDITIONAL MATERIALS	Mineral wool batt / [BEAM Avg]	383	383	0				
Exterior Wall Cladding	EXTERIOR WALL CLADDING	Fiber Cement Cladding / James Hardie / HardiePlank / 6 mm	681	734	53				
Exterior Wall Cladding	STRAPPING / FIRING	Wood / SPF / 1x2 Lumber / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg]   US & CA	11	11	0				
Exterior Wall Cladding	INTERIOR CLADDING FOR EXTERIOR WALLS	Drywall 1/2" [BEAM Avg]   US & CA	163	163	0				
Exterior Wall Cladding	INTERIOR CLADDING FOR EXTERIOR WALLS	Drywall 5/8" Type X / gypsum Association [Industry Avg]   US & CA	98	98	0				
Windows	WINDOWS - DOUBLE-GLAZED	Window - double-glazed / Vinyl frame / MCA Study [US & CA]	1,770	1,770	0				
Interior Walls	LIGHT WOOD FRAME INTERIOR WALLS	Wood / SPF / 2x4 Lumber / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg]   US & CA	16	16	0				
Interior Walls	LIGHT WOOD FRAME INTERIOR WALLS	Wood / SPF / 2x4 Lumber / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg]   US & CA	83	83	0				
Interior Walls	CLADDING FOR INTERIOR WALLS	Drywall 1/2" [BEAM Avg]   US & CA	370	370	0				
Floors	LIGHT WOOD FLOOR FRAMING	Wood (joist / T&I 230/360 / 9-1/2" Depth / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg]   US & CA)	129	129	0				
Floors	SUB FLOORING	Plywood / 1/2" / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg]   US & CA	75	75	0				
Floors	FLOOR CAVITY INSULATION	Fiberglass batt / R 3.8/inch [BEAM Avg]	20	20	0				
Ceilings	CEILING FINISHES	Drywall 1/2" [BEAM Avg]   US & CA	253	253	0				
Roof	WOOD ROOF FRAMING	Wood / SPF / 2x12 Lumber / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg]   US & CA	134	134	0				
Roof	ROOFING	Metal Panels - Steel / Canadian Sheet Steel Building Institute / 24 gauge [Industry Avg]   CA	1,182	1,182	0				
Roof	ROOF CAVITY INSULATION	Cellulose / loose fill / R 3.7/inch / CIMA [Industry Avg]   US & CA	-414	190	604				
Roof	ADDITIONAL MATERIALS	Plywood / 1/2" / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg]   US & CA	220	220	0				

# Tools for Analysis

## 4- SHARE

materials carbon results from the results sheet.

*Represents the carbon footprint for the structure, enclosure and partitions of the whole building.*



# Tools for Analysis

## 5- Save, Compare and track multiple projects.

Using the **BEAM menu** you can :

- Save projects
- Load previous project
- Toggle units between Metric or Imperial

The screenshot displays the BEAM (Beta) software interface. The title bar reads "BEAM (Beta) - Building Emissions Accounting for Materials". The menu bar includes "File", "Edit", "View", "Insert", "Format", "Data", "Tools", "Extensions", and "Help". The "BEAM" menu is open, showing options: "New project", "Save project", "Load project", "Toggle units (Metric<->Imperial)", "Clear this section", "Get support", "Get training", and "Donate".

The main window shows "Project Information" for a project named "Insulation Comparison". The project details include:

- Project Name: Insulation Comparison
- Designer: [Blank]
- Engineer: [Blank]
- Builder / Developer: [Blank]
- Developed Project: [Blank]
- Address: [Blank]
- City: [Blank]
- Province / State (Can./US only): [Blank]
- Country: Canada
- Building Type: Single Detached House
- Construction Type: New Construction
- Project Development Stage: Schematic Design

Below the project information is a table titled "Building Dimension Inputs (Excluding Garage)".

DIMENSION NAME	QTY	UNIT	DESCRIPTION	USED TO CALCULATE TAKE-OFFS FOR
CONTINUOUS FOOTINGS VOLUME	0.0	m <sup>3</sup>	Length (m) x Height (m) x Width (m) Exclude garage	Continuous (aka "strip") foundation wall footings (exterior and interior)
COLUMN PADS & PIERS VOLUME		m <sup>3</sup>	Total volume of discontinuous column footings, pad, piers, etc. Exclude garage	Discontinuous footing elements aside from continuous footings (ext. and int.)
FOUNDATION WALL AREA	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	Total foundation wall surface area (circumference length x height) includes basement party walls. Excludes openings, garage foundation	Foundation & basement wall insulation (ext. and int.), interior framing, and wall cladding
FOUNDATION SLAB AREA	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	Total foundation slab surface area Exclude garage slab	Aggregate base, sub-slab insulation, slab, and basement flooring
EXTERIOR WALL AREA	100.0	m <sup>2</sup>	Surface area of exterior walls. includes garage walls. Excludes window & door openings, party walls, garage walls	Framing, insulation, sheathing, exterior cladding, and interior cladding of exterior walls
WINDOW AREA		m <sup>2</sup>	Area of window frames (preferable) or rough openings includes full parting area, sills, etc. Excludes garage windows	Windows of main building
PARTY WALL AREA		m <sup>2</sup>	Wall area that partitions this unit from others typical for townhouses & apartment units	Party wall framing, insulation, sheathing, and exterior cladding
INTERIOR WALL AREA		m <sup>2</sup>	One side only (i.e. center-line) of all interior walls. includes interior door area. Excludes interior garage partitions and party walls	Interior wall framing and cladding (excludes both sides of walls are finished by default)

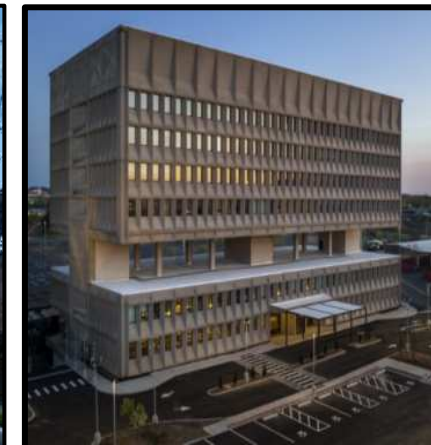
The bottom of the interface shows a navigation bar with tabs: "Introduction", "PROJECT", "Footings & Slabs", "Foundation Walls", "Structural Elements", and "Ext. Wall".

**Energy Use  
Intensity  
Carbon Equivalent  
Usage**

**Embodied Carbon Accounting**



# Energy: Modeled vs. Actual Emissions



	211 W 29th		511 E 86th		Columbus Commons		Cornell Tech		Hotel Marcel	
	Site Energy Consumption kBtu/sf.yr									
	Predicted	Actual	Predicted	Actual	Predicted	Actual	Predicted	Actual	Predicted	Actual
Heating	0.42	3.75	0.81	1.36	0.6	1.1	1.06	5.2	5.55	7.2
Cooling	0.79	1.09	1.18	1.39	0.4	4.1	0.92	1.9	1.34	3.8
Domestic Hot Water	4.53	9.4	5.81	10.04	4.4	9.1	5.88	7.8	2.69	8.4
Lighting and Plug Loads	8.48	16.63	7.21	20.02	9.7	8.9	9.81	16.94	20.49	42.9
<b>Total EUI</b>	14.2	<b>30.69</b>	15.0	<b>33.1</b>	15.1	<b>23.2</b>	17.7	<b>31.8</b>	30.1	<b>62.3</b>

# Energy: Modeled vs. Actual Emissions



Columbus Commons	
5 Stories over Amenity/Retail, 80 units, 110,600 GSF	
ASHP, NG Central DHW, ERV	
HERS Range	37 - 43
Carbon Index	48 - 53
Modeled Total Building EUI	15.0
<b>Actual Total Building EUI*</b>	<b>18.0</b>
* July 2023 - June 2024	

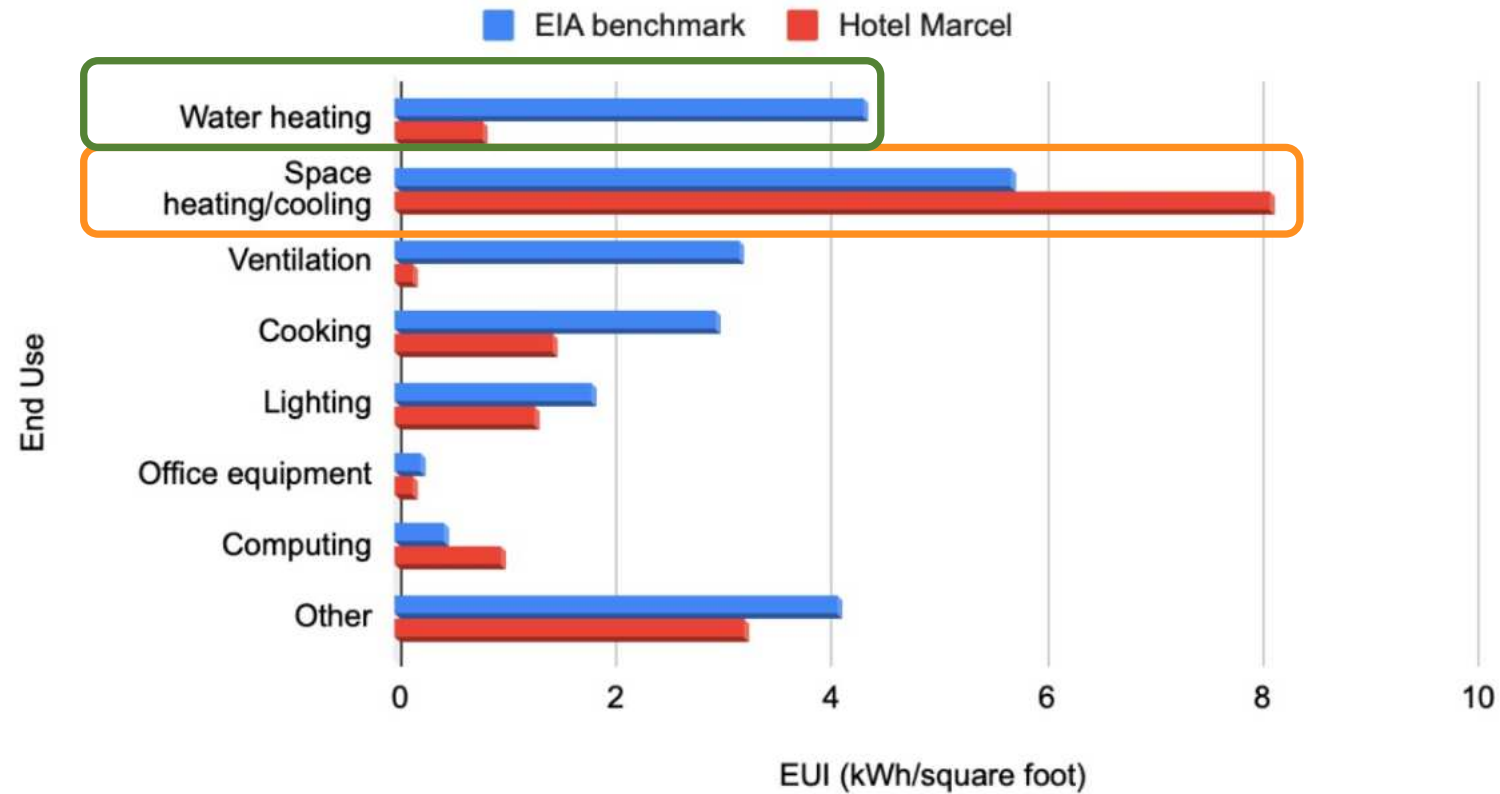
Hotel Marcel	
Renovated 165 Room Hotel, 111,000 GSF	
VRF, HPWH, ERV	
Modeled EUI	30.1
First Year, Actual EUI	62.3
<b>Second Year, Actual EUI*</b>	<b>42.0</b>
*After Final Cx, and HP Dryers replaced Electric Dryers	

Canaan Parish	
4 story MF, 40 units, 61,500 GSF	
ASHP, NG Tankless, Exhaust Only	
HERS Range	49 - 60
Carbon Index	70 - 89
Modeled EUI	35.0
<b>Actual Total Building EUI*</b>	<b>45.0</b>
* July 2023 - June 2024	



# Hotel Marcel vs. Industry Benchmarks

## EUI by End Use



Source: EIA Commercial Buildings Energy Survey 2022

# Energy: Modeled vs. Actual Emissions

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# Energy: Modeled vs. Actual Emissions

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# Operational Carbon Emissions



Columbus Commons	
5 Stories over Amenity/Retail, 80 units, 110,600 GSF	
Operational Carbon Emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e •yr)	148,948
Operational Carbon Emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/sf •yr)	1.35

Actual kBtu/sf•yr 18



Canaan Parish	
4 story MF, 40 units, 61,500 GSF	
Operational Carbon Emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e •yr)	207,984
Operational Carbon Emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/sf •yr)	3.38

Actual kBtu/sf•yr 45

# Embodied Carbon Emissions

Footings & Slabs	97,535 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Foundation Walls	24,004 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Structural Elements	29,112 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Exterior Walls	50,984 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Party Walls	19,625 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Exterior Wall Cladding	45,234 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Windows	55,620 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Interior Walls	36,908 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Floors	65,009 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Ceilings	18,212 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Roof	64,584 kg CO <sub>2</sub> e
Garage	0
<b>NET TOTAL</b>	<b>644,717 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>

Average home is ~184 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>

Canaan Parish ~113 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>

Canaan Parish ~130 occupants



Canaan Parish	
4 story MF, 40 units, 61,500 GSF	
Operational Carbon Emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e ·yr)	207,984
Operational Carbon Emissions (kg CO <sub>2</sub> e/sf ·yr)	3.38



**Drivers**

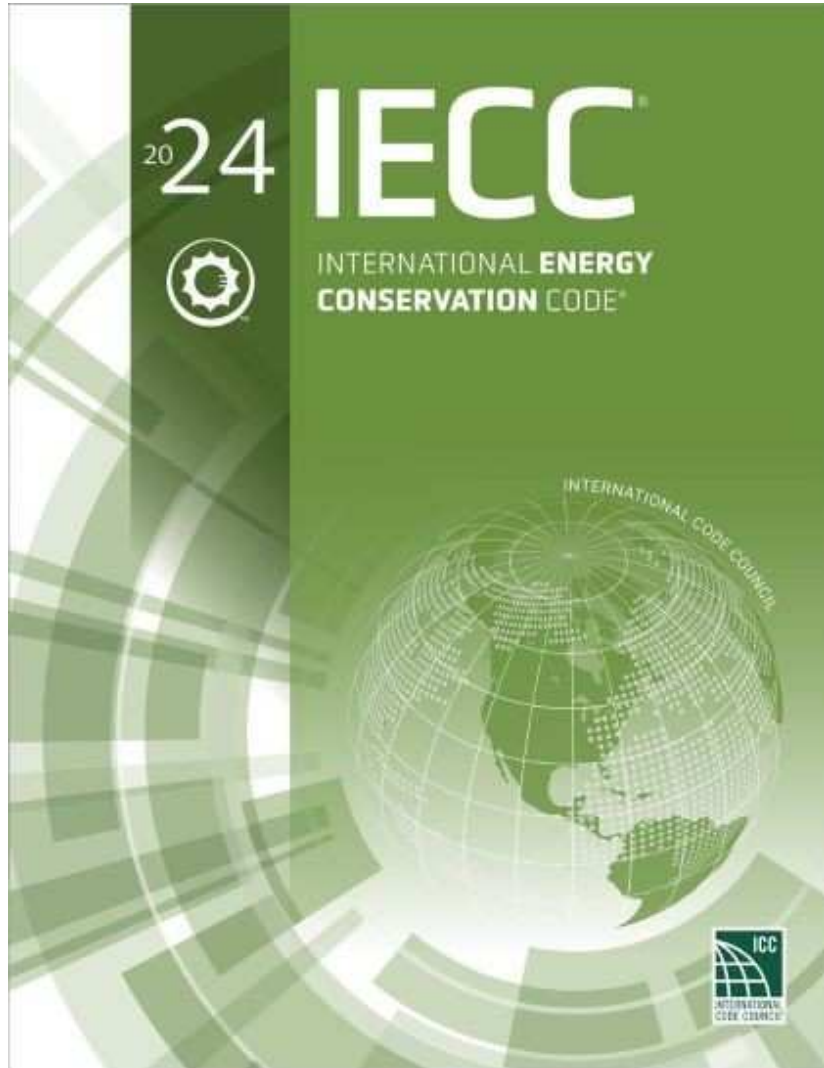


# Code

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# Code



**2024 IECC - What Happened?**

# Code

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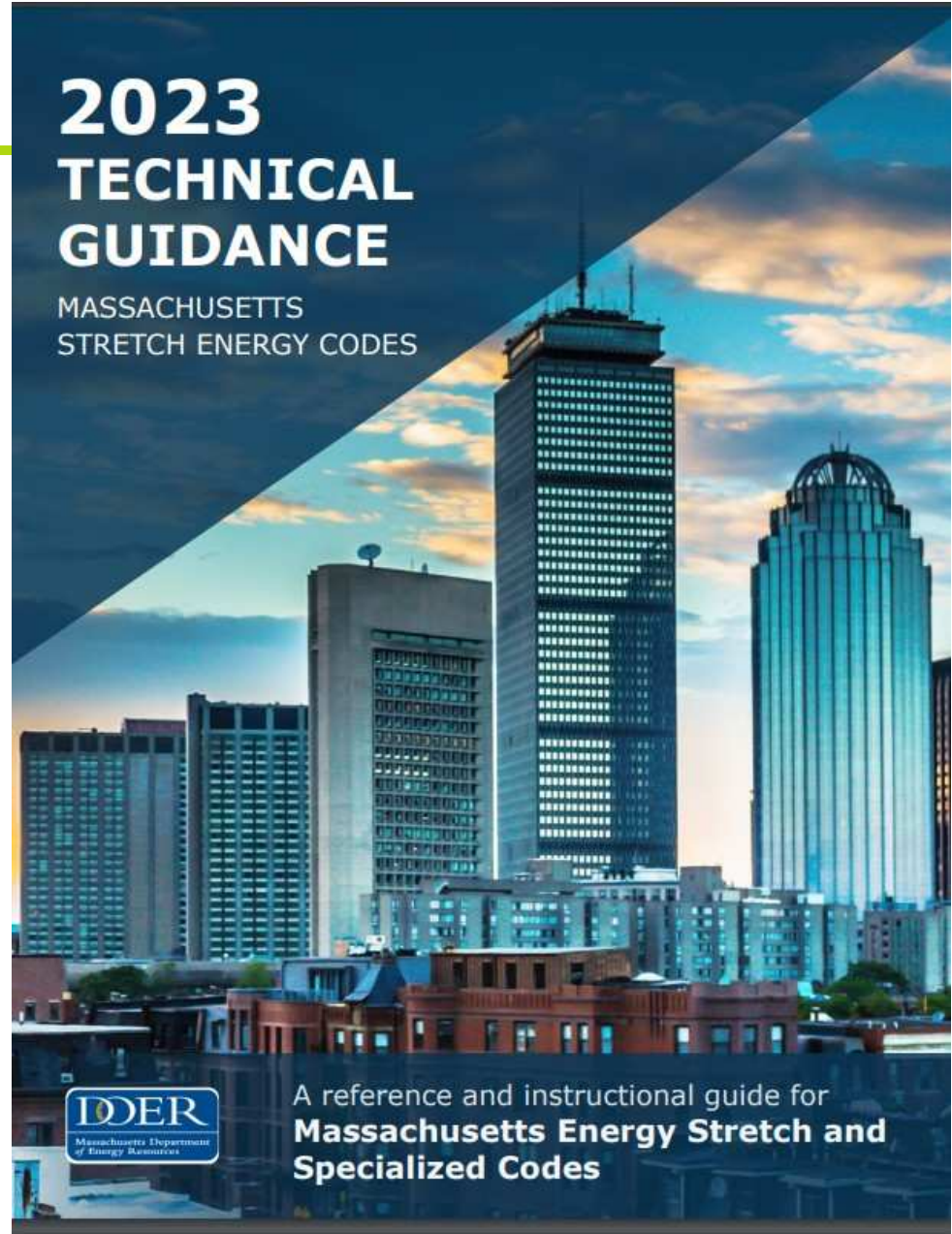
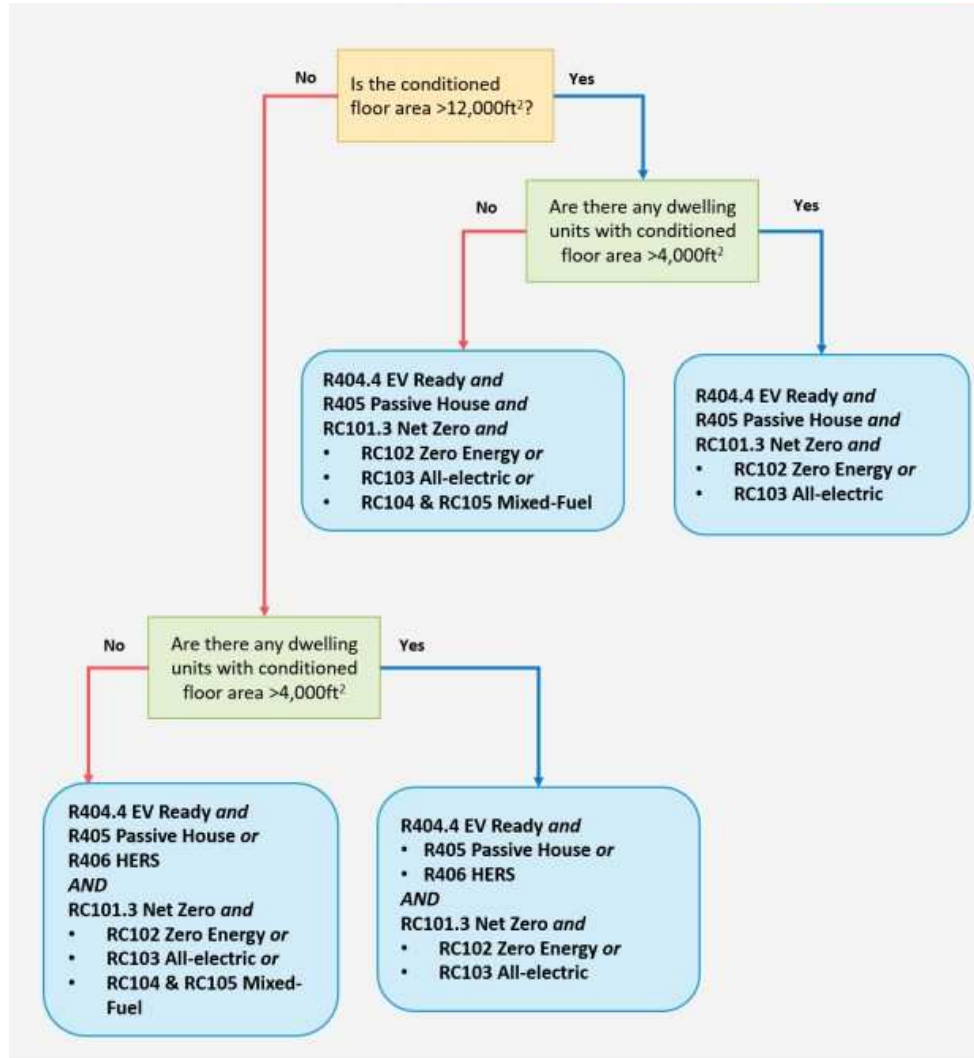
## APPENDIX CD THE 2030 GLIDE PATH

This voluntary appendix is suited for adopting authorities that wish to extend beyond the mandatory provisions of this code toward zero net energy goals. Appendix CD is intended to be adopted by jurisdictions that will require new construction to operate at zero net energy by the year 2030. It **reduces** the net annual energy use of buildings **by approximately one-third in comparison with** buildings constructed in compliance with the **2021 IECC**. It is assumed that the **2027 and 2030 editions** will also **reduce** energy use **by one-third** each.



**2024 IECC - What Happened?**

# Stretch Code

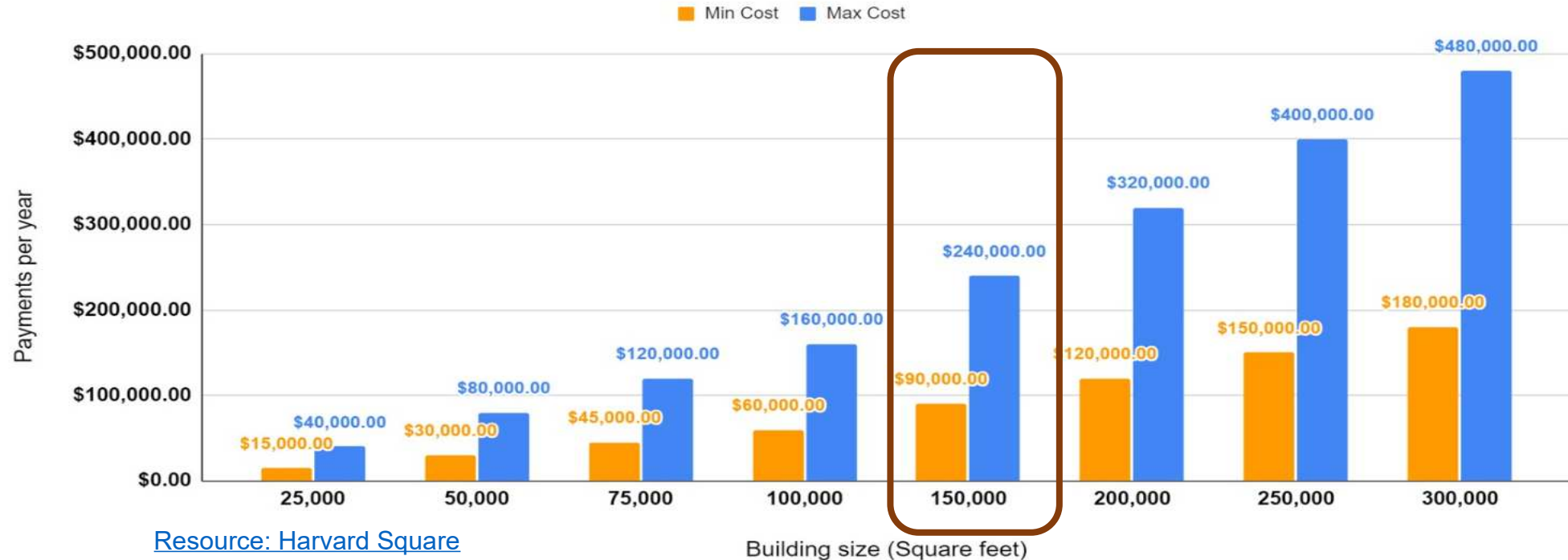


# Ordinances, Articles, Carrots, and Sticks

Boston's Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (**BERDO**) - requirements for large existing buildings to reduce their greenhouse gas

The Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance (**BEUDO**) – enacted by the Cambridge City Council

Estimated average ranges for compliance (2025-2050)





# Ordinances, Articles, Carrots, and Sticks

---

## **ARTICLE 37 GREEN BUILDING AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY GUIDELINES**



Low Embodied Carbon Building is a building or structure that has been designed, engineered, and constructed to minimize and mitigate greenhouse gas Emissions from the extraction, harvesting, fabrication, transportation, installation, maintenance, and disposal of building products and materials, and from other construction-related activities, in accordance with the standards of Article 37-5.4.



# Mass Stretch, Carrots and Sticks

---

Clean Energy Application	HERS Target	HERS Target with R406.5.2 EC Credit
Mixed Fuel Building	42	45
All-Electric Building	45	48

## *Add Subsection R406.5.2, Embodied Carbon Credit*

1. Insulation: new dwelling units that demonstrate a calculated insulation GWP intensity (kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/ft<sup>2</sup> ) less than 0 . . . based on table default values, or product specific EPDs or calculations in the approved tools: EC3 and BEAM, may be used . . .

OR

2. Low GWP Concrete Mix Credit: new dwelling units that demonstrate a calculated concrete mix GWP  $\leq$  70% of the 2022 NRMCA Northeast Benchmark average . . .

# Northland Newton Embodied Carbon Case Study

## Overview

**Material Ingredients:** Using the data included in the Carbon Leadership Forum 2021 Materials Baselines Report, specifications were written that identified lower embodied carbon targets than the average for structural and enclosure material components.

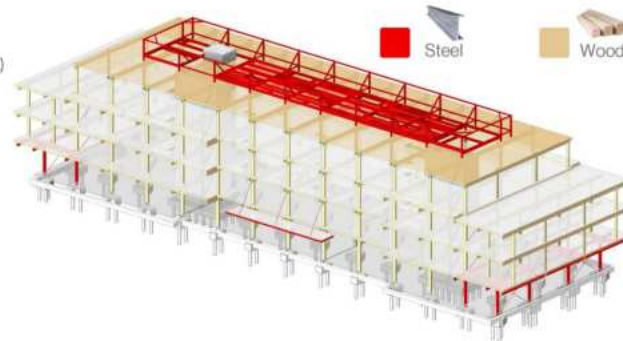
Component	Steel Baseline	CLT Baseline	CLT Design
CLT Floor Plates and Glulam Structure	No	Yes	Yes
Roof-Level Concrete Topping	Yes	No	No
Structural Slab Reduced from 12" to 4"	No	Yes	Yes
Low-EC Concrete	No	No	Yes
Low-EC Mineral Wool Insulation	No	No	Yes
GWP % Reduction From Steel Baseline	0%	44%	50%

### Reduction of high embodied carbon materials:

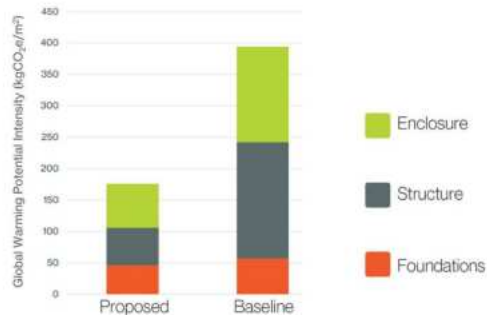
- Mass timber (cross laminated timber floor plates and glulam posts and beams) were used as the main structural components, reducing reliance on concrete and steel.
- CLT was used as the structural diaphragm at the roof level, eliminating concrete entirely.
- 12" reinforced concrete structural slab on grade was reduced to a 4" soil supported slab on grade.

## Primary Contributing GWP Materials

- 28.3% Ready-Mix Concrete, 4000 PSI
- 20.1% Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT) and Glue-Laminated Timber (glulam)
- 9.7% XPS Insulation Boards
- 7.4% Flat Glass
- 5.4% Concrete Masonry
- 1,210,058 kgCO<sub>2</sub> GWP of design without Biogenic
- (190,910.82 kgCO<sub>2</sub>) GWP of Design Including Biogenic Contribution



## Embodied Carbon Comparison



## Lessons Learned

- Start early with a preliminary analysis and set targets for structural material GWP.
- Engage the construction and design team to reduce the amount of structural materials necessary.
- Work with vendors and manufacturers to ensure cost and availability and request EPDs in specifications.
- Investigate structural design to reduce the amount of material needed.



## Project Team

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Client</b><br>Northland Investment Corp.          | <b>Structural</b><br>Odeh Engineers                          | <b>Mass Timber Design Assist</b><br>TimberLab          |
| <b>Construction Manager</b><br>Cranshaw Construction | <b>Sustainability Consultant</b><br>Steven Winter Associates | <b>Sustainability Assist</b><br>Lambert Sustainability |
| <b>Architect</b><br>Stantec Architecture             |  |  |



# EMBODIED CARBON REDUCTION CHALLENGE

THE CHALLENGE: REDUCE UPFRONT CARBON OF BUILDINGS





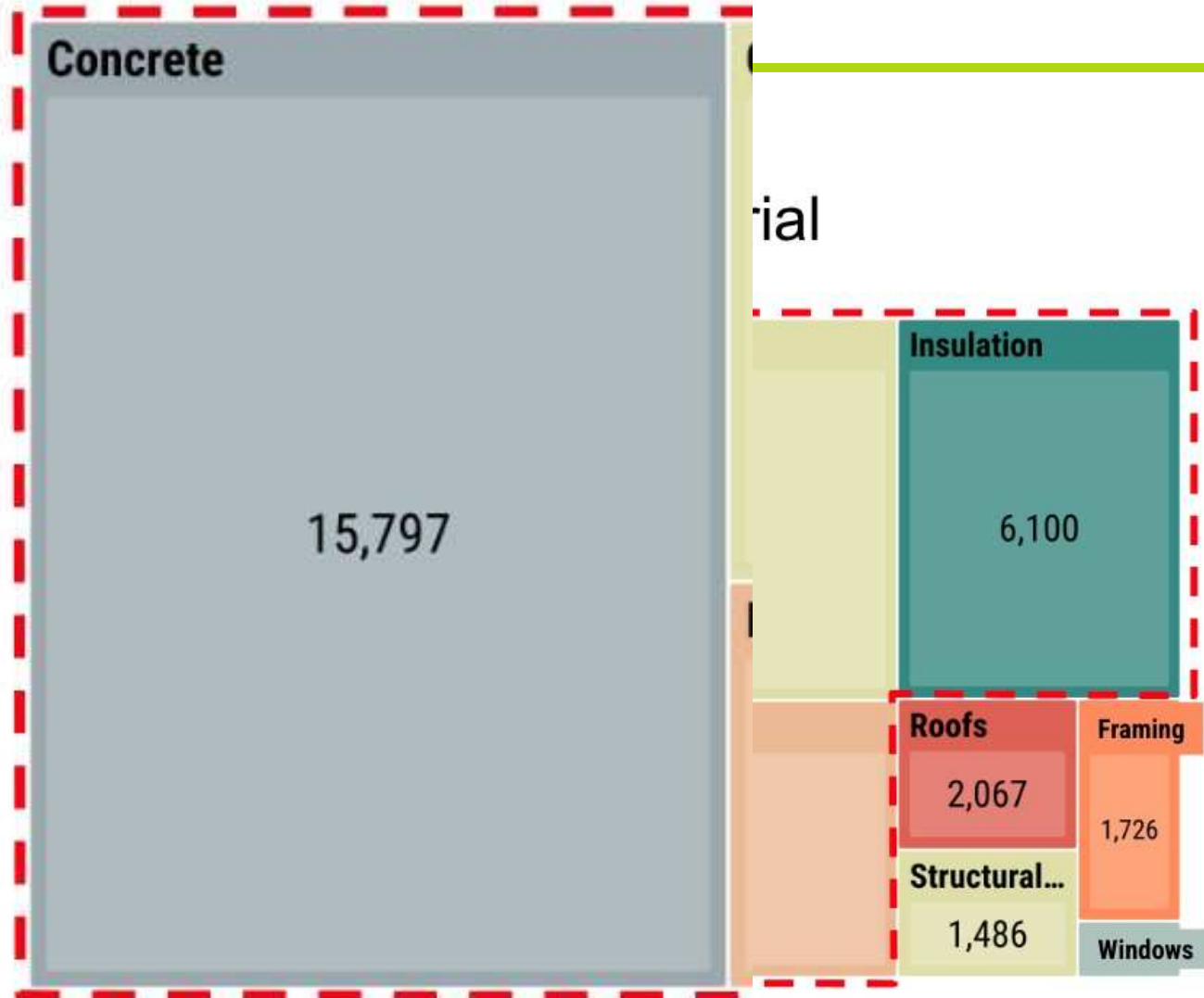
**Action**

# Action Item

Net Zero As-Built

**83%** MCE from 4 material categories :

- Concrete
- Cladding
- Insulation
- Interior Surfaces



Net Zero As-Built - Total : 45,998 kg CO2e



# Concrete

---

---

Reduce Massing

---

Optimize Required Strength

---

Optimize Formulations: SCMs, PLC/Type 1L (Limestone), Gap-Graded Aggregate

---

Engage SE, CM, Ready Mix to Secure Lowest % GWP Reduction at Best Cost

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Emerging tech: Pozzotive, Biochar, Natural SCMs/LC3, CarbonCure/Solidia

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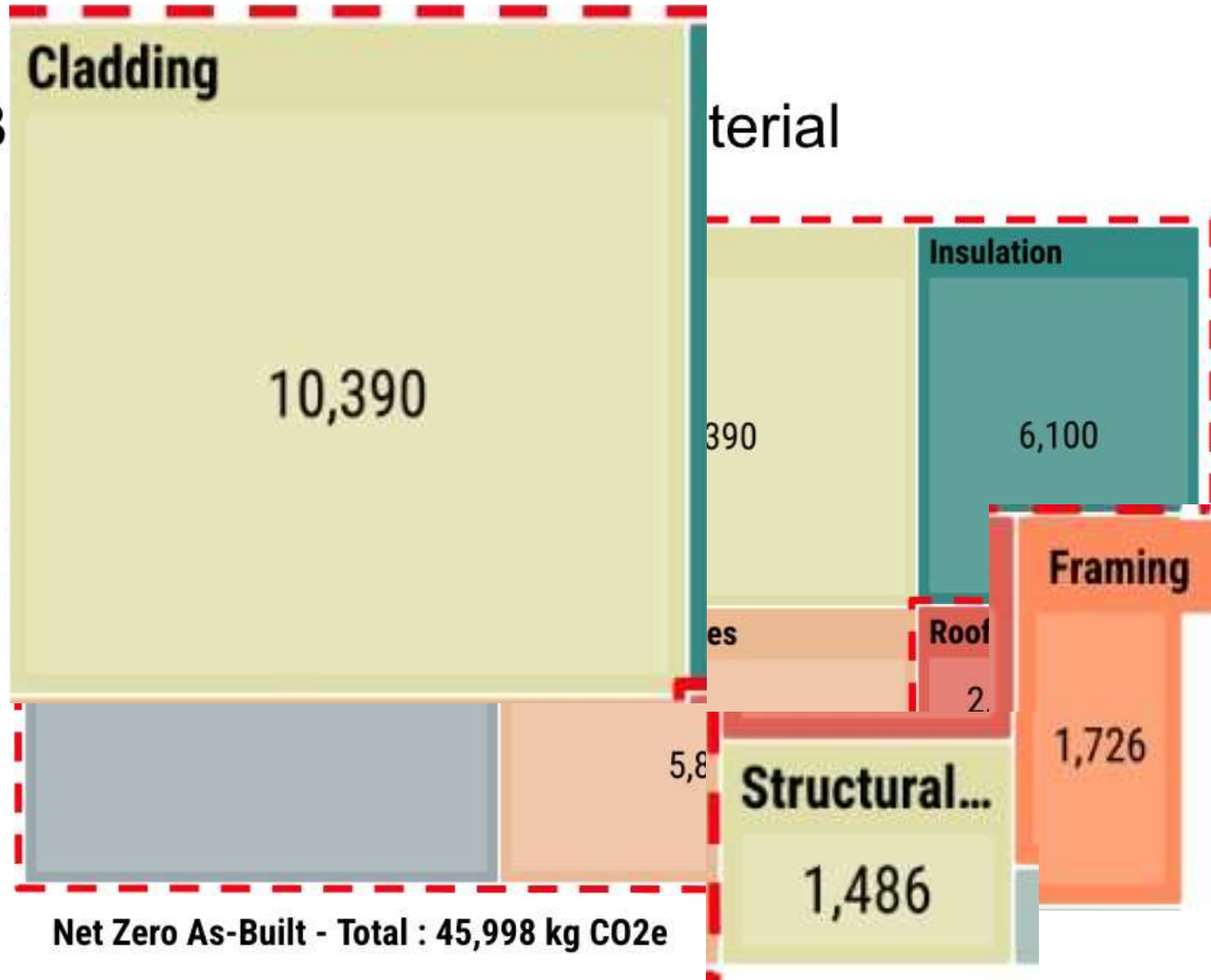
Novel Tech: Sublime Systems, Prometheus Materials, Blue Planet

# Action Items

Net Zero As-B

**83%** MCE from 4 material categories :

- Concrete
- Cladding
- Insulation
- Interior Surfaces



# Framing and Cladding

---

---

Reduce Massing

---

Optimize Required Strength (framing) / Optimize durability with rainscreens, species selection, etc. (cladding)

---

Wood Studs vs Steel Studs / Wood vs Fiber Cement

---

Do The Math and Know The Source: Mass Timber GWP Can Vary, Impacts Beyond GWP

# Framing

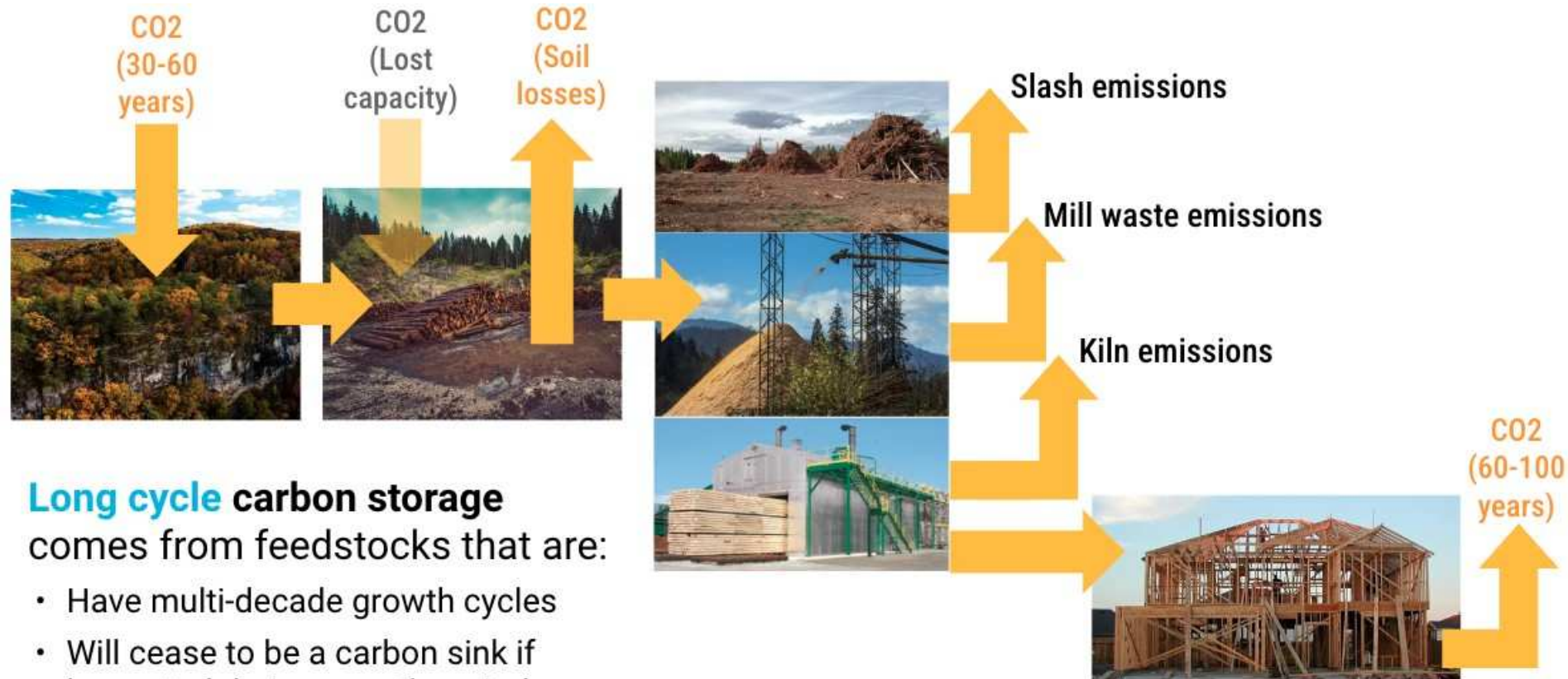
CATEGORY	MATERIAL	QUANTITY	UNITS	%	SELECT	NET EMISSIONS kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	GROSS EMISSIONS kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	STORAGE Short Cycle kg CO <sub>2</sub> 🖐️	STORAGE Long Cycle kg CO <sub>2</sub> 🖐️	SELECT Long Cycle
<b>LIGHT STEEL FRAME WALLS</b>		<b>FRAMING SPACING</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>in</b>						
<b>LIGHT STEEL FRAMING – 16 GAUGE (2X6)</b>										
	Steel studs - Load bearing / Steel Framing Industry Assn / 600-S-137-54, 16 gauge [Industry Avg, US & CA]	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	449	449	0	0	
	Steel studs - Load bearing / Scafco / 600-S-137-54, 16 gauge	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	605	605	0	0	
	Steel studs - Load bearing / MarinoWARE / Structural stud and track / 600-S-137-54, 16 gauge	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	456	456	0	0	
	Steel studs - Load bearing / ClarkDietrich / 600-S-137-54, 16 gauge	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	438	438	0	0	
<b>LIGHT STEEL FRAMING – 20 GAUGE (2X4)</b>										
	Steel studs - Non-loadbearing / Steel Framing Industry Assn / 362-S-137-54 20EQ gauge [Industry Avg, US+Can]	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	108	108	0	0	
	Steel studs - Non-loadbearing / Scafco / 362VS125-18, 20EQ gauge	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	146	146	0	0	
	Steel studs - Non-loadbearing / MarinoWARE / Viper Stud Viper 20 / 20EQ gauge	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	110	110	0	0	
	Steel studs - Non-loadbearing / ClarkDietrich / 362-S-125-18, 20EQ gauge	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	106	106	0	0	
<b>LIGHT WOOD FRAME WALLS</b>		<b>FRAMING SPACING</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>in</b>						
<b>FRAMING LUMBER – SPRUCE-PINE-FIR</b>										
	Wood / SPF / 2x8 Lumber / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg   US & CA]	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	54	54	0	650	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Wood / SPF / 2x8 Lumber / Surfaced Dry Softwood Lumber Produced in British Columbia	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	39	39	0	605	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Wood / SPF / 2x6 Lumber / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg   US & CA]	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	41	41	0	493	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Wood / SPF / 2x6 Lumber / Surfaced Dry Softwood Lumber Produced in British Columbia	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	30	30	0	459	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Wood / SPF / 2x4 Lumber / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg   US & CA]	200.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	26	26	0	314	<input type="checkbox"/>



# Cladding

CATEGORY	MATERIAL	QUANTITY	UNITS	%	SELECT	NET EMISSIONS kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	GROSS EMISSIONS kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	STORAGE Short Cycle kg CO <sub>2</sub> 🖐️	STORAGE Long Cycle kg CO <sub>2</sub> 🖐️	SELECT Long Cycle
<b>FIBER CEMENT SIDING</b>										
	<b>Fiber Cement siding [BEAM Avg]</b>	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,248	1,555	307	0	
	Fiber Cement siding / Equitone / Pictura, Natura Pro, sheets / 8 mm [EU]	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	2,626	3,062	436	0	
	Fiber Cement siding / Equitone / Linea Lunara sheets / 10 mm [EU]	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,209	1,465	256	0	
	Fiber Cement siding / JamesHardie / Hardie Plank HZ5, Hardie Panel HZ5, Hardie Architectural Panel HZ5 / 8 mm	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	1,107	1,433	326	0	
	Fiber Cement siding / JamesHardie / Hardie Plank HZ10, Hardie Panel HZ10, Hardie Architectural Panel HZ10 / 8 mm	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	957	1,285	328	0	
	Fiber Cement siding / JamesHardie / Hardie Shingle HZ5 / 6.3 mm	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	859	1,123	264	0	
	Fiber Cement siding / JamesHardie / Hardie Shingle HZ10 / 6.3 mm	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	730	960	230	0	
<b>NATURAL WOOD SIDING</b>										
	<b>Cedar Siding / Western Red Cedar Lumber Assn / 1x6 Boards [Industry Avg   CA]</b>	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	324	324	0	1,235	<input type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Wood / SPF / 3/4" boards / AWC &amp; CWC [Industry Avg   US &amp; CA]</b>	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	226	226	0	2,718	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Wood cladding / BurntWood / ReUse with linseed oil treatment / 18 mm [EU]	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	635	1,095	460	5,628	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Wood cladding / BurntWood / ReUse without surface treatment / 18 mm [EU]	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	449	449	0	5,628	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>NATURAL WOOD SIDING</b>										
	<b>Cedar Siding / Western Red Cedar Lumber Assn / 1x6 Boards [Industry Avg   CA]</b>	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	-911	324	0	1,235	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<b>Wood / SPF / 3/4" boards / AWC &amp; CWC [Industry Avg   US &amp; CA]</b>	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	-2,492	226	0	2,718	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Wood cladding / BurntWood / ReUse with linseed oil treatment / 18 mm [EU]	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	-4,994	1,095	460	5,628	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Wood cladding / BurntWood / ReUse without surface treatment / 18 mm [EU]	187.8	m <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	-5,180	449	0	5,628	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

# Wood Carbon Storage



**Long cycle carbon storage** comes from feedstocks that are:

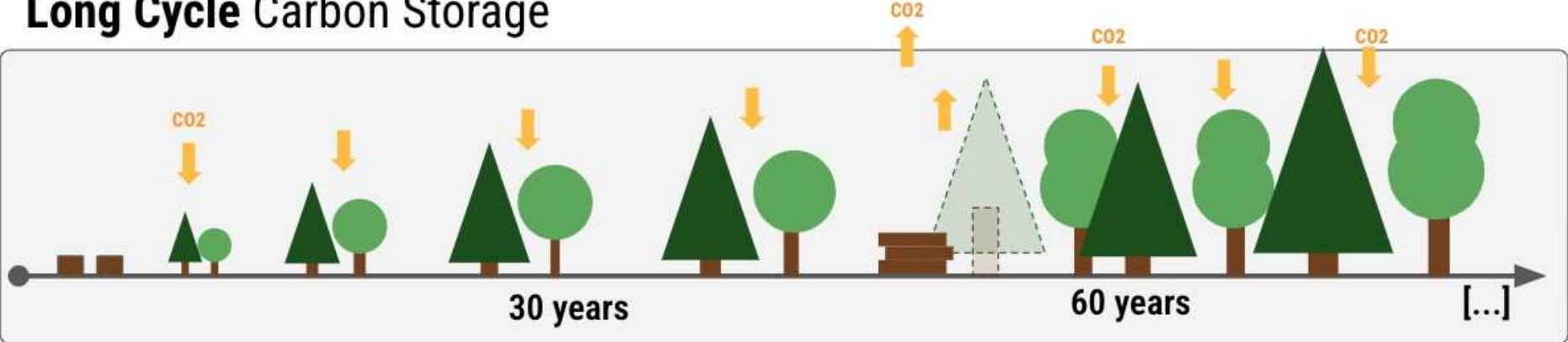
- Have multi-decade growth cycles
- Will cease to be a carbon sink if harvested during growth period

# Wood Carbon Storage

## Short Cycle Carbon Storage



## Long Cycle Carbon Storage





# Wood Carbon Storage

## BEAM v1.1 enables selective carbon storage for timber

PROJECT NAME: Sample Project DOE Prototype  
 SCENARIO: Baseline  
 BEAM VERSION: V1.1

SECTION COMPLETE?

						0	0	0	0	
CATEGORY	MATERIAL	QUANTITY	UNITS	%	SELECT	NET EMISSIONS kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	GROSS EMISSIONS kg CO <sub>2</sub> e	STORAGE Short Cycle kg CO <sub>2</sub> ⬆️	STORAGE Long Cycle kg CO <sub>2</sub> ⬆️	SELECT Long Cycle
<b>LIGHT WOOD FRAME WALLS</b>		<b>FRAMING SPACING</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>in</b>						
<b>FRAMING LUMBER – SPRUCE-PINE-FIR</b>										
	Wood / SPF / 2x8 Lumber / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	-298	27	0	325	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Wood / SPF / 2x8 Lumber / Surfaced Dry Softwood Lumber Produced in British Columbia	100.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	20	0	302	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Wood / SPF / 2x6 Lumber / AWC & CWC [Industry Avg   US & CA]	100.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	20	20	0	246	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Wood / SPF / 2x6 Lumber / Surfaced Dry Softwood Lumber Produced in British Columbia	100.0	ft <sup>2</sup>	100%	<input type="checkbox"/>	15	15	0	229	<input type="checkbox"/>

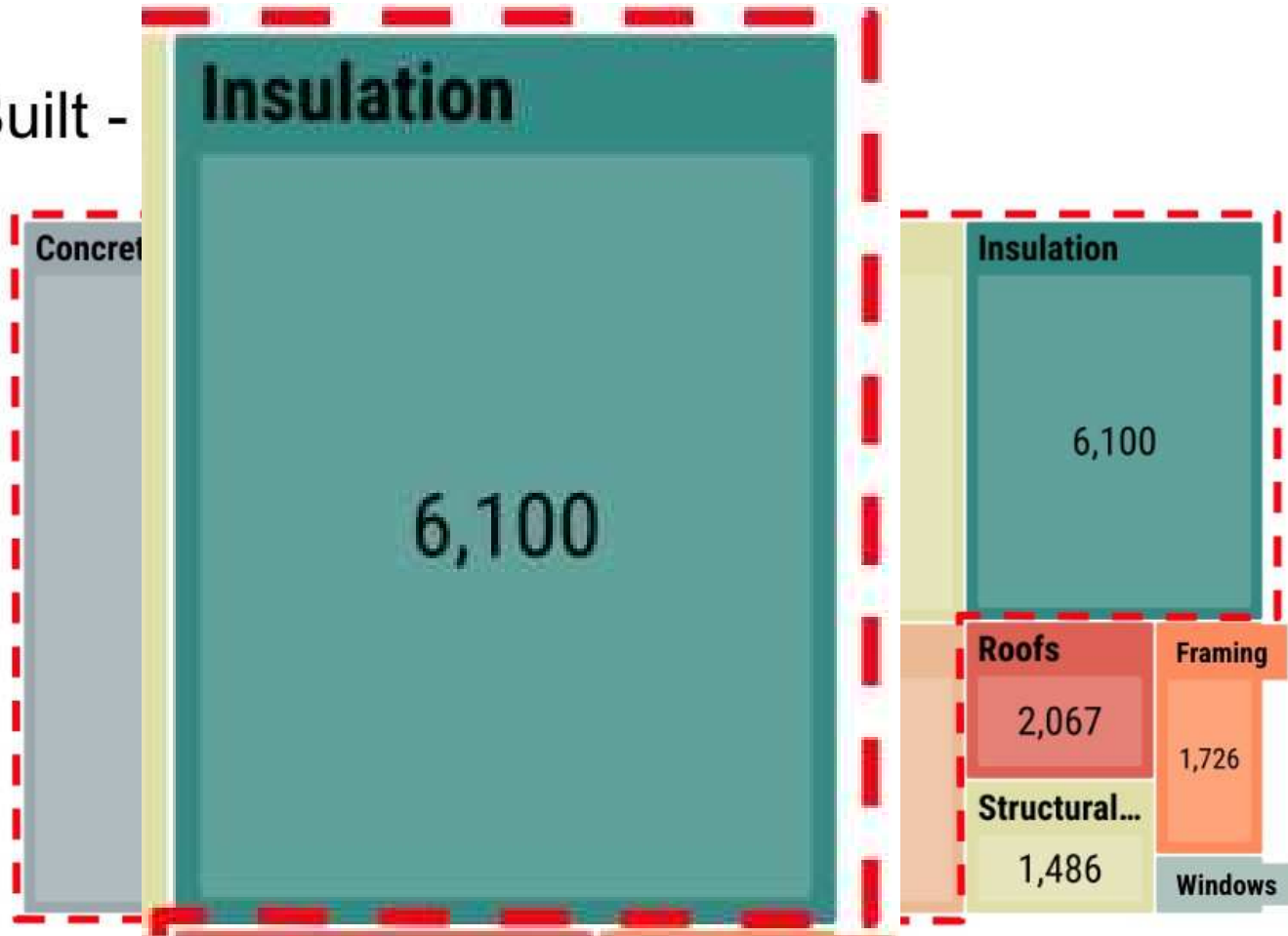


# Action Items

Net Zero As-Built -

**83%** MCE from 4 material categories :

- Concrete
- Cladding
- Insulation
- Interior Surfaces



Net Zero As-Built - Total : 45,998 kg CO2e

# Insulation

---

---

Find the Optimal Thermal Value (don't over-insulate)

---

Choose Plant Based Products

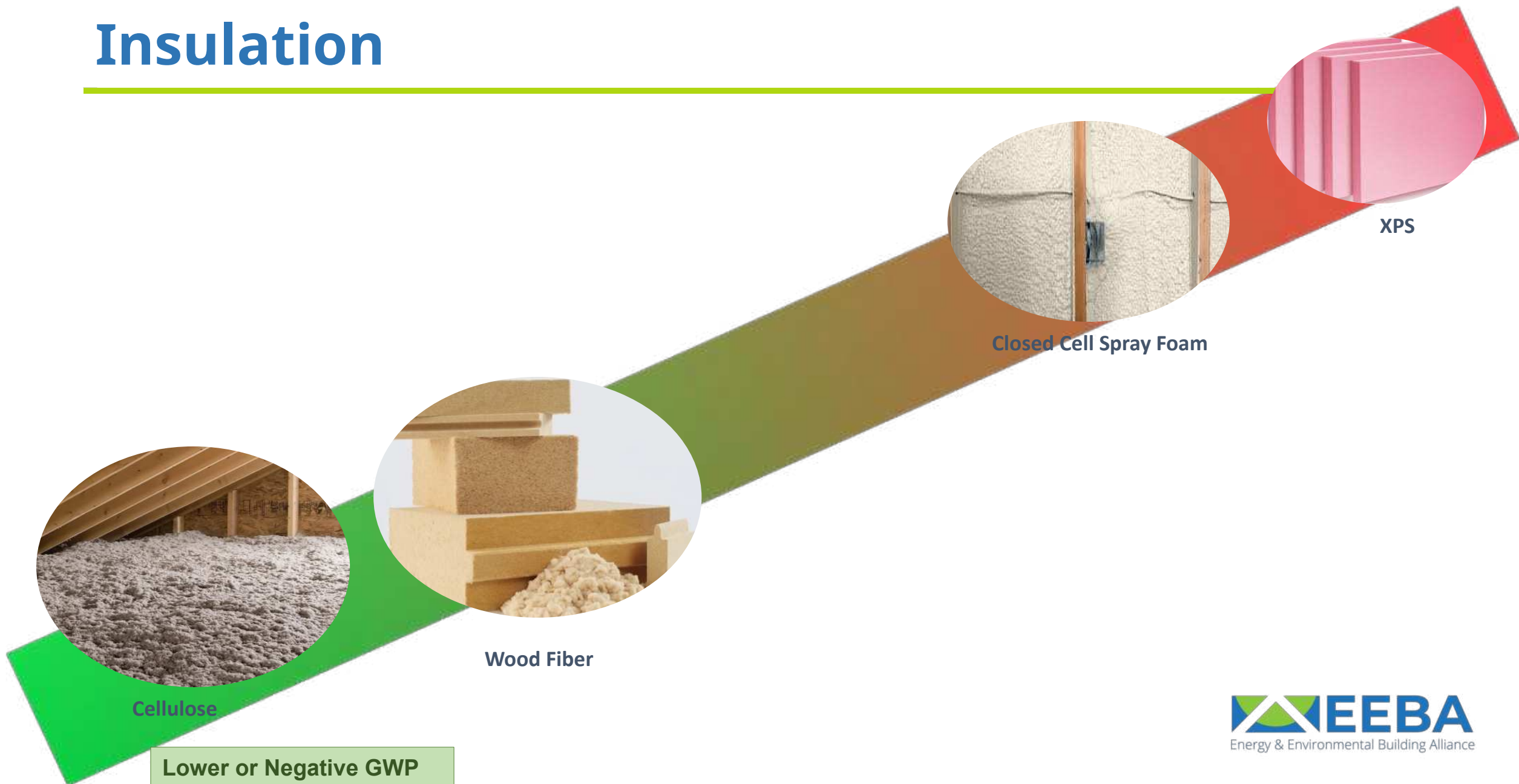
---

Avoid Plastic Based Products

---

Pay attention to the Chemicals (Binders, Fire Retarders, VOC's)

# Insulation



Cellulose



Wood Fiber



Closed Cell Spray Foam



XPS

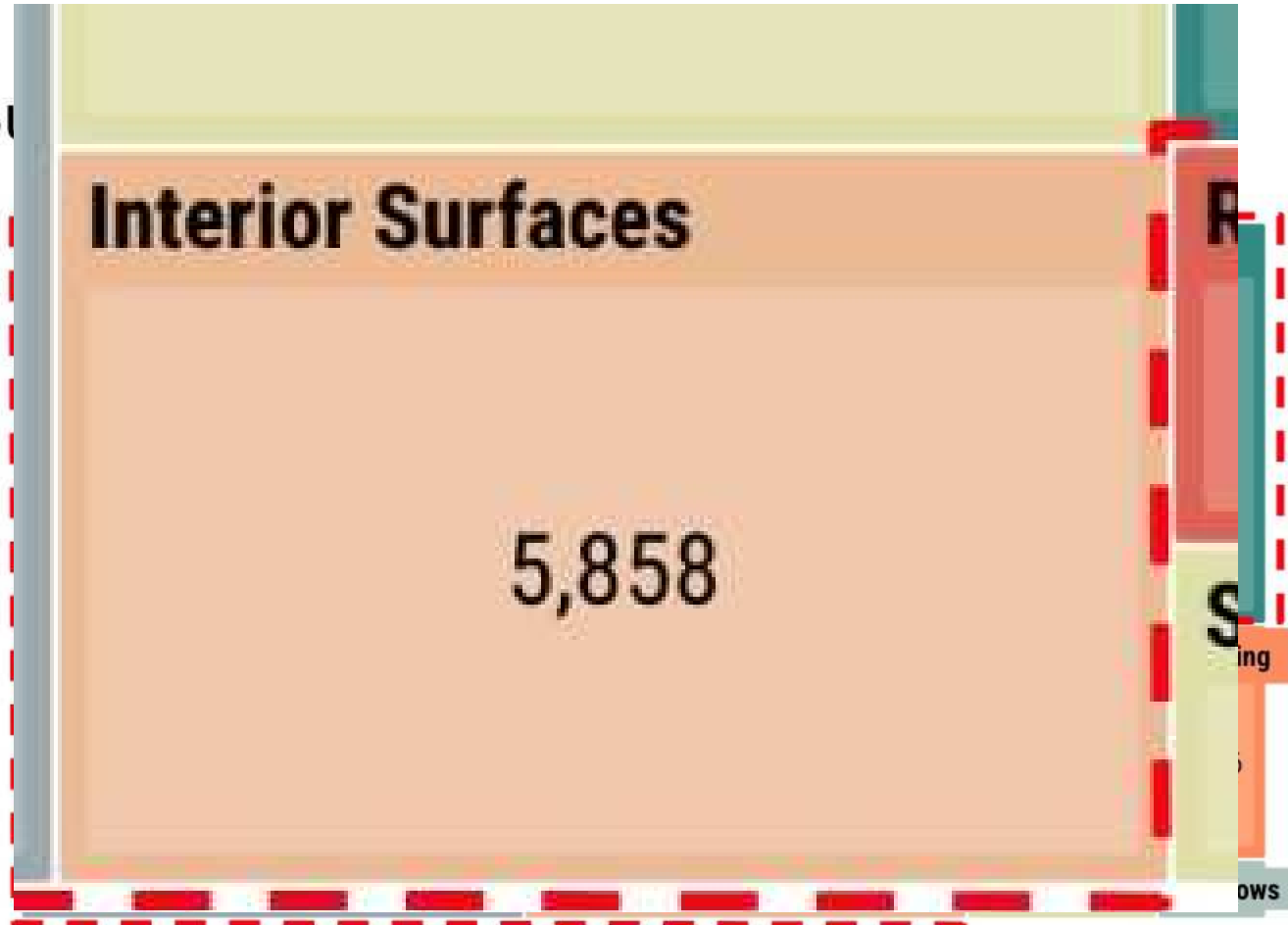
Lower or Negative GWP

# Action Items

Net Zero As-Built

**83%** MCE from 4 material categories :

- Concrete
- Cladding
- Insulation
- Interior Surfaces



Net Zero As-Built - Total : 45,998 kg CO2e



# Drywall

---

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Specify Lightweight Gypsum Board  
~ 550 kg/m<sup>3</sup> instead of 800 kg/m<sup>3</sup>

---

Specify the Correct & Smallest Thickness

---

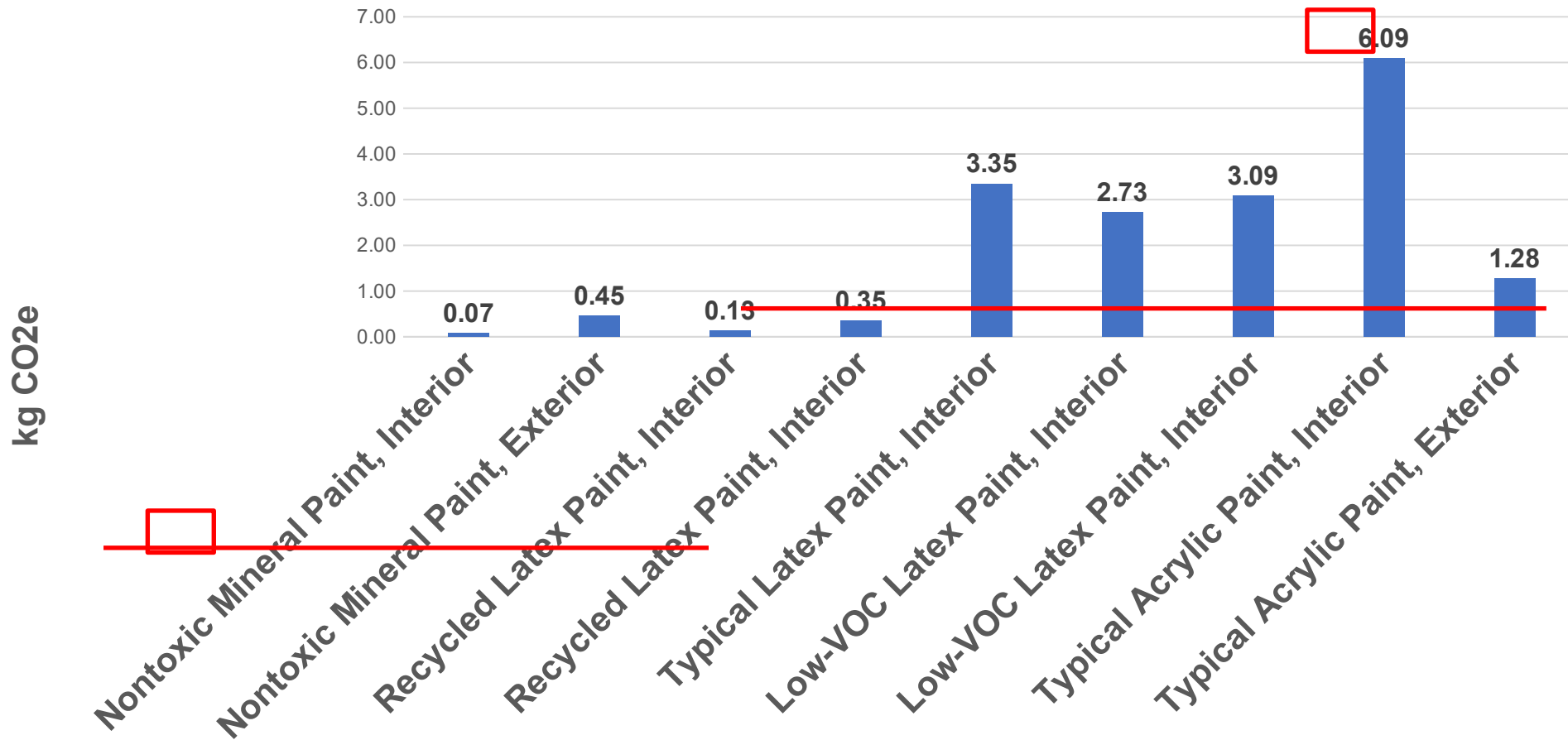
Reduce Waste

---



# Paint

Paint GWP, kg CO2e per 1 m2



87X Total Range

10X Median Range

5% MCE – Year 1

25% MCE – Lifetime

# Paint

**Forbes**

## Paint Is The Largest Source Of Microplastics In The Ocean, Study Finds

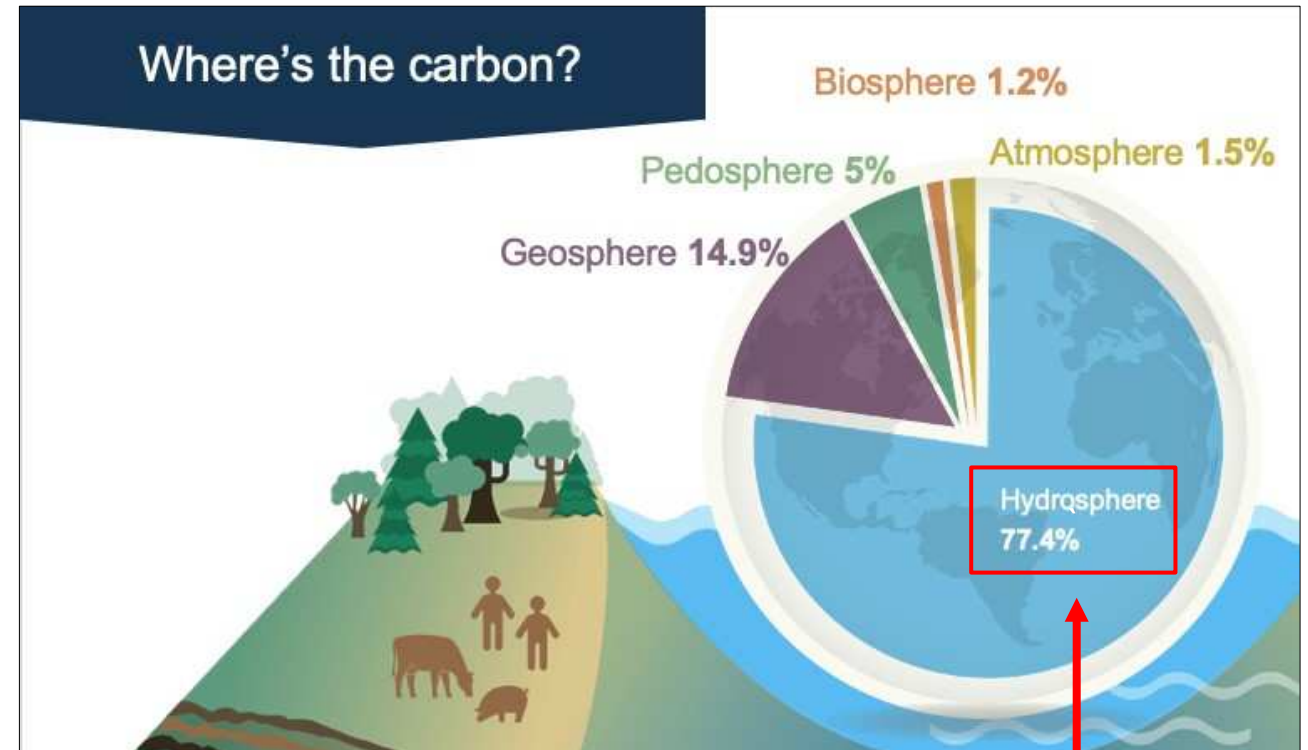
Jamie Hailstone Contributor @  
*I write about air quality and the environment.* [Follow](#)

Feb 9, 2022, 03:41am EST



TOPSHOT - A wave carrying plastic waste and other rubbish washes up on a beach in Koh Samui in the ... [+] AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Particles of paint account for more than half (58%) of all the microplastics that end up in the world's oceans and waterways every year, according to a new study.

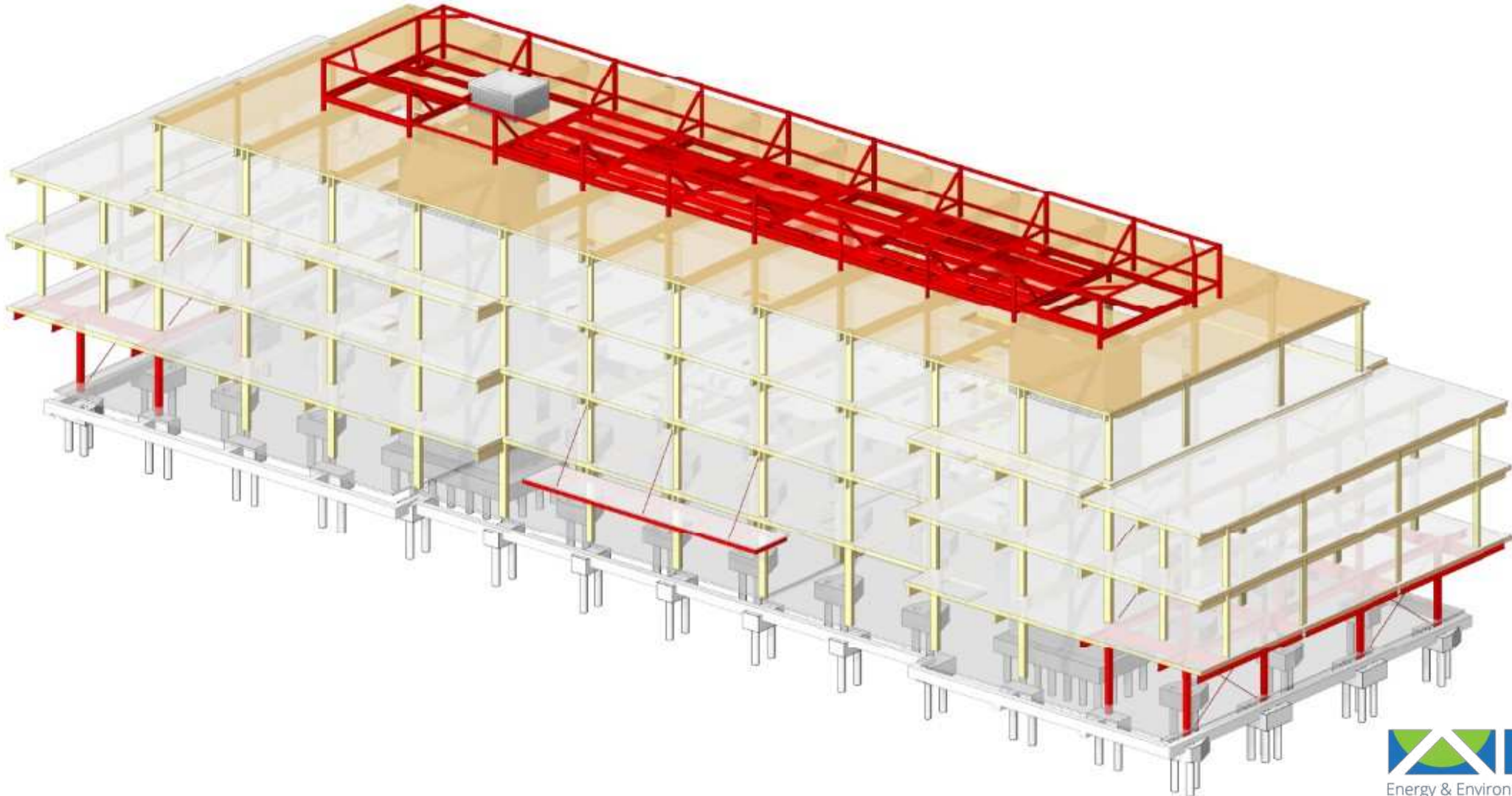




# Case Studies

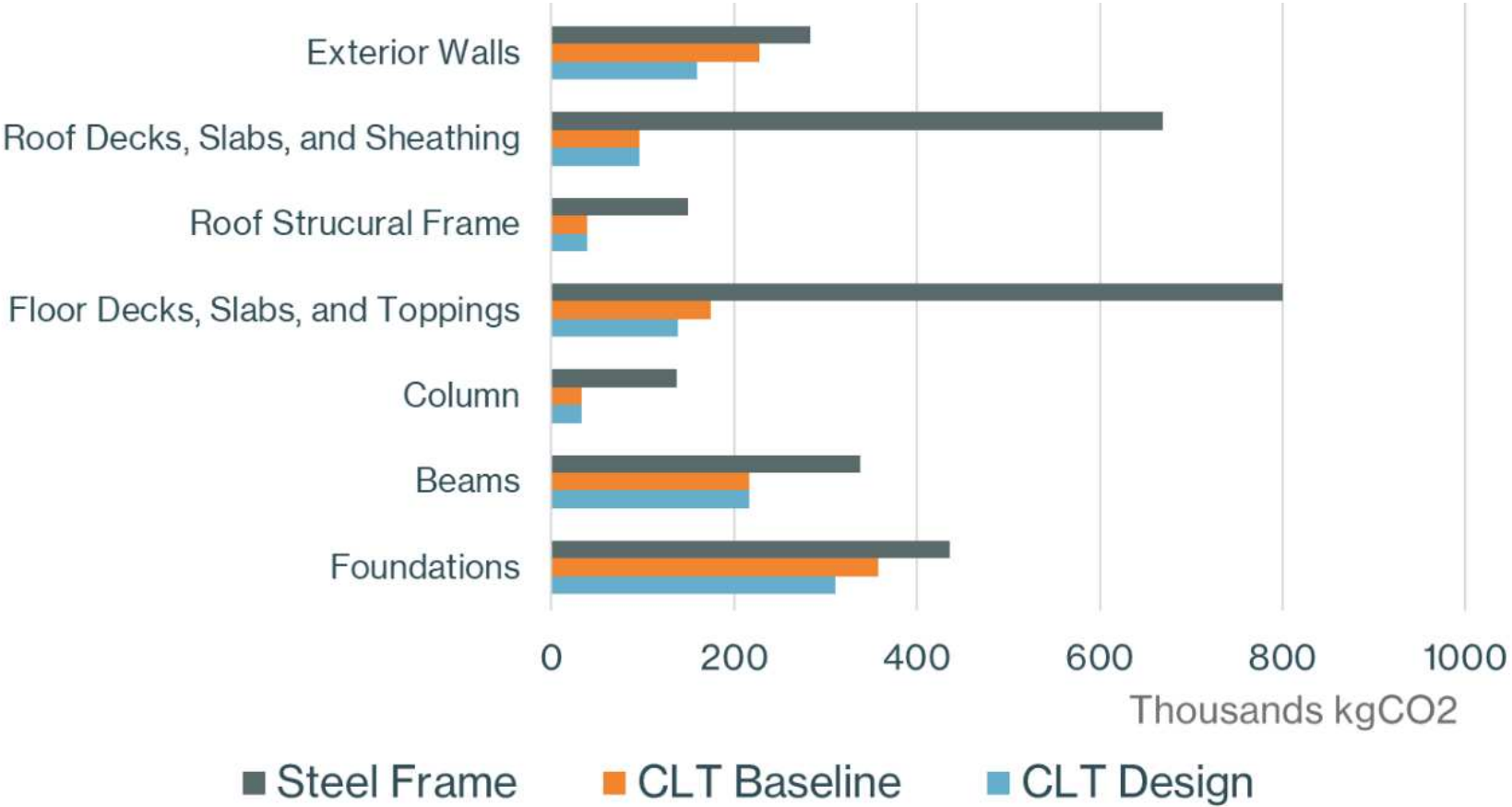
# BE+ EC Reduction Challenge

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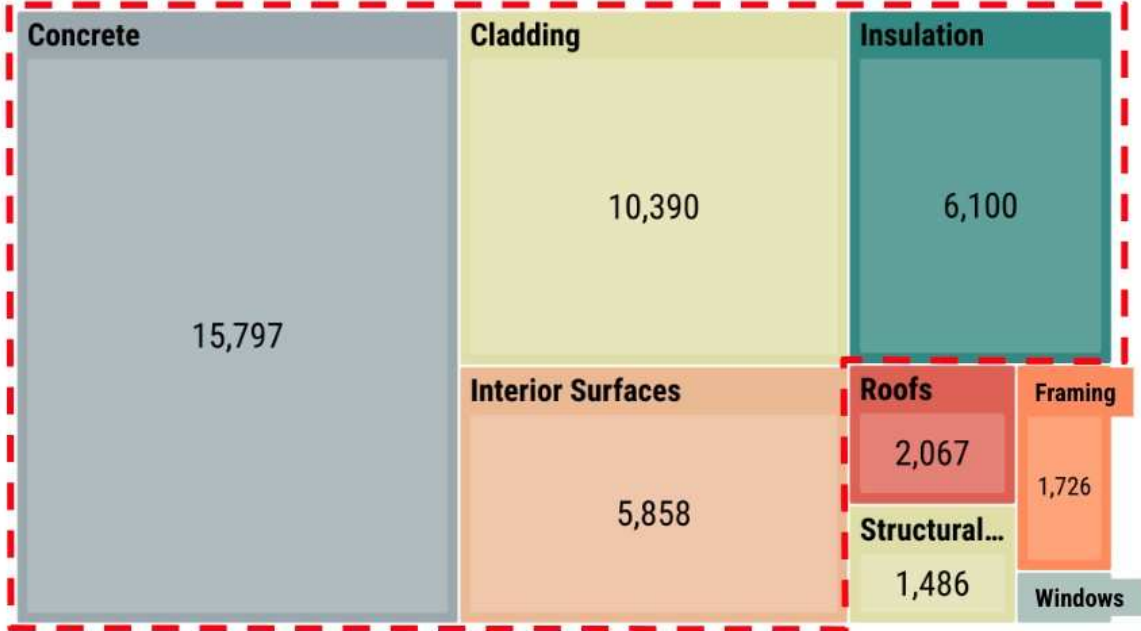
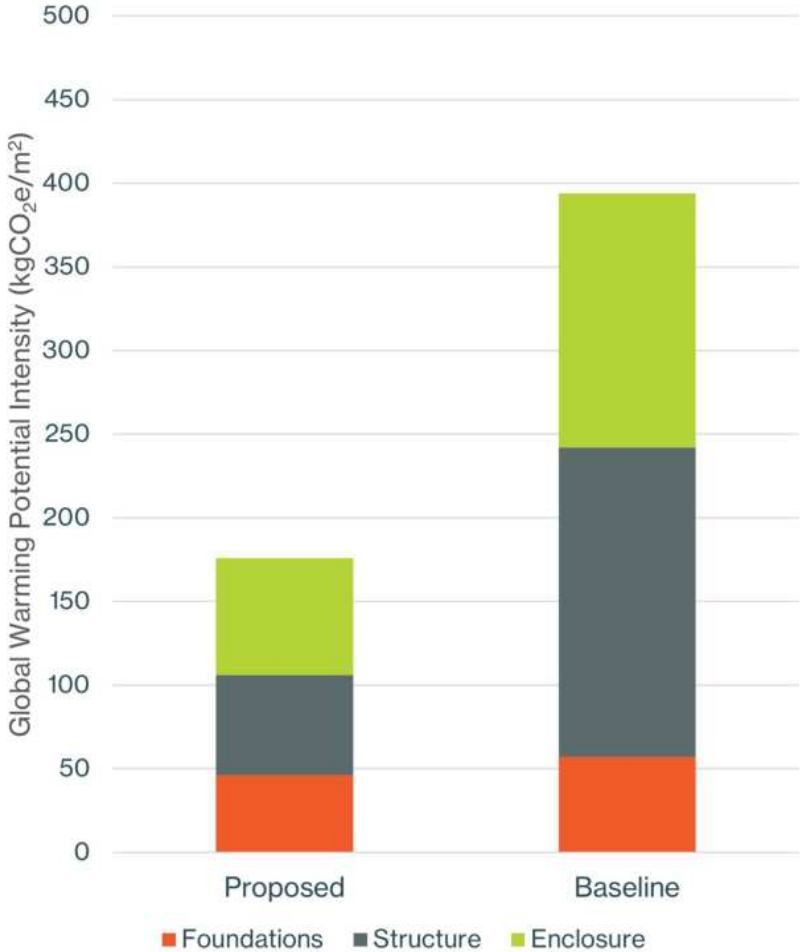


# BE+ EC Reduction Challenge

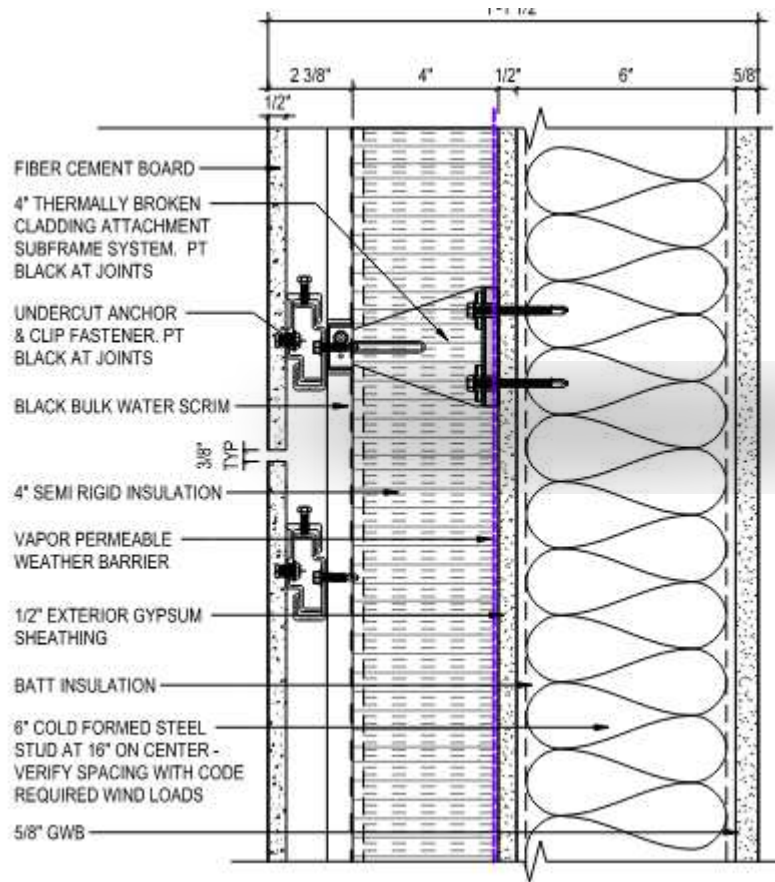


# BE+ EC Reduction Challenge

Embodied Carbon Comparison

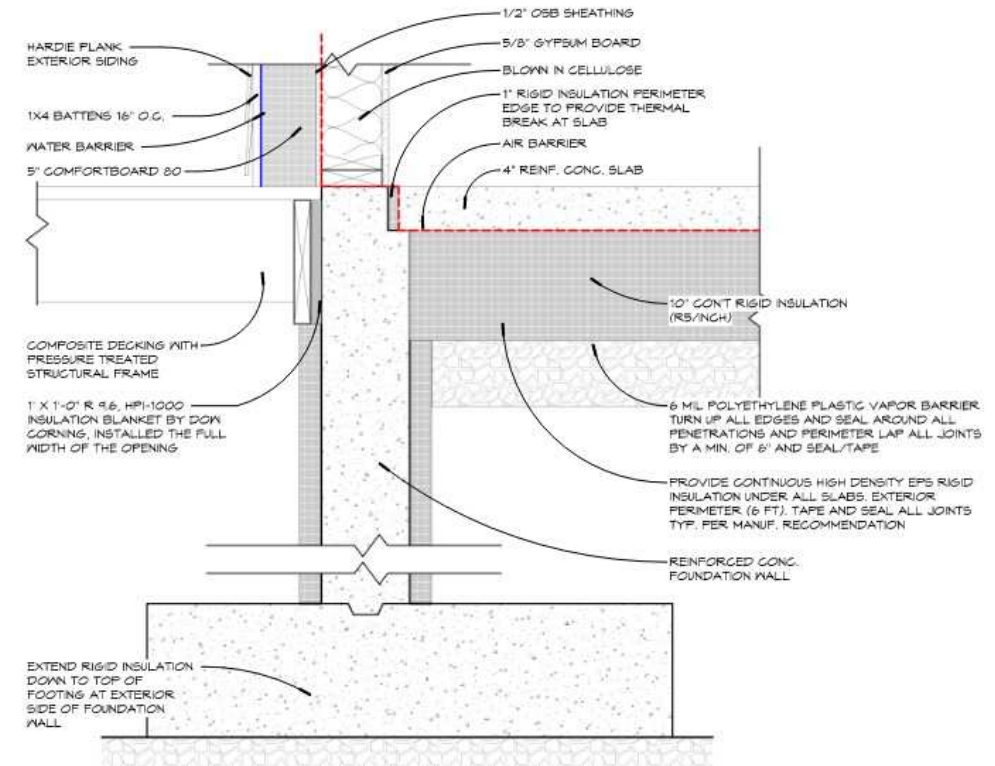


# BE+ EC Reduction Challenge





# Eagleville Green





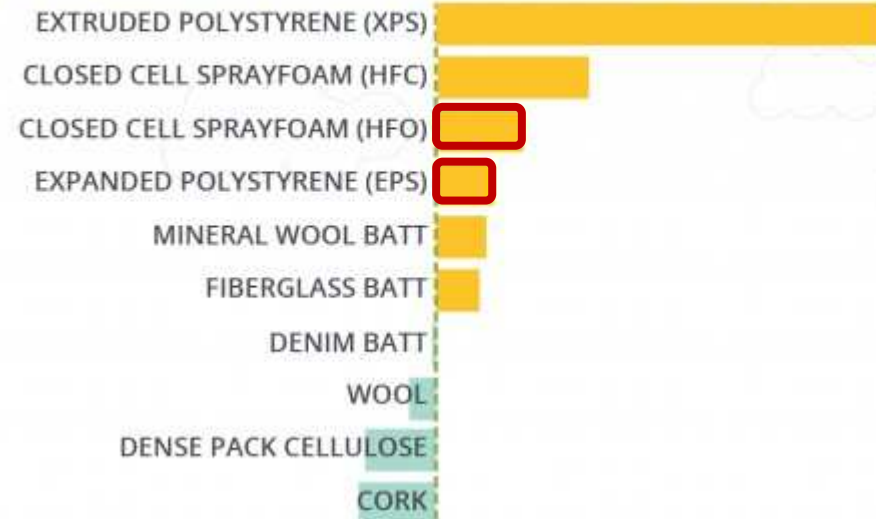
# Eagleville Green



## CARBON IMPACTS OF INSULATION

kgCO<sub>2</sub> represents R-20 at 234 m<sup>2</sup>

6,735 kgCO<sub>2</sub> emitted



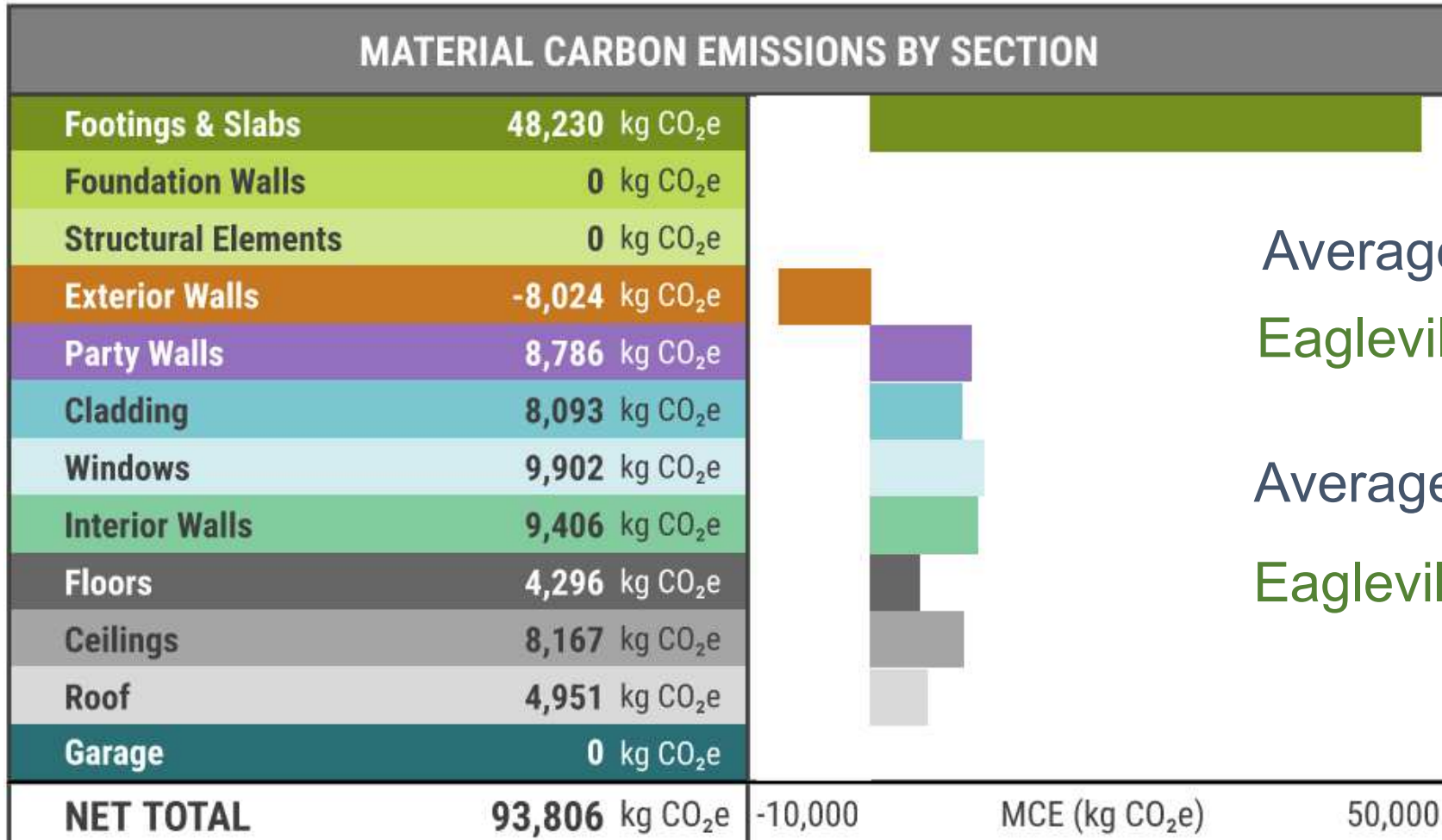


# Eagleville Green



Manufacturer	Product	R-value per inch	Global Warming Potential* (A1-A3) per 1m2
TimberHP	TimberBoard	3.6	- 10.3 kg CO2e
Gutex	Thermowall	5.7	- 1.2 kg CO2e
Rockwool	Comfortboard 80	4.2	4.937 kg CO2e
Knauf Insulation	Earthwool® Insulation Board	4.3	6.075 kg CO2e
Johns Manville	JM Cladstone 80	4.2	8.02 kg CO2 e
Owens Corning	Thermafiber® Fire & Sound Guard® Plus	3.5- 4.2	1.33 kg CO2e (Wabash plant) 8.78 kg CO2e (Joplin plant)

# Eagleville Green



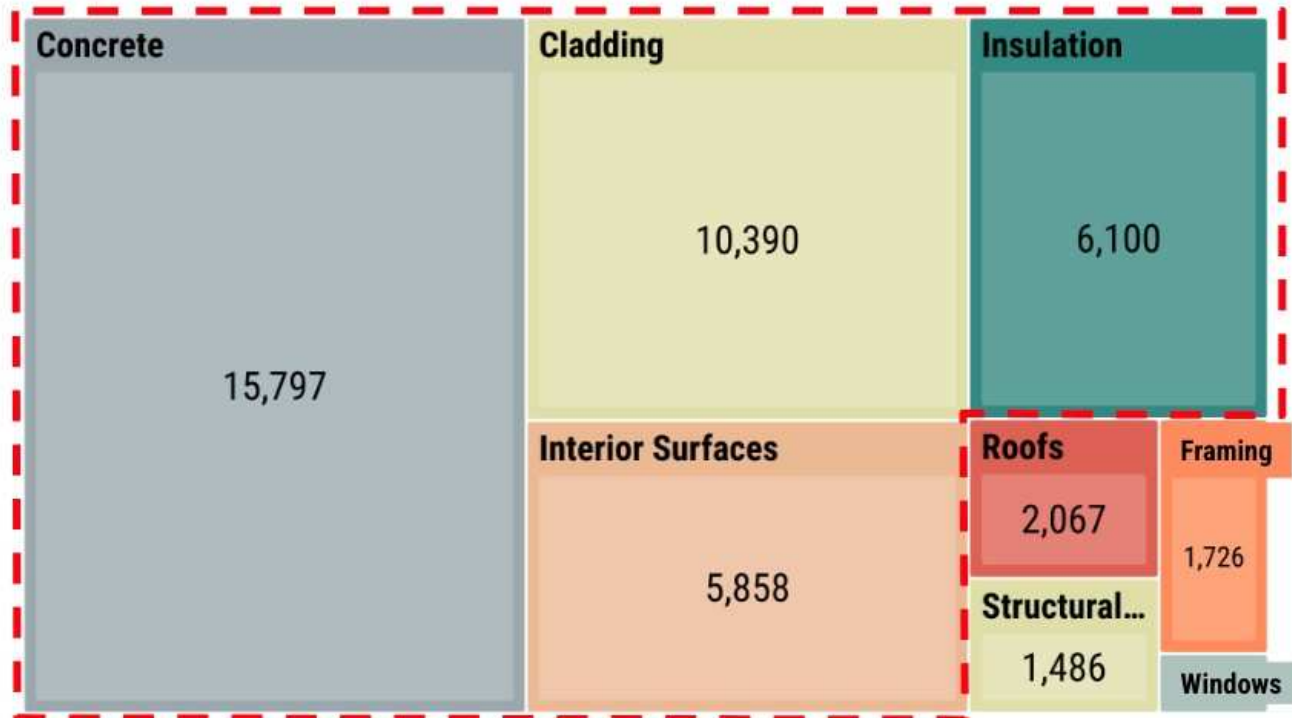
Average home is ~184 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>  
 Eagleville Green ~169 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e/m<sup>2</sup>

Average home is 4 beds (5 ppl)  
 Eagleville is 8 beds (14 ppl)

# Sample Case Study “Wrap Up” Slide

## Net Zero As-Built - MCE Results per material

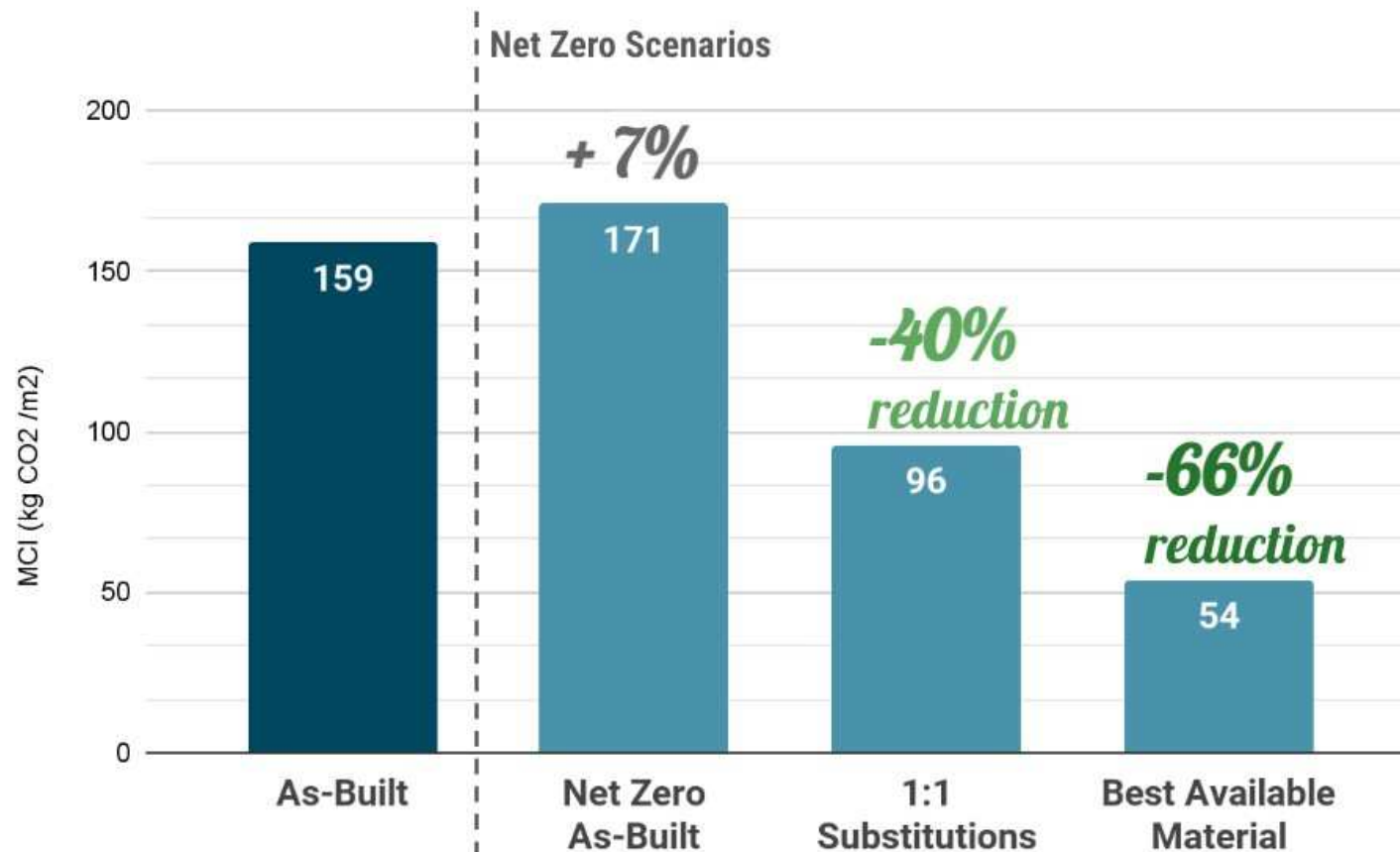
- 83%** MCE from 4 material categories :
- Concrete
  - Cladding
  - Insulation
  - Interior Surfaces



Net Zero As-Built - Total : 45,998 kg CO2e

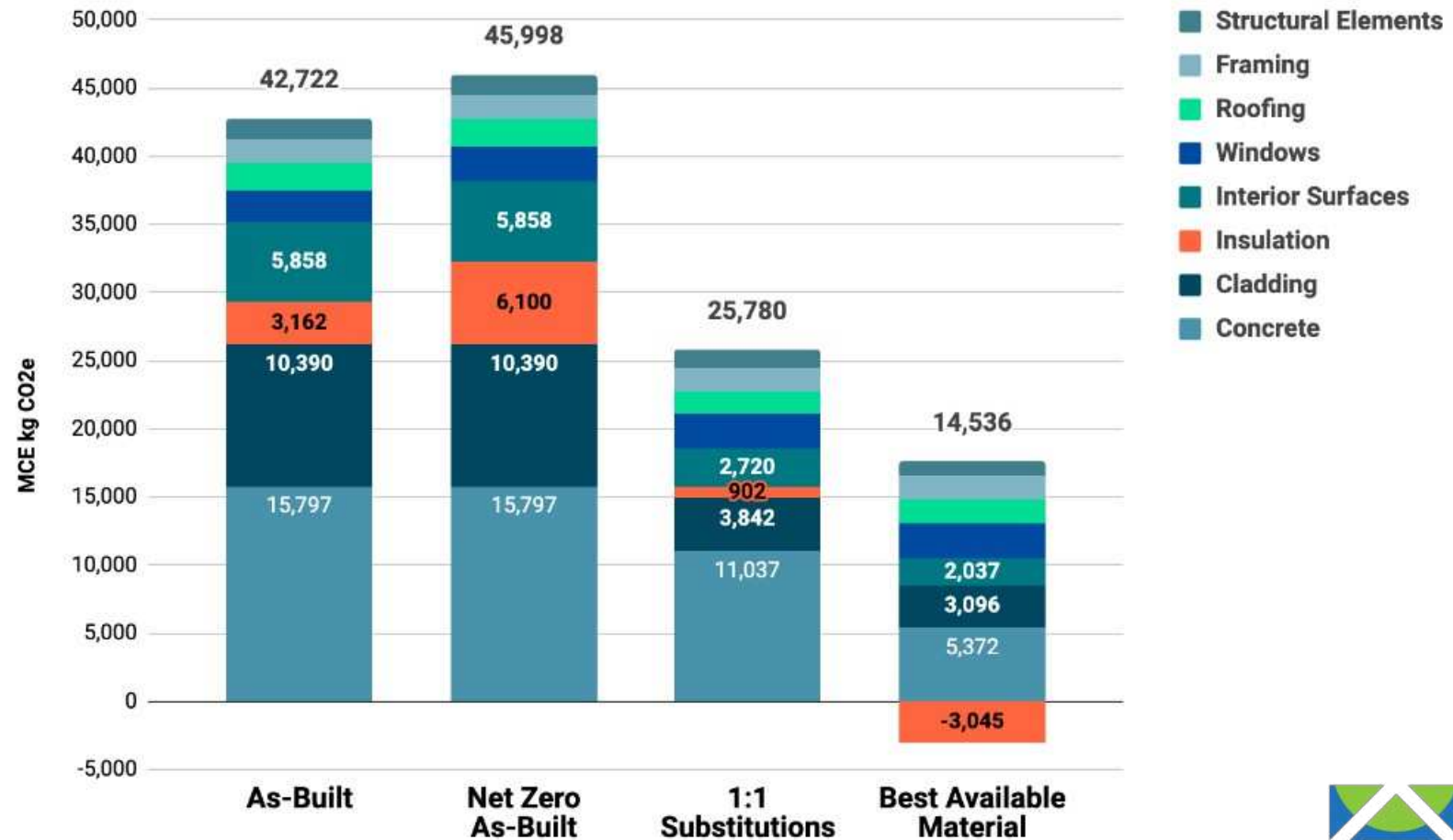
# Sample Case Study “Wrap Up” Slide

## Material Carbon Intensities of Different Scenarios



# Sample Case Study “Wrap Up” Slide

MCE per Material





start  
share questions  
**action**  
answer Analyze  
**Confer**  
Questions disagree  
**Discussion**  
Debate Discuss tools chat  
**Idea**  
concept  
**SOLUTION**  
RESOLVE  
**result**  
Discuss  
Agree

# Sample Workflow Slide



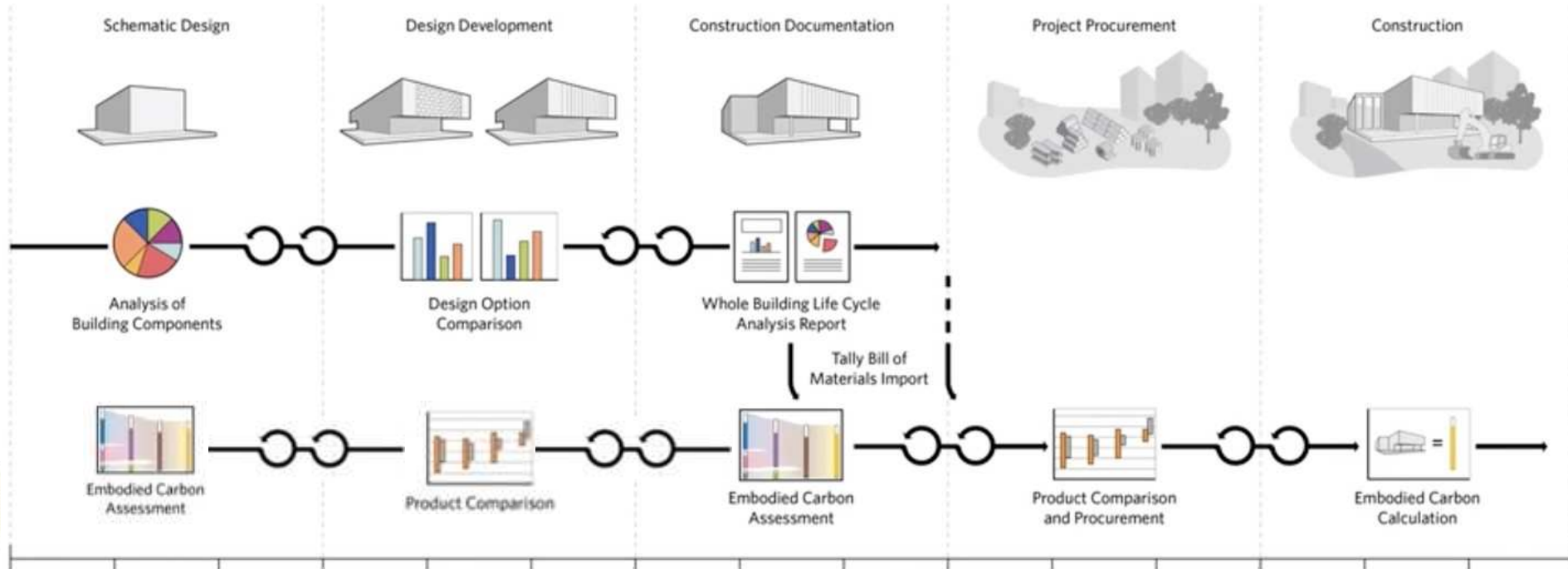
Athena Impact Estimator for Buildings



One Click LCA



BEAM  
BUILDING EMISSIONS ACCOUNTING FOR MATERIALS



Retrofit or Build?  
Massing / Program  
Materials Palette

Assemblies &  
Materials

Product  
Specification

Product  
Selection

Product Submittals &  
Verification



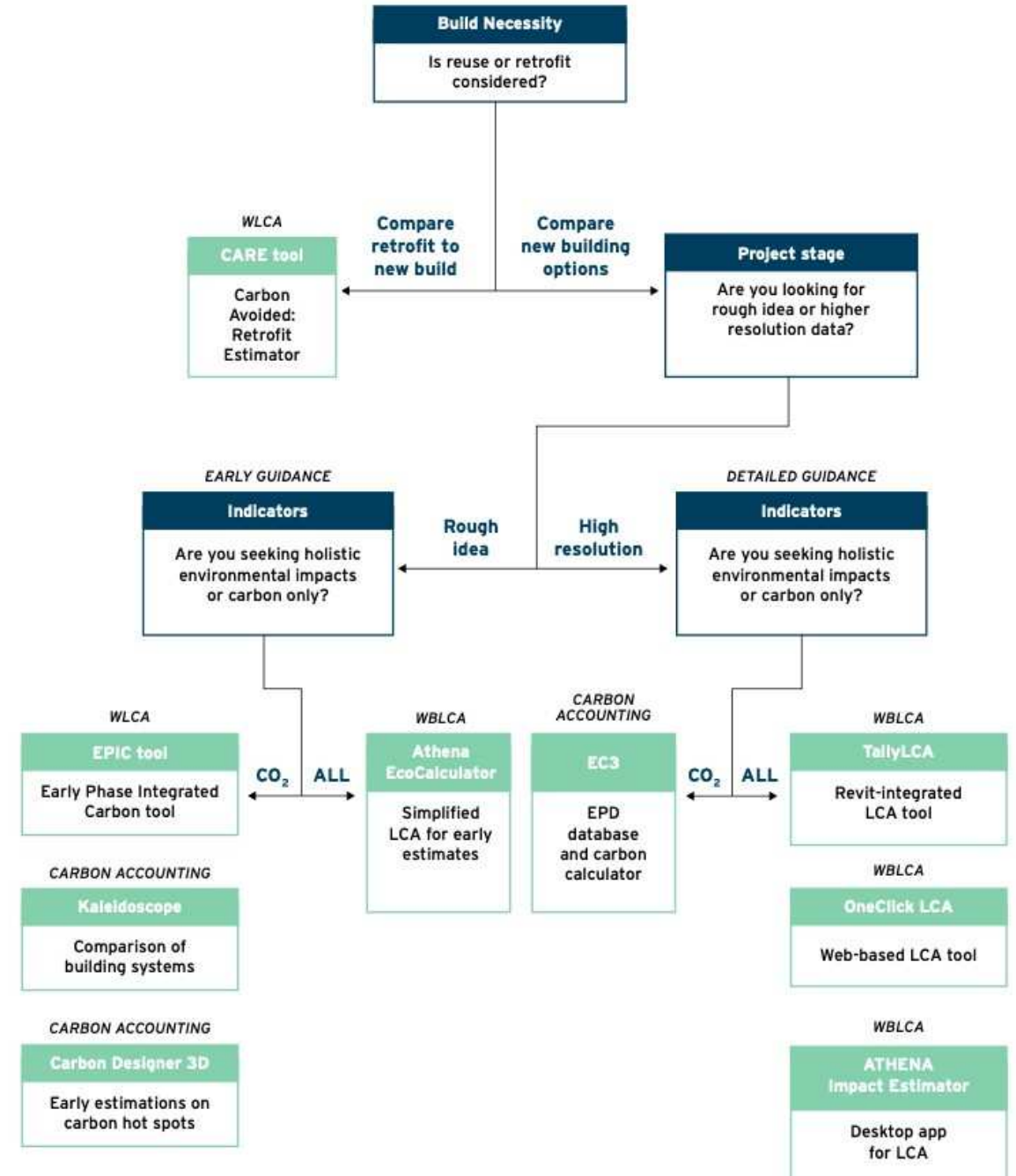
Kaleidoscope

16 JANUARY 2020 | © KT INNOVATIONS



# Sample Workflow Slide

## Decision tree for embodied carbon analysis



Source: Tracy Huynh, Chris Magwood, Victor Olgyay, Laurie Kerr, and Wes Sullens, Driving Action on Embodied Carbon in Buildings, RMI and U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), 2023, <https://rmi.org/insight/drivingaction-on-embodied-carbon-in-buildings/> and <https://www.usgbc.org/resources/driving-actionembodied-carbon-buildings>.

# Resources

TOOL	Early Design Hotspot	Enclosure Comparison	Individual Material Comparison	LCCA + ESG	Net Zero Carbon	Residential	Retrofit Avoided Carbon	Whole Building LCA
<u>Autocase</u>				x				
<u>BEAM</u>	x	x	x			x		
<u>Building Ease</u>			x					
<u>CARE</u>							x	
<u>COVE</u>	x							
<u>EC3</u>			x					
<u>eTool</u>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<u>Kaleidoscope</u>		x						
<u>OneClick</u>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<u>PH Ribbon</u>		x			x			
<u>Tally</u>	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
<u>ZGF</u>			x					