



STRUCTURAL
ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE



Agency and Action in a Changing Climate:

How SE 2050 Seeds Opportunity for Structural Engineers

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KU
SCHOOL OF
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The University of Kansas

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Hometown: Olathe, KS

Structural Engineer

**Thornton
Tomasetti**

Highrise, Seismic Design

Co-Lead of CLF-LA

Sustainability Consultant

BURO HAPPOLD

Co-Chair of SE 2050



LEARNING OBJECTIVES

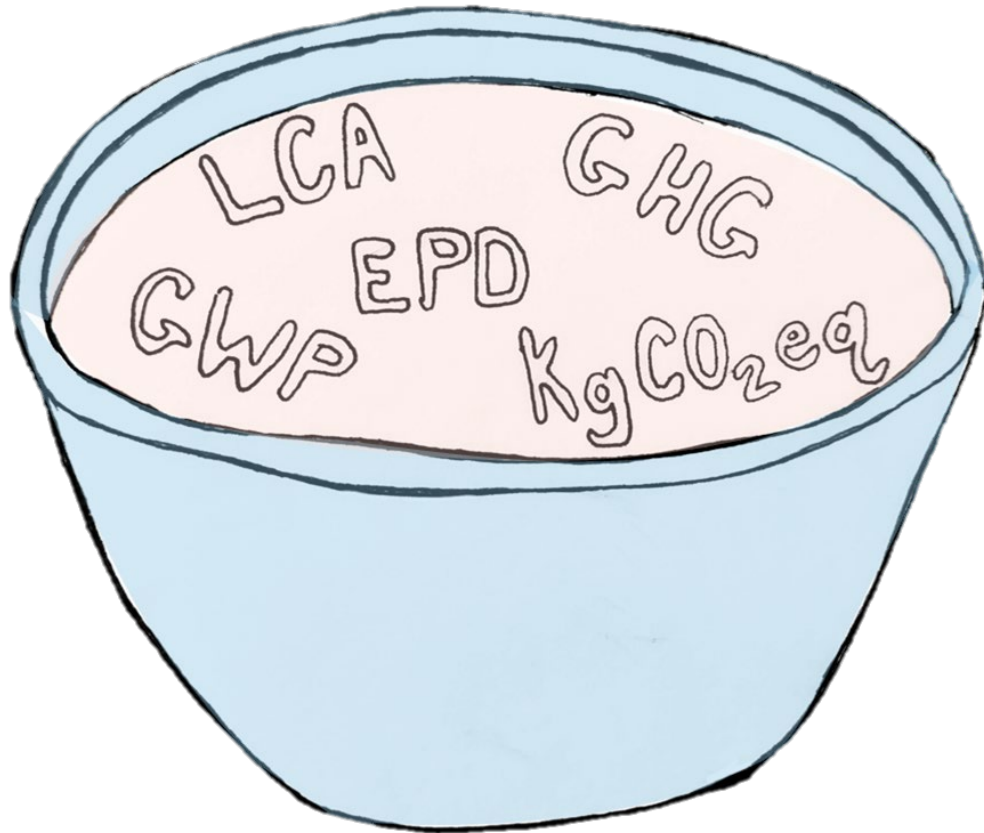
1. Understand and be able to **define embodied carbon**
1. Clearly be able to **communicate the value structural engineers bring** to clients and projects when considering embodied carbon
1. Learn about the **resources available** to structural engineers on se2050.org

AGENDA

- What is **Embodied Carbon**?
- What is **SE 2050**?
 - Program Requirements
 - Database
 - Resources
- How can we address reducing **Embodied Carbon**?
 - Design Efficiency
 - Material Specification and Procurement
- What **Opportunities** exist for structural engineers?

What is Embodied Carbon?

Terms and Definitions



GHG

Greenhouse Gas

GWP

Global Warming Potential

kgCO₂eq

unit of measure for GWP, i.e.

“carbon”

EPD

Environmental Product

Declaration

LCA

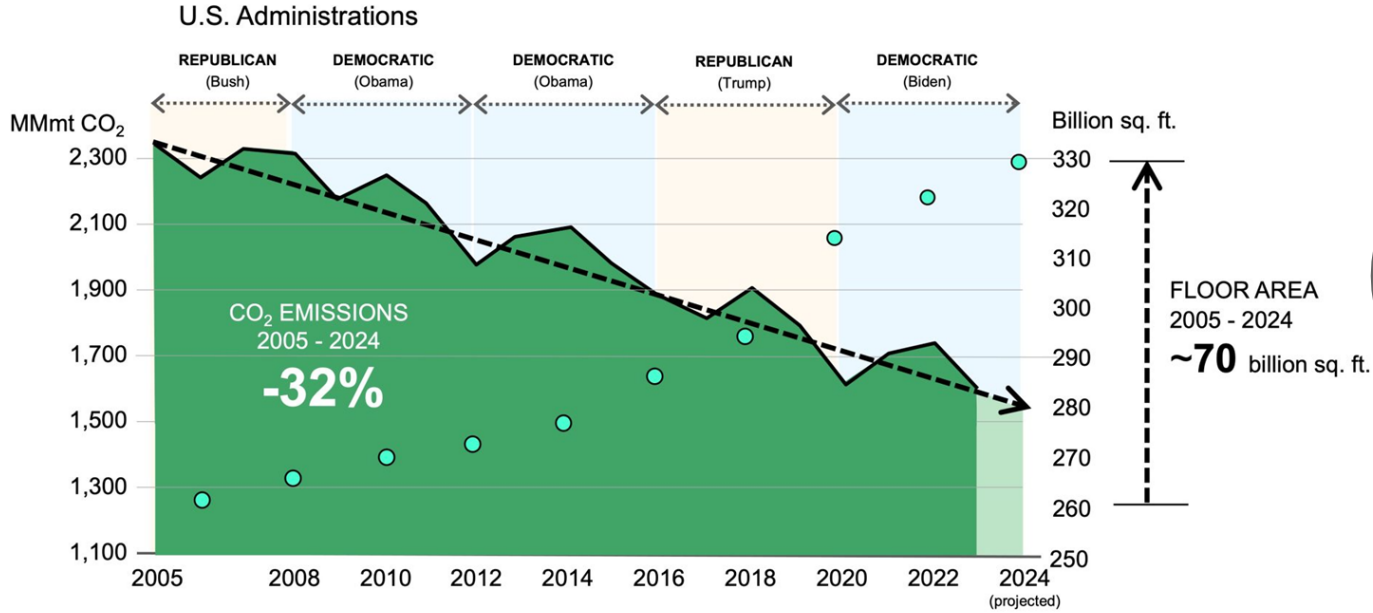
Life Cycle Assessment

WBLCA

Whole Building Life Cycle







Success!
Reduced emissions
while continuing to
build

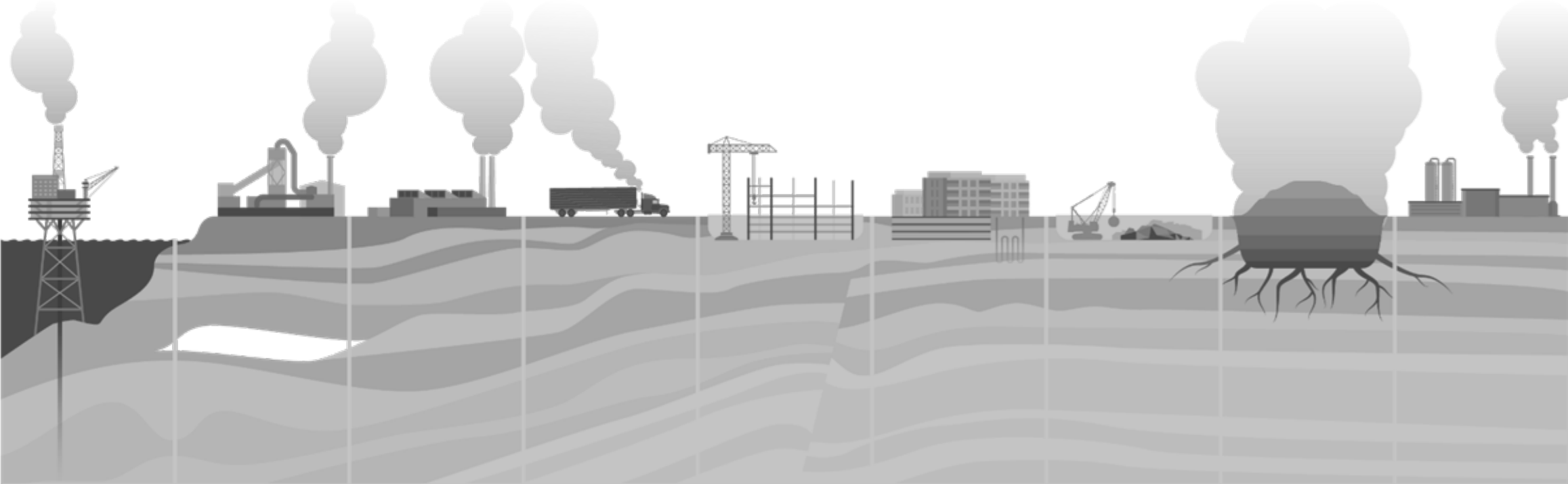
Source: Architecture 2030, U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Monthly Energy Review, December 2024

● floor area
 ■ CO₂ emissions

U.S. Building Sector
Operations CO₂ Emissions & Floor Area
 (2005 – 2024)



Embodied Carbon is...



1

Extraction

2

Processing

3

Manufacturing

4

Transportation

5

Construction

6

Operation

7

Demolition

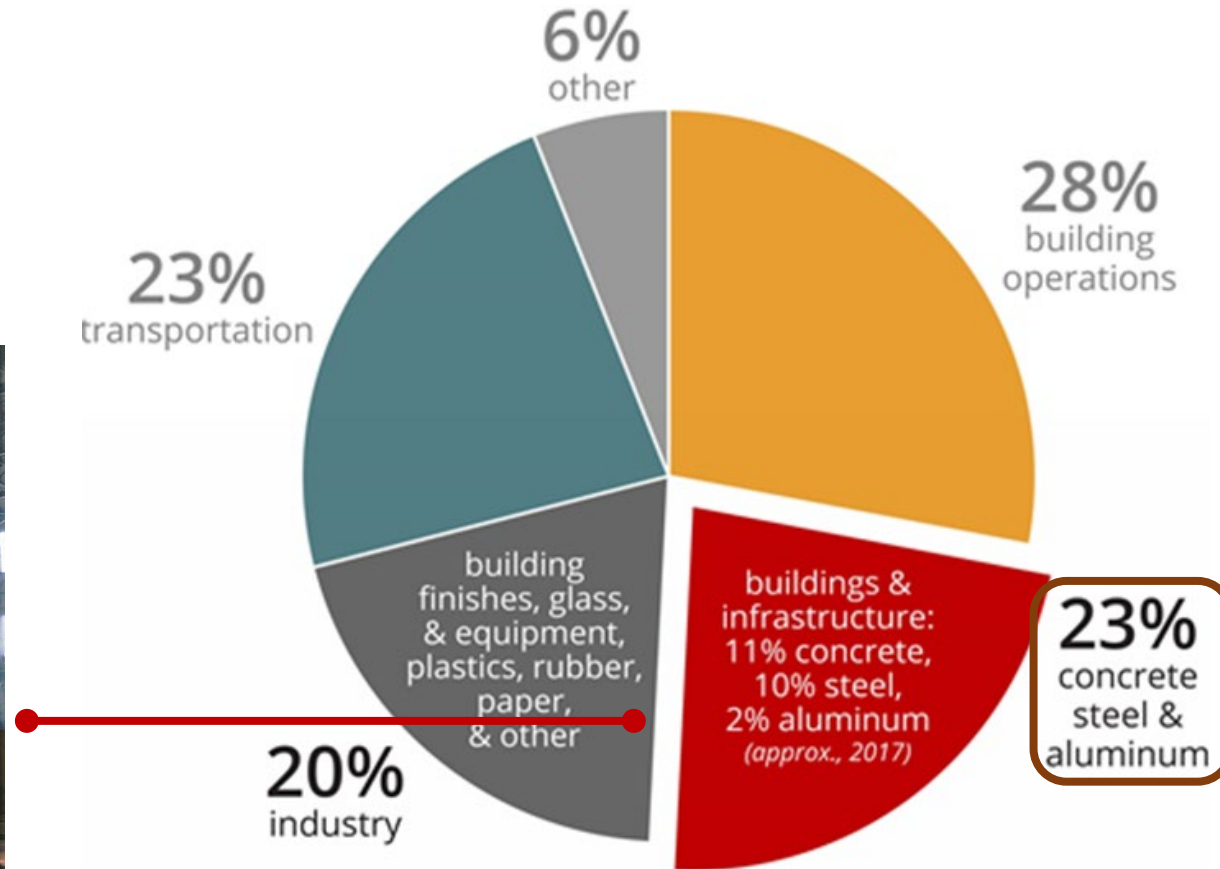
8

Landfill

9

Recycling

Global CO2 Emissions by Sector



Source: © 2020 2030 Inc. / Architecture 2030. All Rights Reserved.
Data Sources: Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction, 2018 Global Status Report; IEA



We're building a new **New York City** every month for the next 30 years

Source: Architecture 2030

Contextualizing the Impact of Structural Engineers

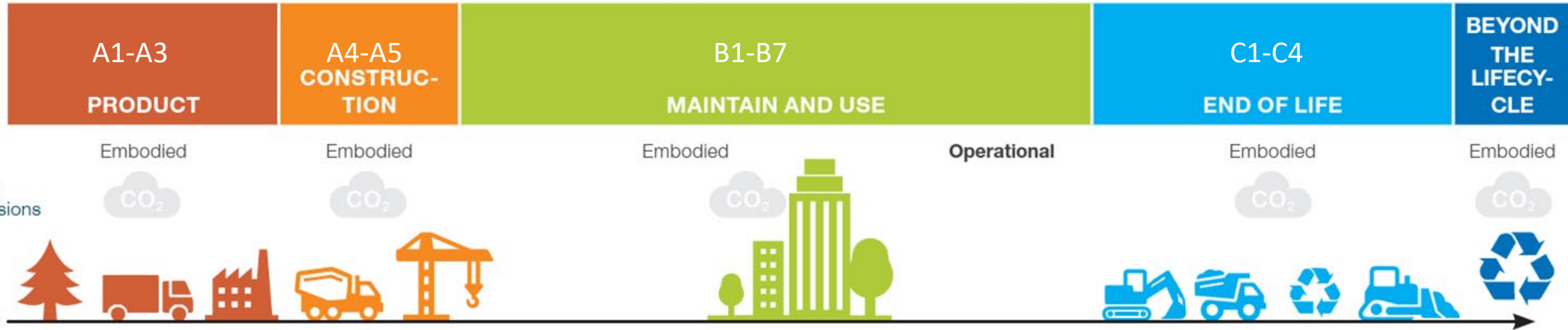


Cement Manufacturing *Mojave, CA*



Stages of Whole Life Carbon

STAGE And Module



Credit: NBI

Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)

Food Nutritional Labels

Health Impacts

Nutrition Facts			
Serving Size 2/3 cup (55g)			
Servings Per Container About 8			
Amount Per Serving			
Calories	230	Calories from Fat 40	
		% Daily Value*	
Total Fat	8g		12%
Saturated Fat	1g		5%
Trans Fat	0g		
Cholesterol	0mg		0%
Sodium	160mg		7%
Total Carbohydrate	37g		12%
Dietary Fiber	4g		16%
Sugars	1g		
Protein	3g		
Vitamin A			10%
Vitamin C			8%
Calcium			20%
Iron			45%

* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily value may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs.

	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less than	20g	25g
Cholesterol	Less than	300mg	300mg
Sodium	Less than	2,400mg	2,400mg
Total Carbohydrate		300g	375g
Dietary Fiber		25g	30g

Product EPDs

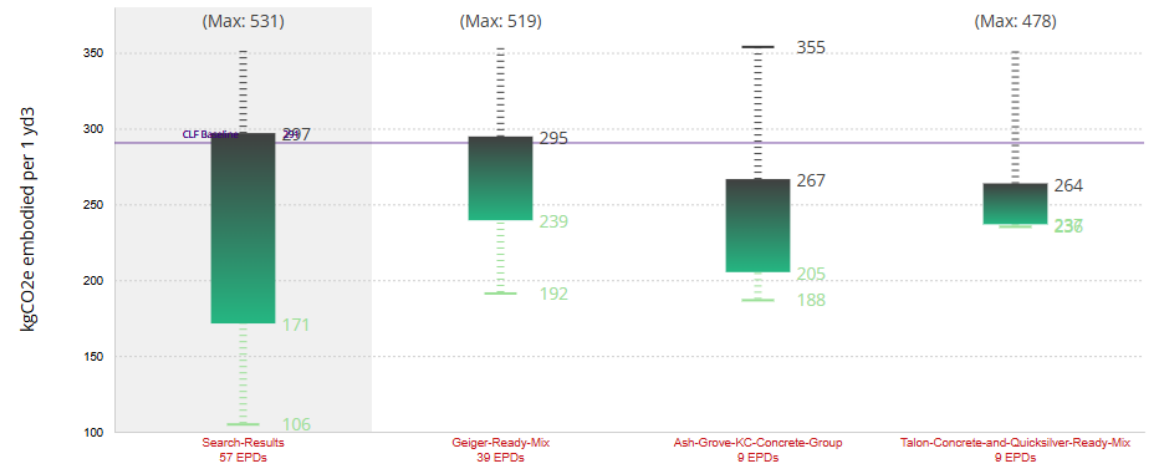
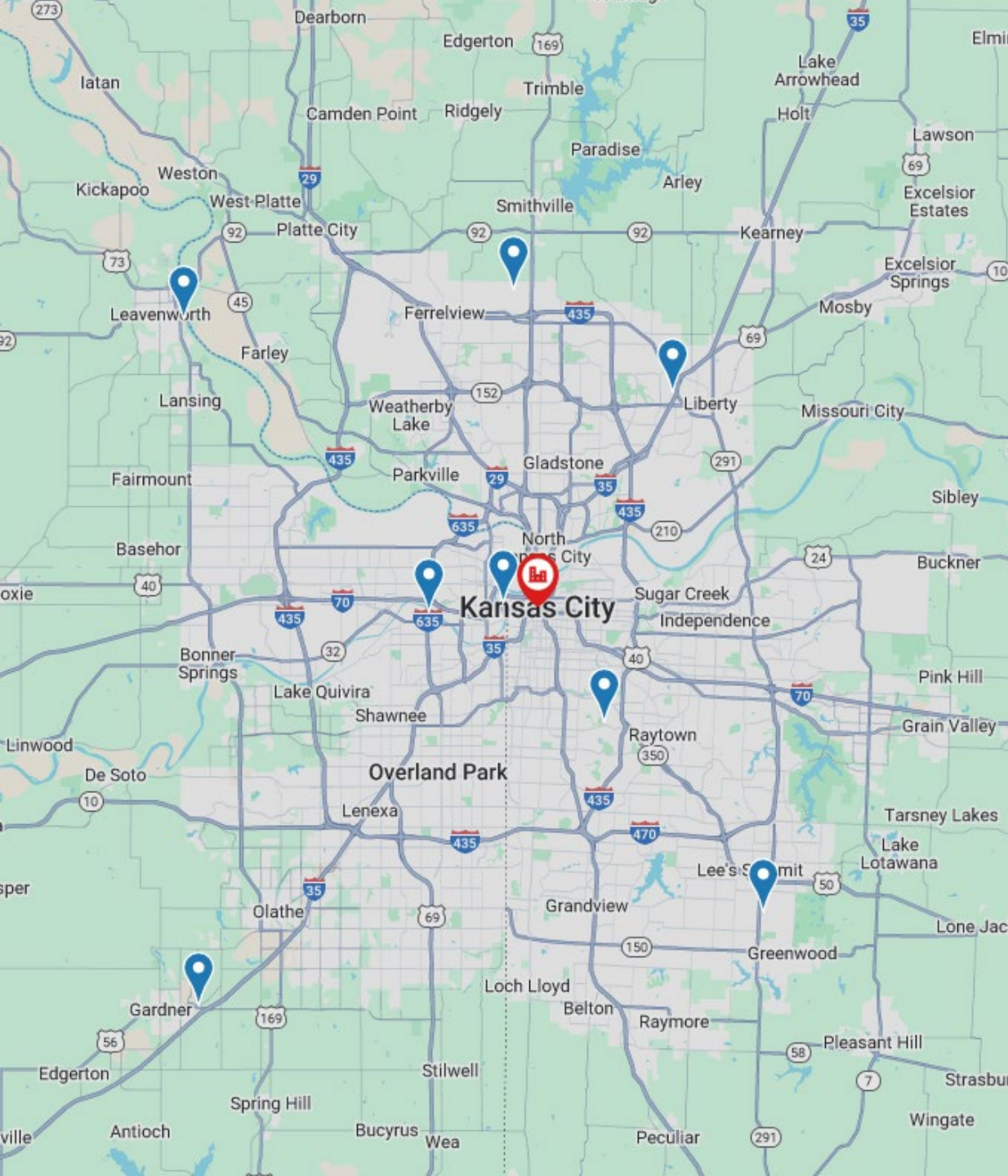
Environmental Impacts

Environmental Impacts	
Declared Product: Mix 4F05C5Q1 • Bode Plant EF50 Gen Use 4" line w/c .50 Compressive strength: 4000 psi at 28 days	
Declared Unit: 1 m ³ of concrete	
Global Warming Potential (kg CO₂-eq)	272
Ozone Depletion Potential (kg CFC-11-eq)	7.4E-6
Acidification Potential (kg SO ₂ -eq)	2.06
Eutrophication Potential (kg N-eq)	0.37
Photochemical Smog Creation Potential (kg O ₃ -eq)	53.8
Total Primary Energy Consumption (MJ)	2,577
Nonrenewable (MJ)	2,504
Renewable (MJ)	70.7
Total Concrete Water Consumption (m³)	3.65
Batching Water (m ³)	0.09
Washing Water (m ³)	8.8E-3
Nonrenewable Material Resource Consumption (kg)	2,494
Renewable Material Resource Consumption (kg)	1.57
Hazardous Waste Production (kg)	0.01
Nonhazardous Waste Production (kg)	2.76

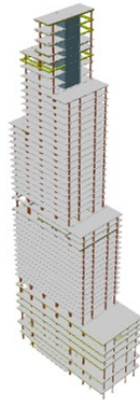
Product Components: crushed aggregate (ASTM C33), Portland cement (ASTM C150), slag cement (ASTM C989), fly ash (ASTM C618), admixture (ASTM C494), batch water (ASTM C1602)

- EPDs are LCAs of Products
- Third Party Verified
- ISO 14044 & EN 15804
- Avoids Greenwashing
- EPDs can be Industry Average or Manufacturer / Plant / Product Specific

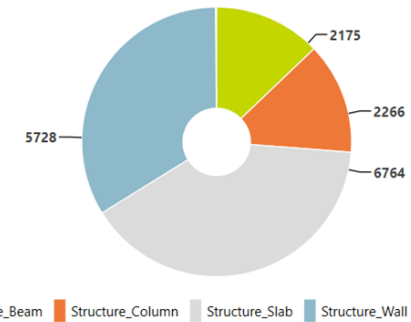
Concrete EPDs in the KC Metro Area



Running the Calc



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Photochemical Ozone Creation Potential (kg O ₃ e)	28.9
Abiotic Depletion, non-fossil (kg Sb-e)	3.4E-6
Abiotic Depletion, fossil (MJ)	667
Total Waste Disposed (kg)	3.19
Consumption of Freshwater (m ³)	2.90
Product Components: crushed aggregate (ASTM C33), natural aggregate (ASTM C33), Portland cement (ASTM C150), fly ash (ASTM C618), admixture (ASTM C494), batch water (ASTM C1602)	



Quantities of Building Materials

From BIM takeoff or hand calculation

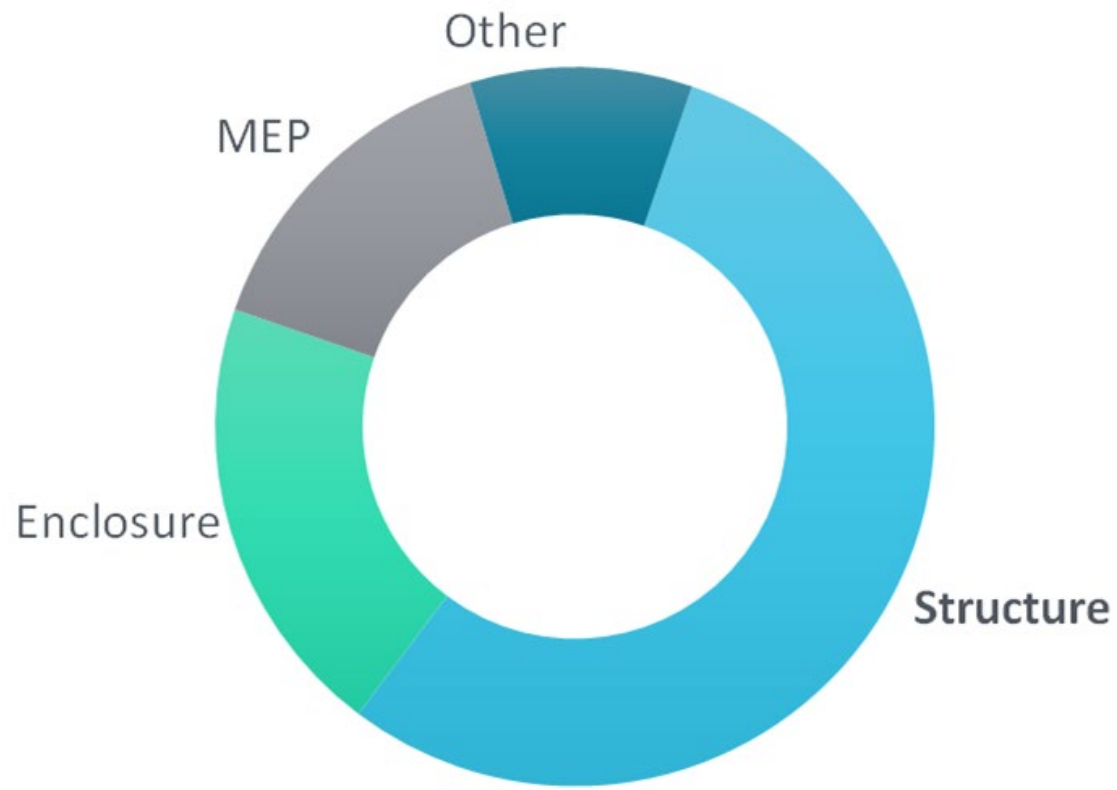
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GWP per material
(kgCO₂e/unit)

from Material EPDs or other aggregated data

=

Whole Building GWP
(kgCO₂e)



Say **50%** of all new building embodied carbon is from **structure**
About **1.9 billion metric tons CO2** per year

What is SE 2050?

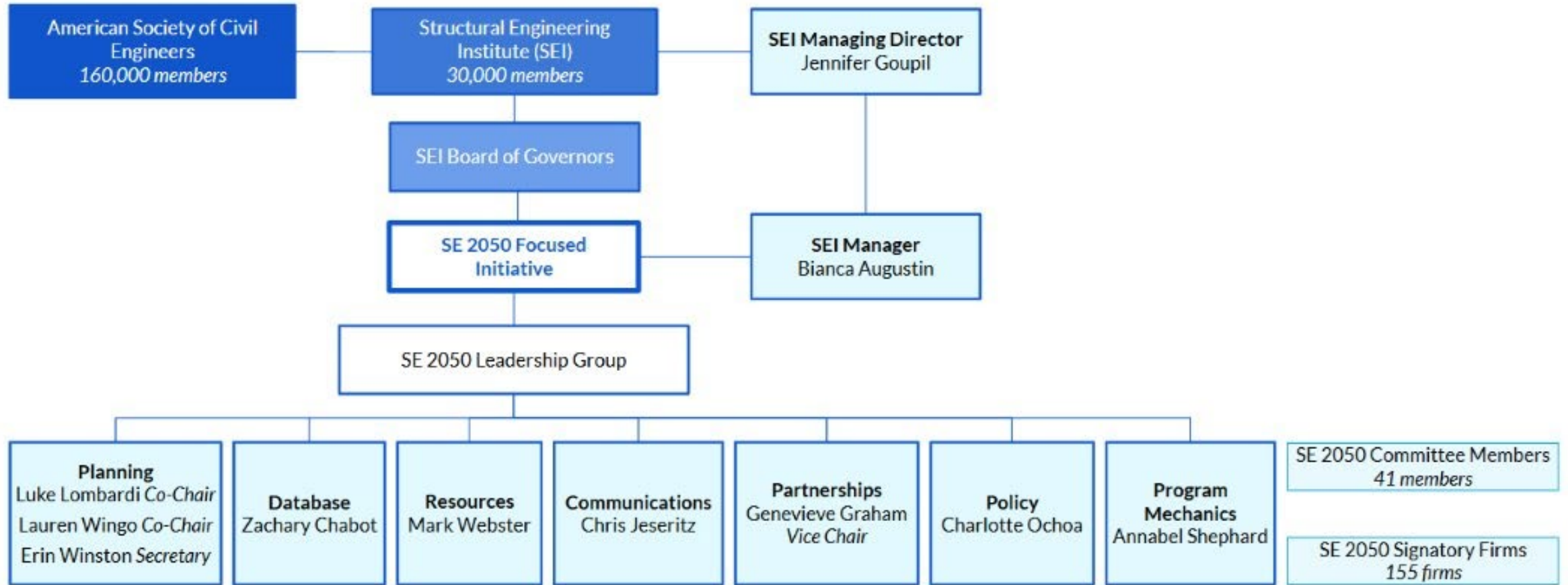


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www.SE2050.org

Org Structure & Focus Initiative



PROGRAM STATS – SIGNATORY FIRMS



Firms
Committed

+150



Projects Submitted
to Database (Public)

+1,000

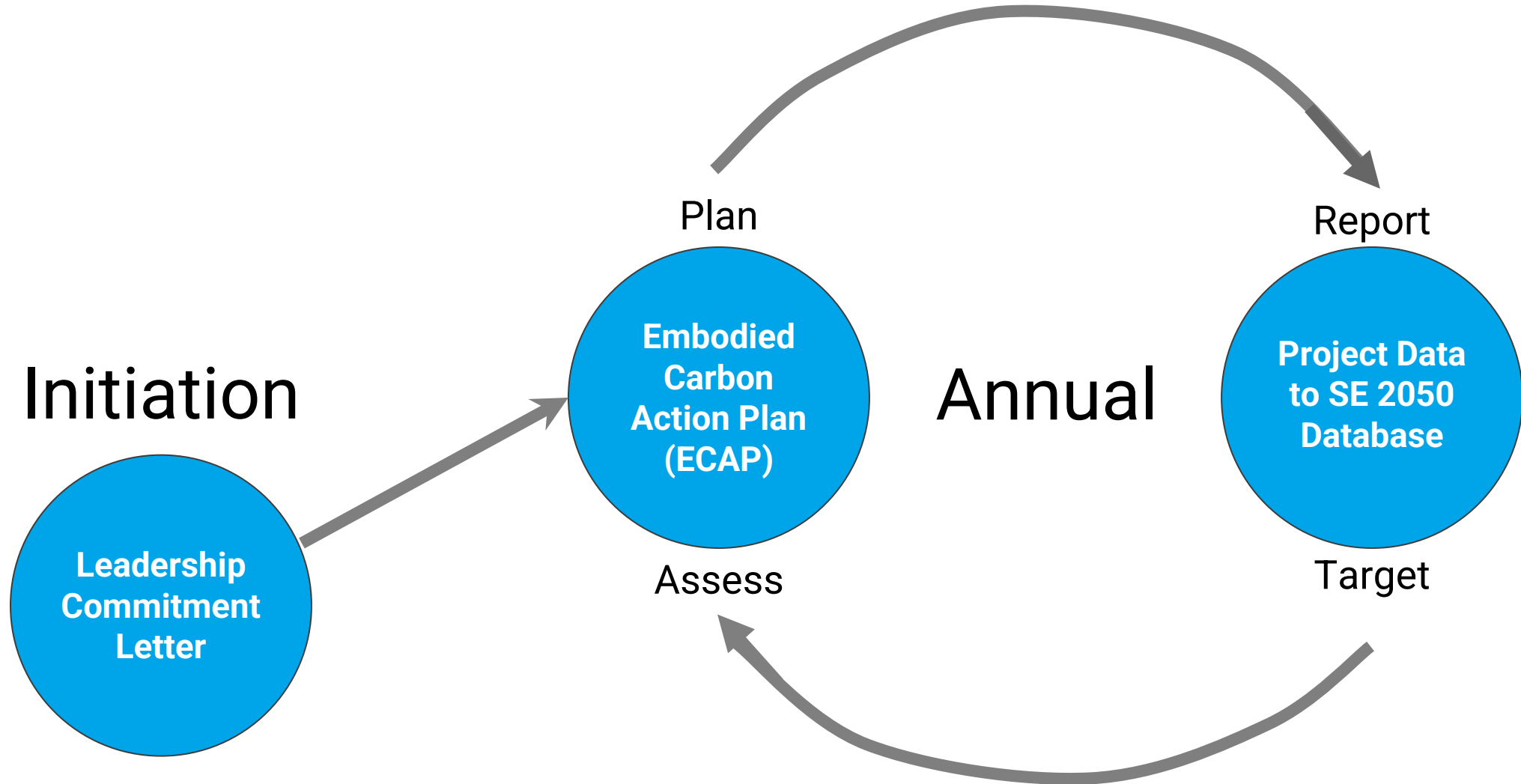


ECAPs
Received

+250

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

HOW IT WORKS



EMBODIED CARBON ACTION PLAN (ECAP)

	KNOWLEDGE SHARING	DATA
INTERNAL	<p>Education</p> <p>Building Understanding</p>	<p>Reporting</p> <p>Measuring to Manage</p>
EXTERNAL	<p>Advocacy</p> <p>Building a culture of change</p>	<p>Reduction</p> <p>Strategies Making an Impact</p>

- Designate Firmwide Embodied Carbon Champion
- Write up an Education Plan
- Share an Embodied Carbon 101 Presentation/Webinar
- *+lots of optional “electives”*



Education Spotlight



MEMBERS OF THE DEGENKOLB SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND
WORKPLACE COMMITTEES AT OUR ANNUAL INTERNAL
CONFERENCE IN SAN FRANCISCO



ACTIONS

2023

- ✓ Continued to host and increase engagement in firm-wide Embodied Carbon Interest Group (ECIG)
- ✓ Created an internal resource hub to share tools, presentations, and upcoming events
- ✓ Achieved committee involvement across our offices

2024

- ▶ Engage an embodied carbon expert at every office
- ▶ Expand onboarding education
- ▶ Host an external presenter to discuss embodied carbon

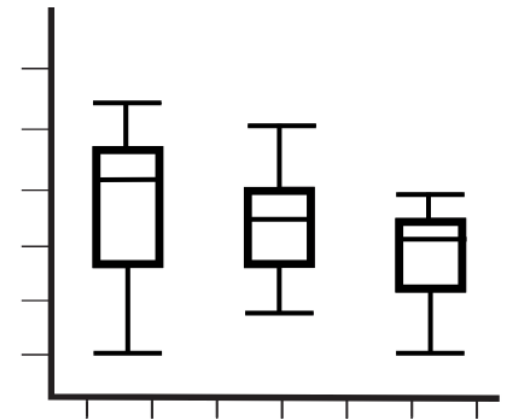
BEYOND

- ★ Provide every Degenkolber with baseline knowledge and access to resources for embodied carbon reduction on every project
- ★ Engage in industry sustainability committees in all of our geographic regions

- Initial Reporting Minimums to Database
 - 2x** number of firm offices
 - but not more than
 - 5** Projects

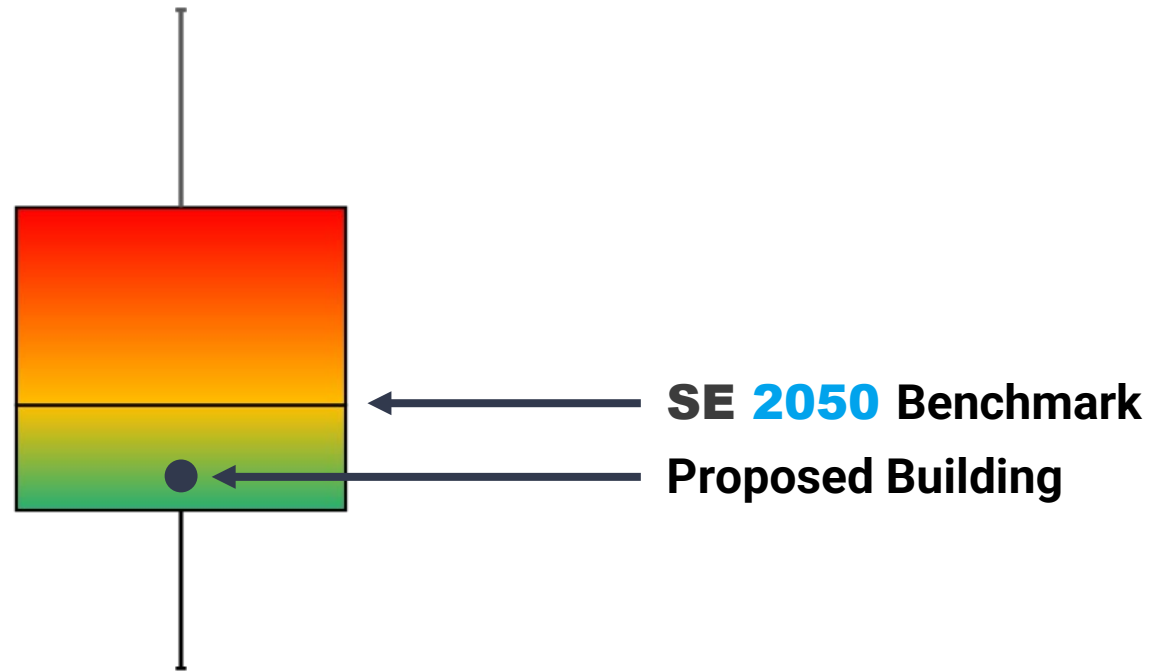
Education

Reporting



SE 2050 DATABASE

EMBODIED CARBON BENCHMARKS



SE 2050 BETA DATABASE

Priorities:

Familiarize structural firms with embodied carbon reporting

Collect GWP results at minimum

Increase visibility of need for embodied carbon benchmarks

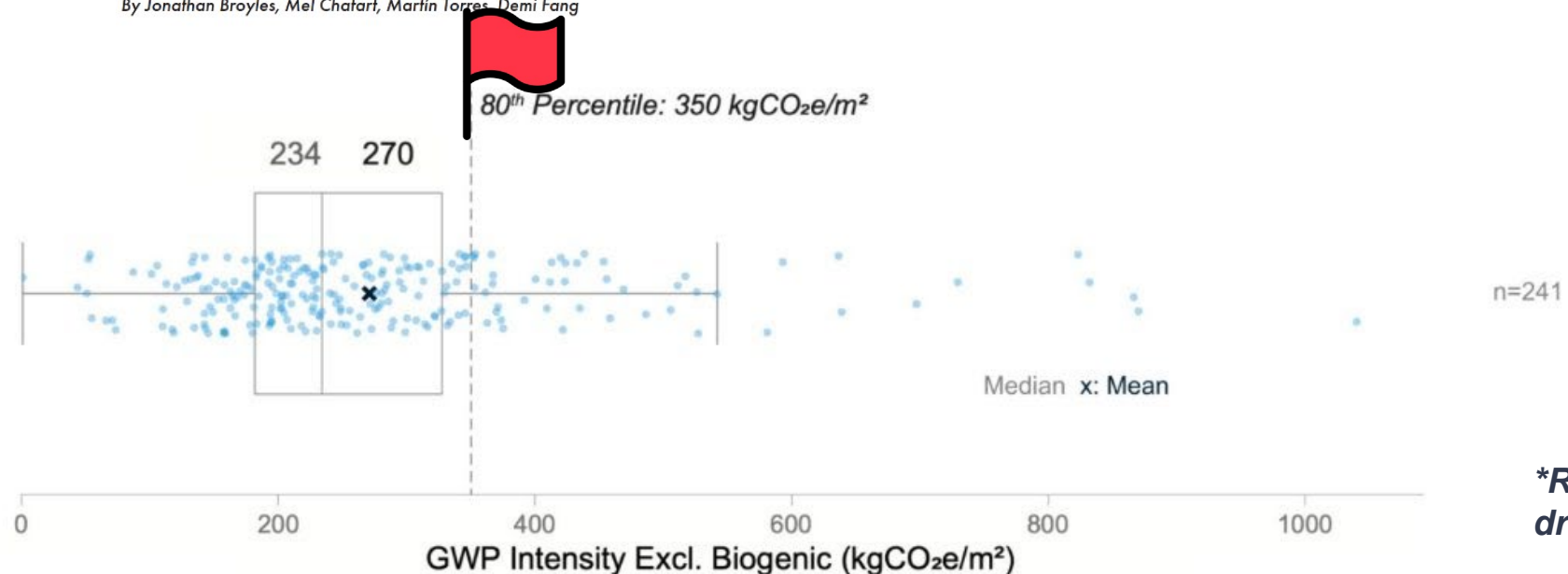
EMBODIED CARBON BENCHMARKS

sustainable DESIGN

Data Insights From Over 500 Building Projects for Low-Carbon Structures

Since 2020, the SE 2050 Commitment Program has collected emissions data of over 500 building projects with corresponding structural design characteristics. Key takeaways from the inaugural analysis of the database are shared here.

By Jonathan Broyles, Mel Chafart, Martin Torres, Demi Fang



**Red flag added for dramatic effect*

Reporting Spotlight



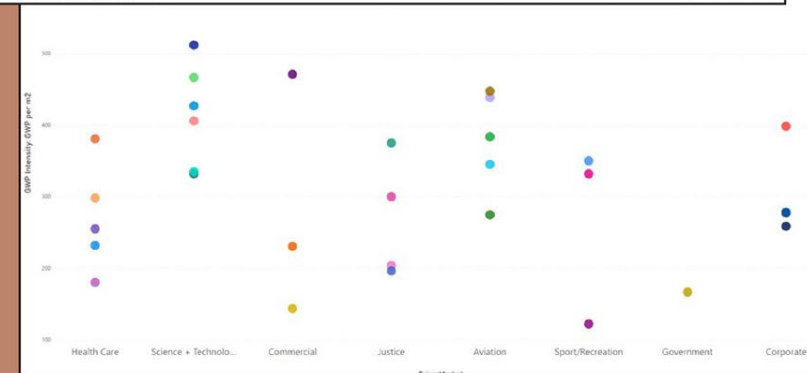
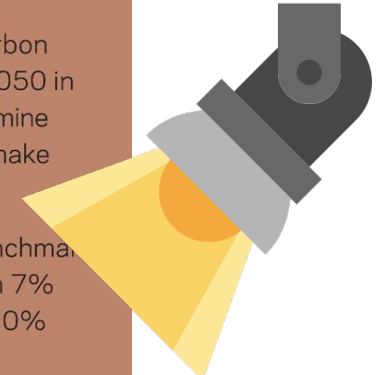
LESSONS LEARNED

Since joining the SE 2050 challenge and enacting HOK's LCA Policy, we have 50 projects with GWP intensity data. We continue to educate project managers about the policy and importance of conducting an LCA on all eligible projects. As a next step, we are now working towards conducting multiple LCAs at different design phases on projects to implement reduction targets early.

At HOK we log project information into an internal databases which is separate from how we log projects into SE 2050's database. We are still working on a method to merge the information so that project teams do not have to input it in multiple locations. In addition, since HOK is a multidisciplinary firm and have signed up for multiple industry environmental challenges/commitments we are trying to streamline our reporting efforts; similar to CLF's ECHO project.

There currently is no US-wide industry accepted embodied carbon emissions benchmark value for buildings. Since HOK joined SE 2050 in 2020, we have focused on gathering data on projects to determine a firm-wide benchmark. We believe that a benchmark will help us make meaningful reductions and get us to net zero.

We have analyzed over 50 projects and determined that our benchmark number is 295 kgCO₂e/m². Starting in 2024 we set a minimum 7% reduction to get to a 50% reduction by 2030 and eventually 100% by 2050.



We developed a dashboard that provides basic visual aids to indicate where projects are located, what emissions are for certain market sectors, etc. We are continuing to gather more data to parse more granular conclusions and make sophisticated visual aids.

- Set a Goal and Report on Progress
- Discuss what strategies worked and what didn't

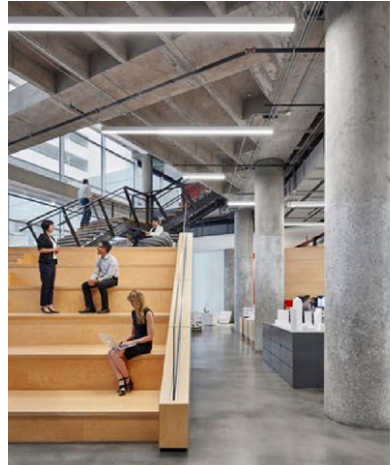


Education

Reporting

Reduction

Reduction Spotlight



SPECIFICATIONS

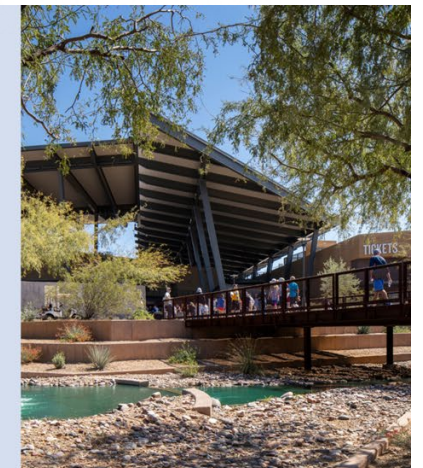
- Update the remaining material specifications to provide a low carbon specification.
- Update our standard specifications to capture the “low hanging fruit” item such as requiring EPDs.
- Work with our internal ESG department and our specification team to refine the low carbon division 1 specifications.

HKS

REDUCTION STRATEGY

DATA

- Aim to perform LCAs on a minimum of 50 percent of our major projects.
 - A major project is defined as a project that has a structural fee of at least \$100,000, has issued construction documents, and has spent at least 100 structural man hours within the given calendar year.
 - Within these major projects, we set out to run LCAs in multiple design phases on at least half of them.
- Aim to have at least 3 projects with sustainability considerations in their schematic design narrative.



ECAP

ADVOCACY

- Share your commitment
- Educate clients
- Engage in groups like CLF



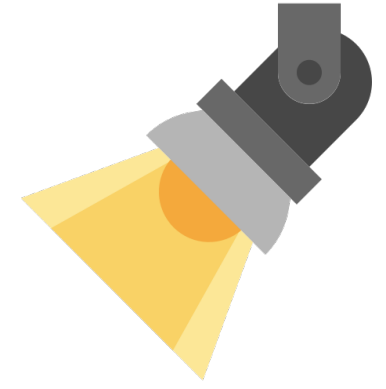
Education

Reporting

Reduction

Advocacy

Advocacy Spotlight



**walter
p moore**

ADVOCACY HIGHLIGHT

Greenbuild 2023 was held in Washington, DC and provided an ideal opportunity to showcase the Walter P Moore Washington DC LEED v4.1 ID+C Gold office space. During the week of Greenbuild we held multiple meetings or events that involved a mix of peers, clients, and owners. The most significant was the Carbon Leadership Forum / Building Transparency happy hour we hosted on the roof deck that had over 200 people in attendance. The DC office was also one of three stops on a formal Greenbuild tour of LEED Certified Commercial Interiors. This brought a group of approximately 25 people through the office space and allowed us to highlight the final design and its sustainability efforts.

- 1** We are continually harvesting and sharing our Embodied Carbon stories to advance market transformation. We share our stories through conference presentations, webinars, articles, and project case studies. We published our first collection of embodied carbon stories in **Embodied Carbon: A Clearer View of Emissions.**
- 2** We have sponsored the Carbon Leadership Forum (CLF) since 2014 and actively participate in our local hubs.
- 3** We provide educational presentations to our clients about embodied carbon, life-cycle assessment, and the importance of collaboration in reducing embodied carbon in our projects.
- 4** Our team actively participates in industry-wide events and embodied carbon round tables.

RESOURCES

SE 2050 RESOURCES

What Is Embodied Carbon?



How is Embodied Carbon Measured?



ECIDs



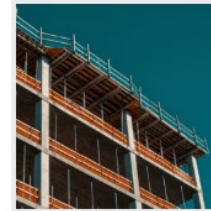
Top Ten Things All Structural Engineers Should Know



Signatory Case Studies (coming soon)



External Case Studies



SEI Circular Economy Case Studies



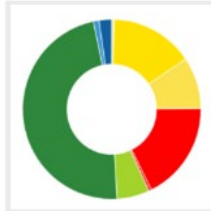
Resources for Estimating Embodied Carbon



Environmental Product Declarations



SE 2050 Embodied Carbon Estimator (ECOM)



Green Rating Systems



General Information



Specifications Guidance



Design Guidance



SE 2050 RESOURCES

What Is Embodied Carbon?



How is Embodied Carbon Measured?



ECIDs



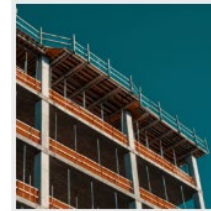
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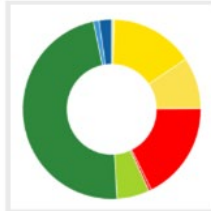
Resources for Estimating Embodied Carbon



Environmental Product Declarations



SE 2050 Embodied Carbon Estimator (ECOM)



Green Rating Systems



General Information



Specifications Guidance



Design Guidance



ECOM



Embodied Carbon Order of Magnitude Estimator

Embodied Carbon Area	
Total Area (ft ²)	1,000
Total Area (m ²)	92.9

Embodied Carbon Totals	
Total Impact (lb CO ₂ e)	106,572
Total Impact (kg CO ₂ e)	48,339

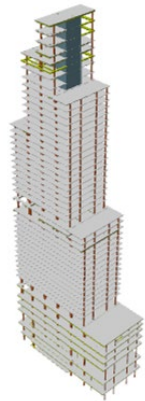
Embodied Carbon Intensities	
Intensity (lb CO ₂ e/ft ²)	106.57
Intensity (kg CO ₂ e/m ²)	520.33

Material	Structural Component	Quantity	Unit	Total Impact (lb CO ₂ e)	Total Impact (kg CO ₂ e)	% of Total
Concrete	2,500 PSI	<input type="text" value="input quantity here"/>	Cubic Yards			0.0%
	3,000 PSI	<input type="text" value="input quantity here"/>	Cubic Yards			0.0%
	4,000 PSI	<input type="text" value="input quantity here"/>	Cubic Yards			0.0%
	5,000 PSI	<input type="text" value="100"/>	Cubic Yards	67,600	30,663.16	63.4%
	6,000 PSI	<input type="text" value="input quantity here"/>	Cubic Yards			0.0%
	8,000 PSI	<input type="text" value="input quantity here"/>	Cubic Yards			0.0%

Fast, easy, free carbon calculation

Design and Specification Guidance Link to Embodied Carbon Calculation

Design Guidance



Quantities of Building Materials

From BIM takeoff or hand calculation

X

Specification Guidance

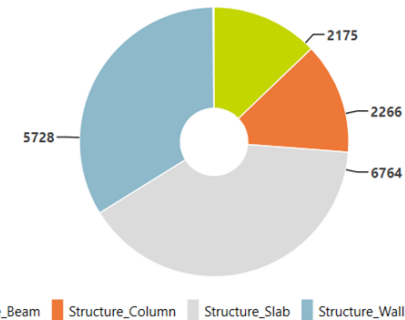
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS	
Declared Product: Mix S77C440F11 • Irvine Plant 1 4000PSI PU PL Compressive strength: 4000 psi at 28 days	
Declared Unit: 1 m ³ of concrete	
Global Warming Potential (kg CO ₂ -eq)	401
Ozone Depletion Potential (kg CFC-11-eq)	9.8E-6
Acidification Potential (kg SO ₂ -eq)	1.35
Eutrophication Potential (kg N-eq)	0.48
Photochemical Ozone Creation Potential (kg O ₃ -eq)	28.9
Abiotic Depletion, non-fossil (kg Sb-eq)	3.4E-6
Abiotic Depletion, fossil (kg)	667
Total Waste Disposed (kg)	3.19
Consumption of Freshwater (m ³)	2.99

Product Components: crushed aggregate (ASTM C33), natural aggregate (ASTM C33), Portland cement (ASTM C150), fly ash (ASTM C618), admixture (ASTM C494), batch water (ASTM C1602)

GWP per material
(kgCO₂e/unit)

from Material EPDs or other aggregated data

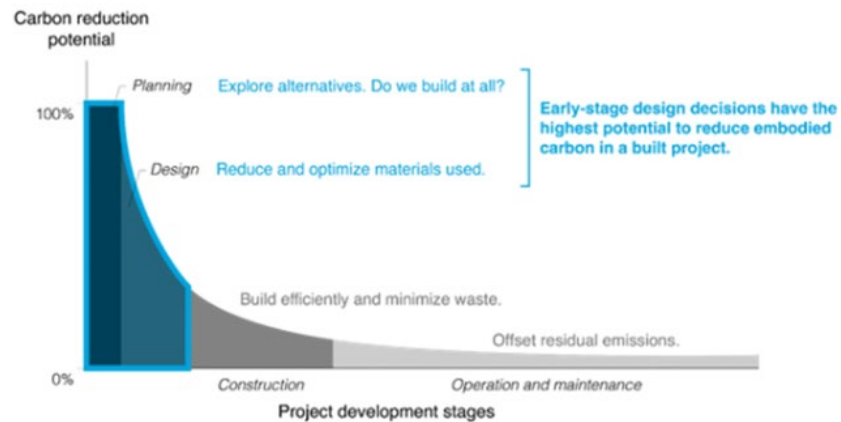
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Whole Building GWP
(kgCO₂e)

Design and Specification Guidance Link to Embodied Carbon Calculation

BUILD SMART: EARLY DESIGN DECISIONS



Adapted from: Bringing embodied carbon upfront, World Green Building Council 2019.

Reference: *Bringing Embodied Carbon Up Front* (Source: World Green Building Council)

SPECIFICATION GUIDANCE

CAST-IN-PLACE CONCRETE (CIP)

Blended Cements and
Supplementary
Cementitious Materials

Blended Cements and Supplementary Cementitious Materials

Most of the carbon footprint in concrete comes from cement. Reducing cement can be accomplished by using supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs) as a portion of the cementitious materials. SCMs can be separately batched when producing concrete or included when using a blended cement. Permit all types of SCMs in concrete and do not place prescriptive limits on their use, unless required by code (note that prescriptive limits are only required in certain circumstances, for example concrete subject to deicing salt application). Permit the use of ASTM C595 blended cements in the specification. The different types include Type IP (with pozzolans), Type IS (with slag) and Type IL (Portland-limestone cement). Type IL is generally available in all regions. The same quantity of SCMs can be used in concrete made with Type IL cement as with mixtures with Portland cement.

Considering that it may not be feasible to reduce the Portland-cement content in all concrete mixtures used on a project (due to lesser strengths, greater setting times, or other factors), an alternative strategy involves specifying a cap on embodied carbon considering the totality of concrete used for the project. This allows the contractor flexibility tailoring the SCM quantities in concrete mixtures to address sustainability requirements without sacrificing performance.

Concrete Strength

Specialty Services and
Technologies

Lower Embodied
Carbon Steel
Reinforcement (Rebar)

Recycled Content

Performance
Specifications

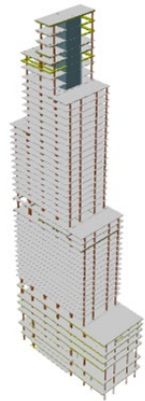
Concrete Baselines

Concrete Resources

**How can we address reducing
Embodied Carbon?**

Design and Specification Guidance Link to Embodied Carbon Calculation

Design Guidance



Quantities of Building Materials

From BIM takeoff or hand calculation

X

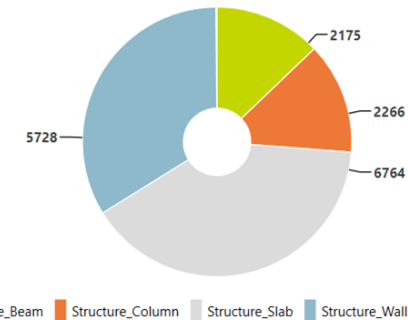
Specification Guidance

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(kgCO₂e/unit)

from Material EPDs or other aggregated data

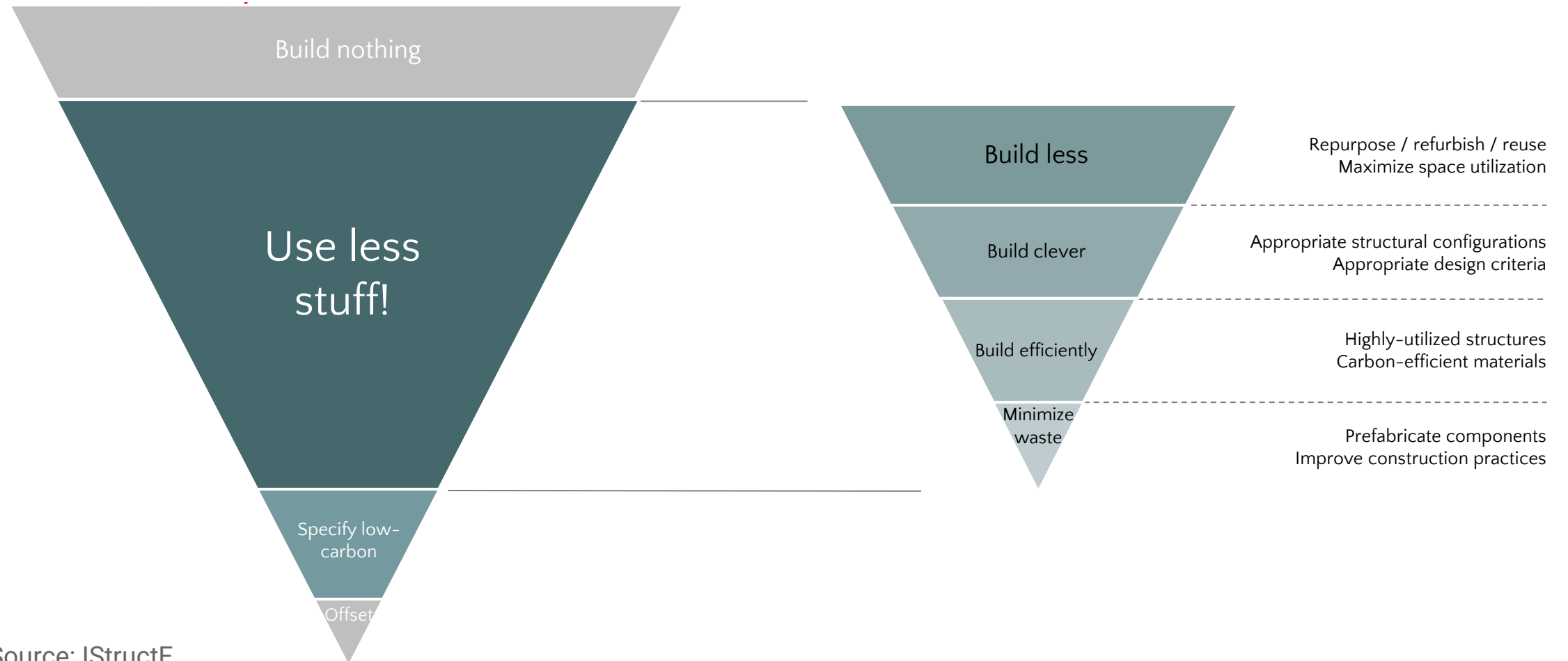
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Whole Building GWP
(kgCO₂e)

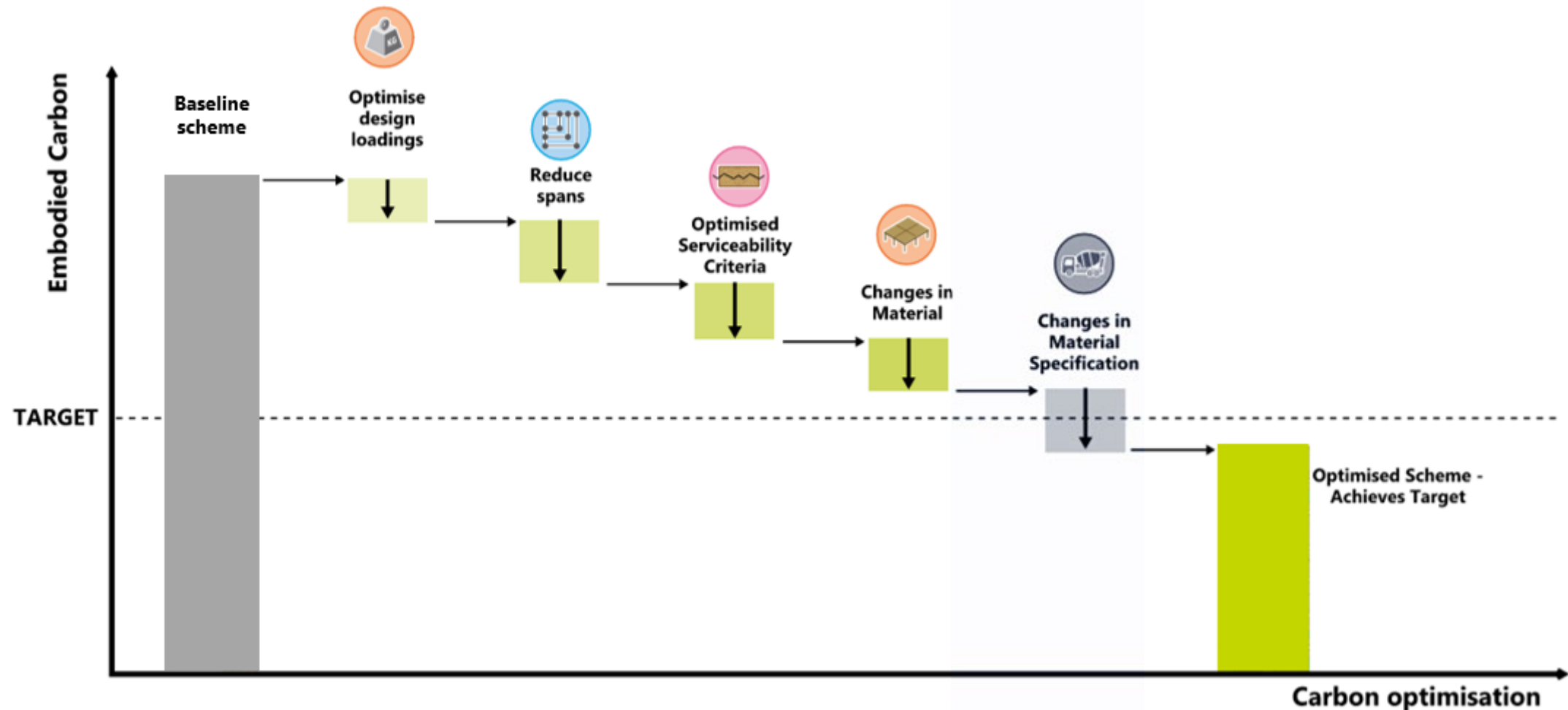
Design Guidance

Hierarchy for Reducing Embodied Carbon Emissions

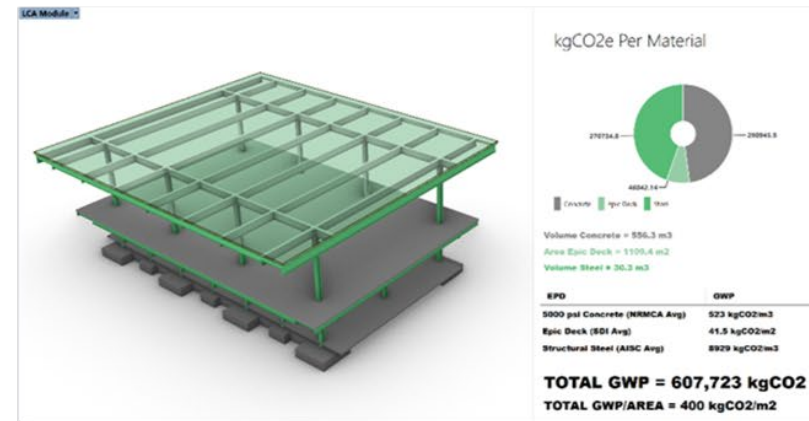
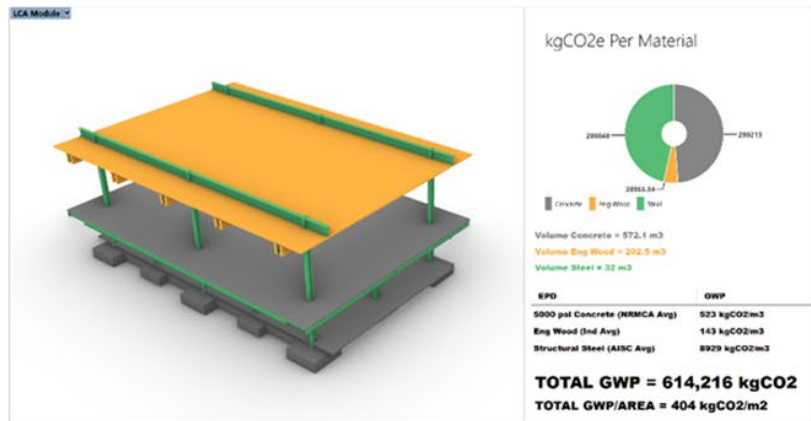
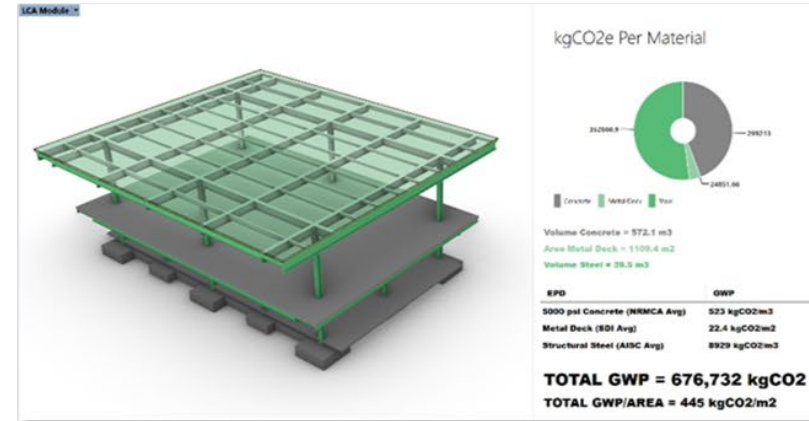
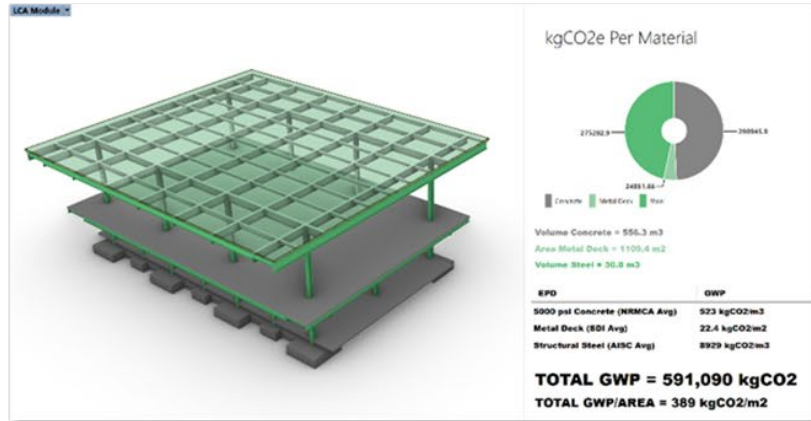


Design Guidance

Steps to Improving Material Efficiency

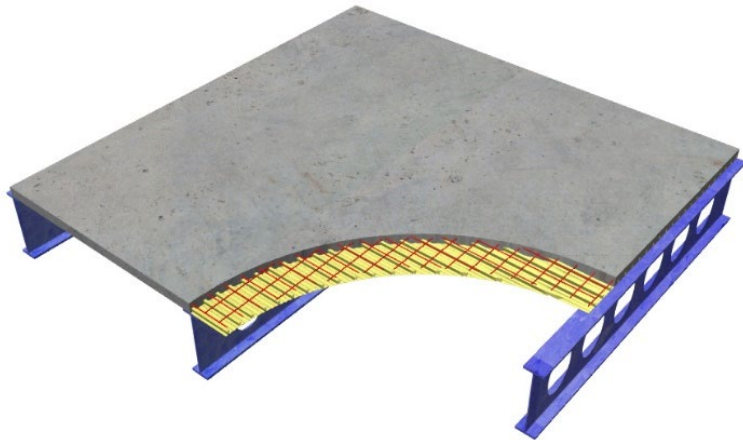


Design Optioneering



Build Light: Composite & Hybrid Floor Systems

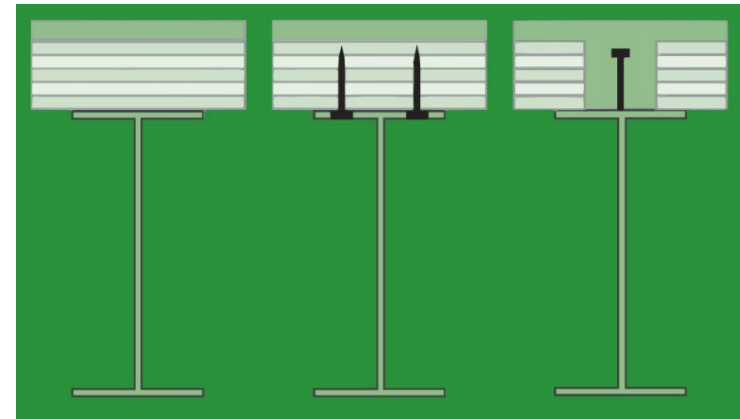
TRADITIONAL COMPOSITE FLOOR SYSTEMS



Source: Buro Happold

Decking systems are engaged with steel framing through shear connectors: thereby reducing required weight of steel framing.

ALTERNATIVE HYBRID FLOOR SYSTEMS

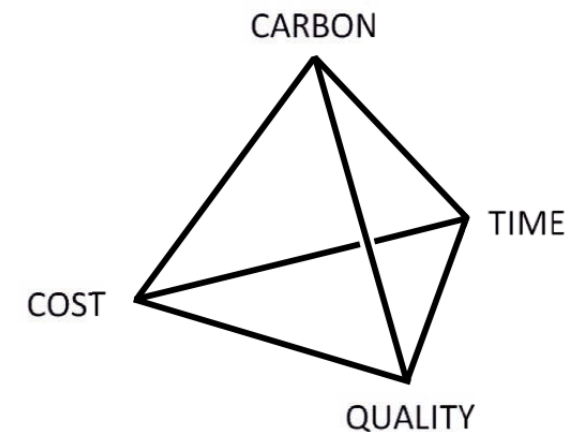
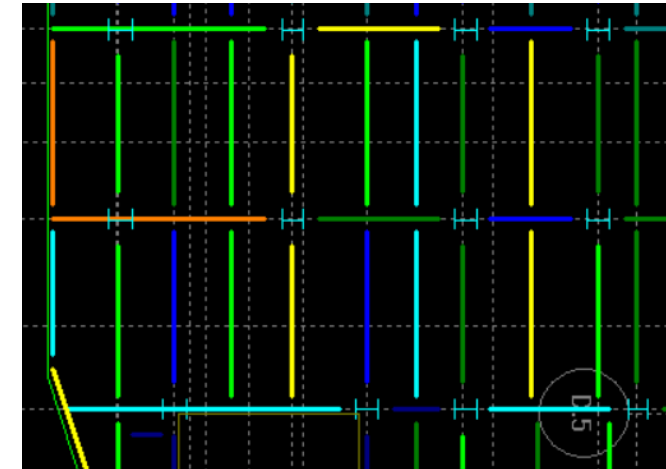


Source: AISC

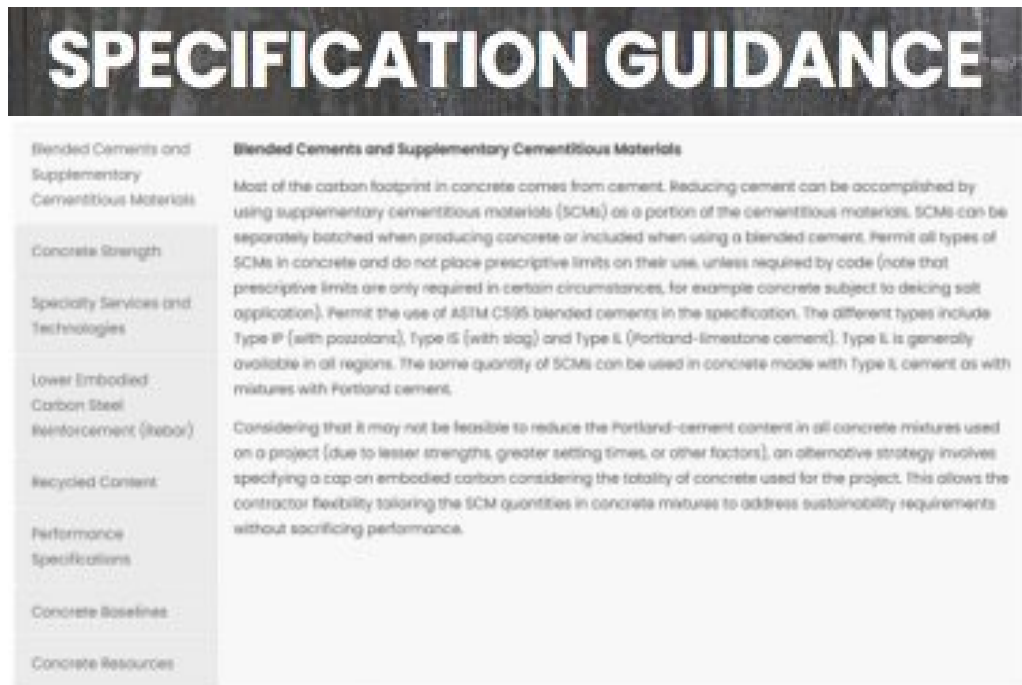
Timber decking as an alternative to concrete can significantly reduce the embodied carbon of the floor structure.

Design Methods: Utilization & Optimization

- Be aware of compounding safety factors
- Avoid the application of maximum utilization ratios below 1.0 during final design, particularly for floor members.
- Avoid rationalization methods, such as enveloping member demands, which may lead to some elements being particularly underutilized.
- Consider the application of material strengths:
 - Higher strength materials for strength-controlled members
 - Lower strength materials for serviceability-controlled members
- Use structural optimization methods
 - Size optimization: lightest sections available to meet criteria set by the engineer
 - Shape optimization: structural members may be shaped to use material where it is most needed
 - Topology optimization: topology or layout of a minimum-volume structure under given loading, support, and serviceability conditions.

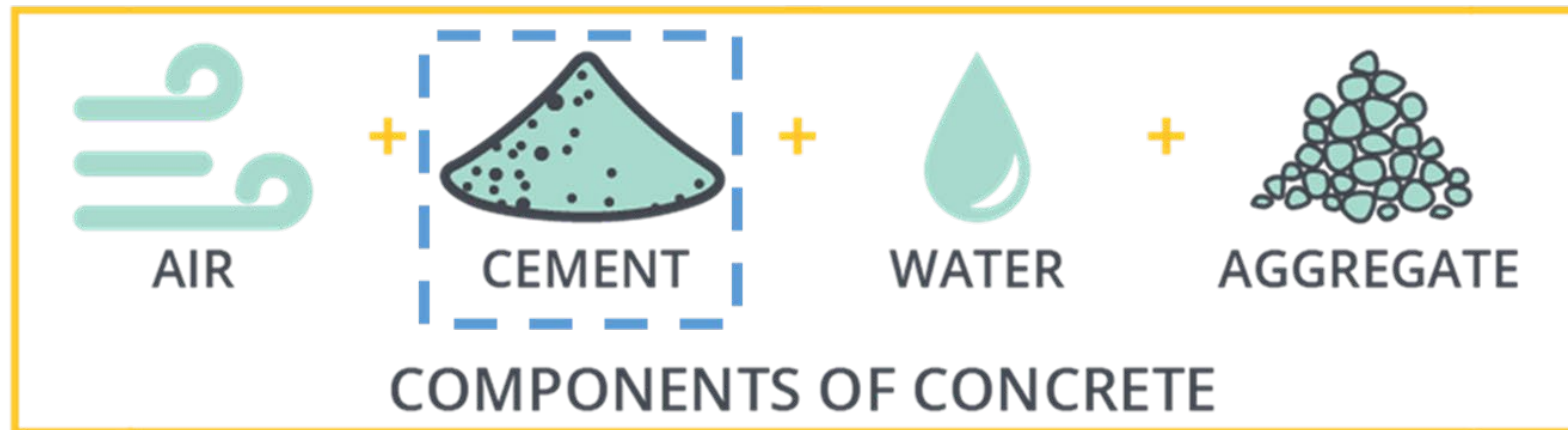


Specifications Guidance



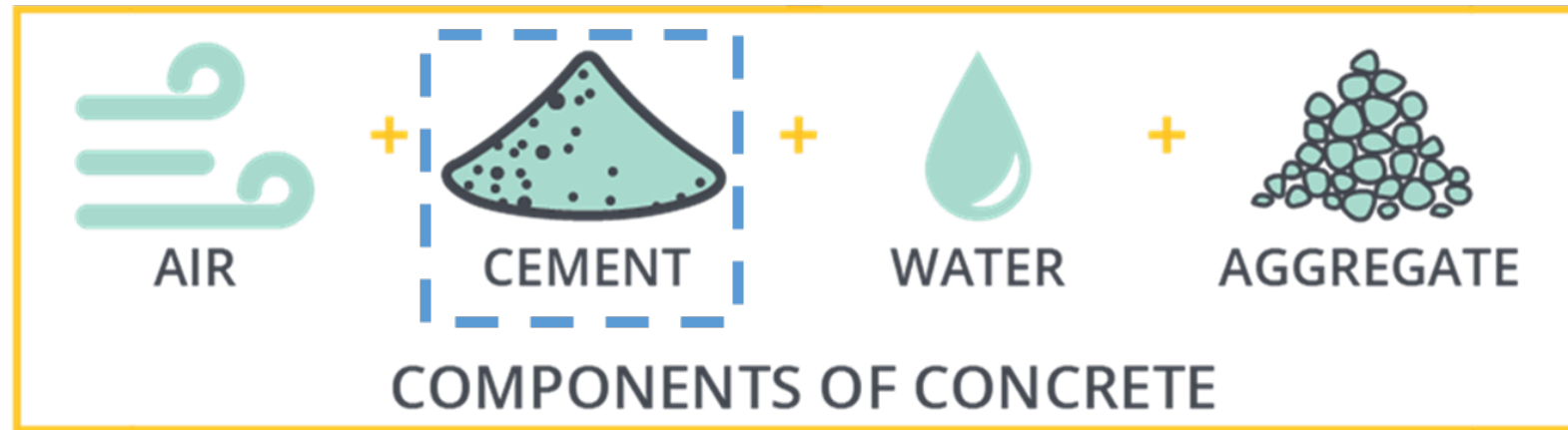
- Curated list of strategies to write lower embodied carbon specification documents
- Topics include:
 - Requesting product-specific EPDs
 - Performance specifications
 - GWP limits
 - Material-specific guidance (concrete, steel, wood, CMU)

Concrete



Concrete

7 to 15%
concrete volume



95% carbon
emissions



Performance-Based Concrete Spec

- Starting point to communicate with GC and suppliers
- Remove overly prescriptive limits
- Carbon budget approach

Concrete Class Table										
Intended Use	Compressive Strength f'c (psi), at 28 days, uno	Exposure Class				Maximum w/cm ratio	Maximum Aggregate Size	Target Air Content	Global Warming Potential Target (kgCO2e/yd3)	Other Design Requirements
		F	S	W	C					
Drilled Piers	4000psi NWC at 56 days	F0	S0	W0	C0	-	1 1/2"	-	240	The design requirements provided in this example are the minimum recommended criteria for all projects. See the description of additional concrete properties on the next page for additional information. Add additional columns as needed for project specific conditions.
Spread Footings	4000psi NWC at 56 days	F0	S0	W0	C0	-	1 1/2"	-	240	
Foundation Walls	4000psi NWC at 56 days	F0	S0	W0	C0	-	3/4"	-	240	
Grade Beams and Stem Walls	4500psi NWC at 56 days	F2	S0	W1	C1	0.45	3/4"	6%	290	
Core, Shear and Bearing Walls	5000psi NWC at 56 days	F0	S0	W0	C0	-	3/4"	-	290	
Interior SOG	3000psi NWC at 56 days	F0	S0	W0	C0	-	1"	-	205	
Exterior/ Garage SOG	5000psi NWC at 56 days	F3	S0	W1	C2	0.40	1"	6%	330	
Interior PT Elevated Slab	5000psi NWC at 28 days (3000psi at stressing)	F0	S0	W0	C0	-	3/4"	-	429	
Exterior/ Garage PT Elevated Slab	5000psi NWC at 28 days (3000psi at stressing)	F3	S0	W1	C2	0.40	3/4"	6%	429	
Columns	7000psi NWC at 28 days	F0	S0	W0	C0	-	3/4"	-	490	
Interior Non - PT Elevated Slab	5000psi NWC at 28 days	F0	S0	W0	C0	-	3/4"	-	330	
Exterior/ Garage Non - PT Elevated Slab	5000psi NWC at 28 days	F3	S0	W1	C2	0.40	3/4"	6%	330	

Notes:

1. Concrete proportioning and requirements must comply with ACI 318-19 Tables 19.3.1.1, 19.3.2.1, 19.3.3.1 and 26.4.2.2(b) in addition to the requirements of this table.
2. Global warming potential (GWP) targets as shown have been established as part of the sustainable design requirements for the project and are intended to be maximum values.

What is Changing?



BREAKING NEWS

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES DEATH TOLL RISES TO AT LEAST 31

NIGHTLY NEWS
NBC NEWS



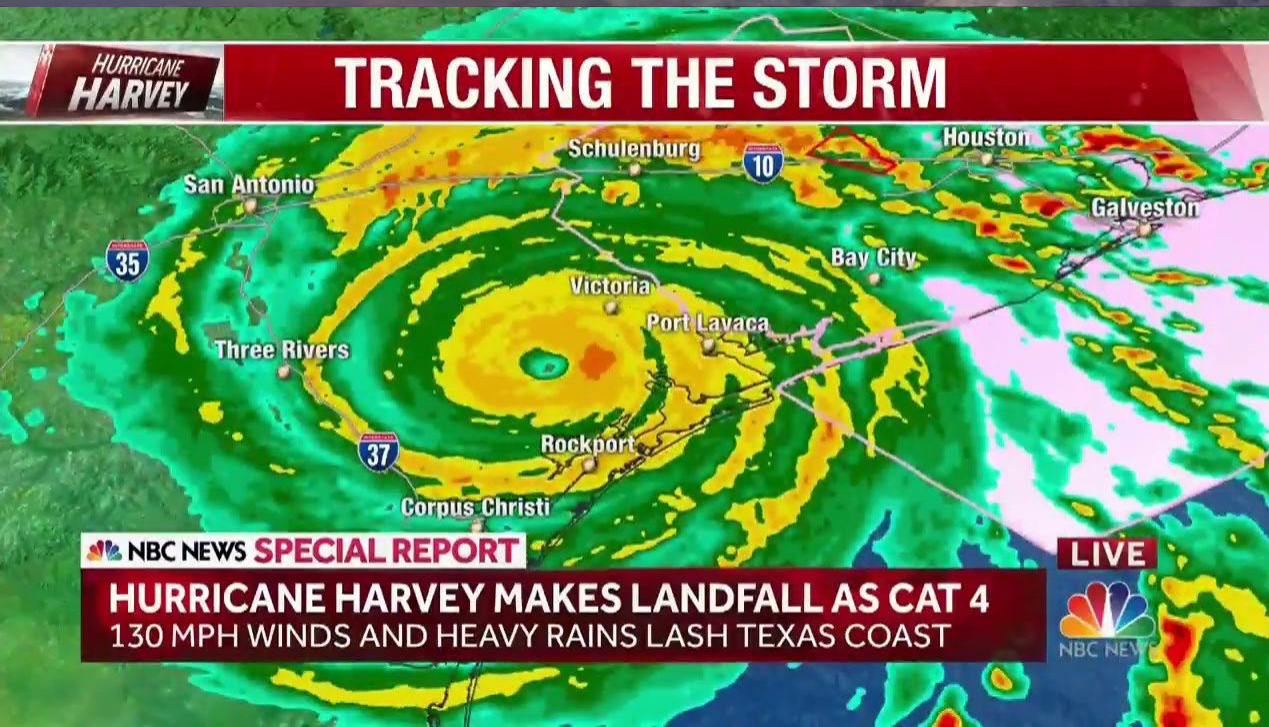
▶ CEDAR KEY, FL
FRIDAY

FOX NEWS
channel

HELENE CAUSES AT LEAST \$15B IN PROPERTY DAMAGE

FOX WEATHER ALERT

HURRICANE 10
STREAM
FOX WEATHER
WATCH-FREE DIRECTV LG Channels



HURRICANE HARVEY

TRACKING THE STORM

NBC NEWS SPECIAL REPORT

**HURRICANE HARVEY MAKES LANDFALL AS CAT 4
130 MPH WINDS AND HEAVY RAINS LASH TEXAS COAST**

LIVE

NBC NEWS

Statesman Journal
'Oppressive' heat
CARES Act fuels county efforts
Silom shatters record, hits 82 degrees; little relief in days ahead

The Oregonian
Oregonians still bracing
with and other cool spots
to help them beat the heat

Lewiston Tribune
Lewiston sees third-hottest day ever

Portland
Portland hits 112, Monday hotter still

The Province
KILLER HEAT
'Unexpected' deaths soar during B.C.'s unprecedented heat wave

Century-old city heat record falls
Energy usage almost all-time high with more hot weather in forecast

TRUCKING-IN RELIEF
Alexis Puchner drives up a cold crop of hot hats in the weeks leading the 83rd State Fair with a high of 97 C. Though the heat could make it hot the C.C. A.L.P.

TRUCKING-IN RELIEF
Olivia and Noah

Now it's really heating up
Energy usage almost all-time high with more hot weather in forecast

Triple Digit diary

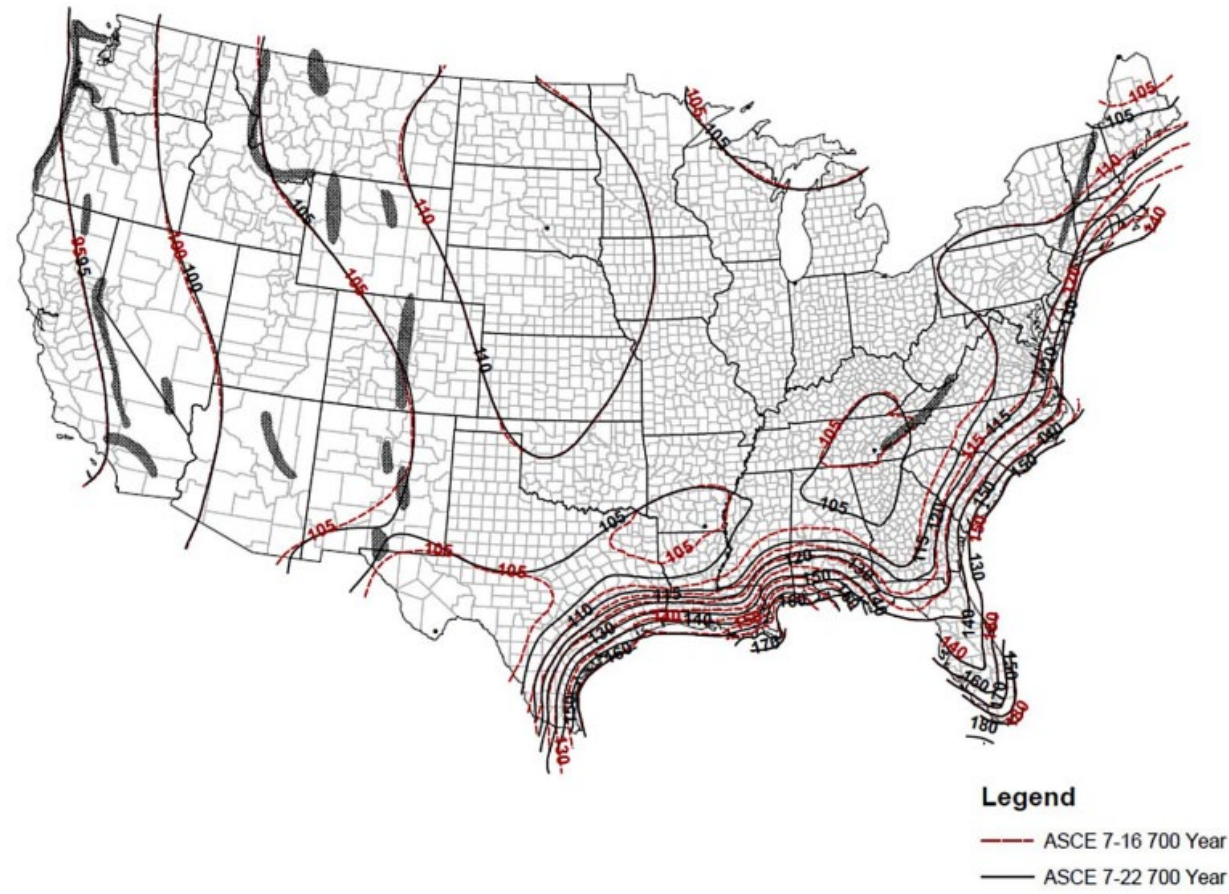
hospitals seek to balance safety

Judge tosses antitrust suit

Budget deal threatens ban on flavored tobacco

96°

Highlights of Significant Changes to the Wind Load Provisions of ASCE 7-22



(Source: Adapted from Figure 26.5-1B of ASCE 7-16 and Figure 26.5-1B of ASCE 7-22 with permission)
Figure 1: Comparison of basic wind speeds for Risk Category II buildings and structures in ASCE 7-16 and ASCE 7-22

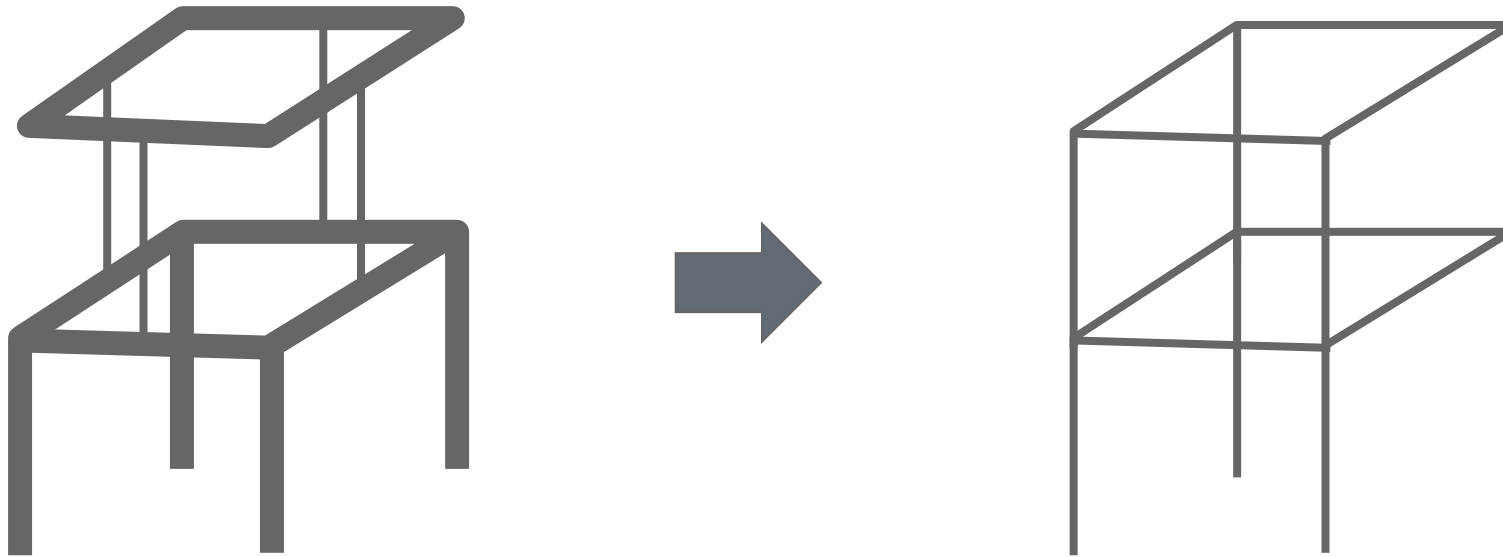
CLF Policy Map



- Buy Clean
- WBLCA Performance
- Building Reuse

Seeds of Opportunity

Save Cost through Efficiency



Save Cost
through Efficiency

Seeds of Opportunity

Add Value to Existing Buildings



Save Cost
through Efficiency

Add Value to
Existing Buildings

“Spruce Goose”, Los Angeles

ZGF ARUP

Seeds of Opportunity

Add Value to Existing Buildings

One Nation, Under Renovation

For the first time in 20 years, renovations have overtaken new construction in architectural billings in the US.

By [Zach Mortice](#)

October 19, 2022 at 5:00 AM PDT

Updated on October 19, 2022 at 7:08 AM PDT

Save Cost
through Efficiency

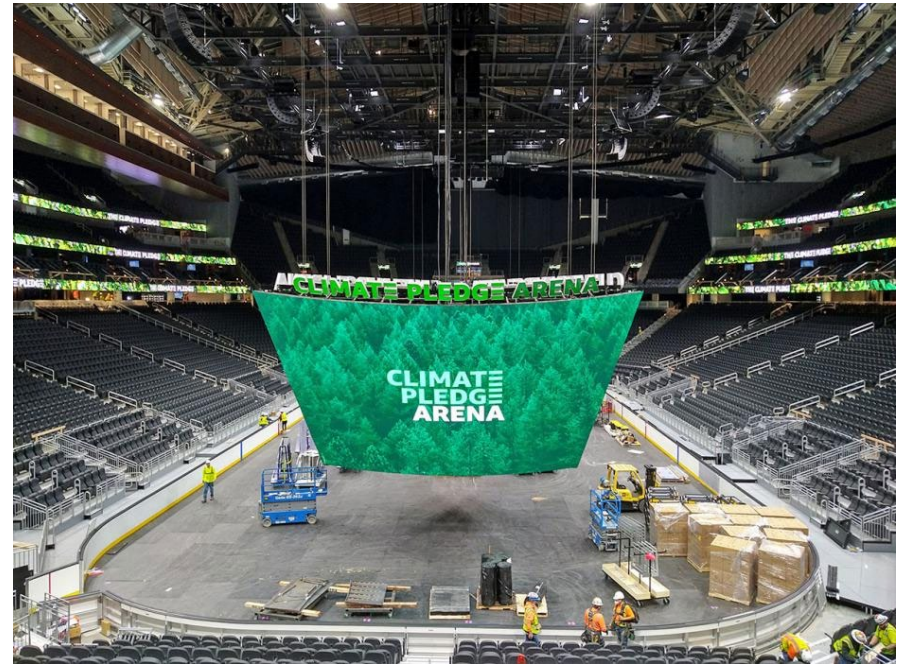
Add Value to
Existing Buildings

“Spruce Goose”, Los Angeles

ZGF ARUP

Seeds of Opportunity

Market the Wins



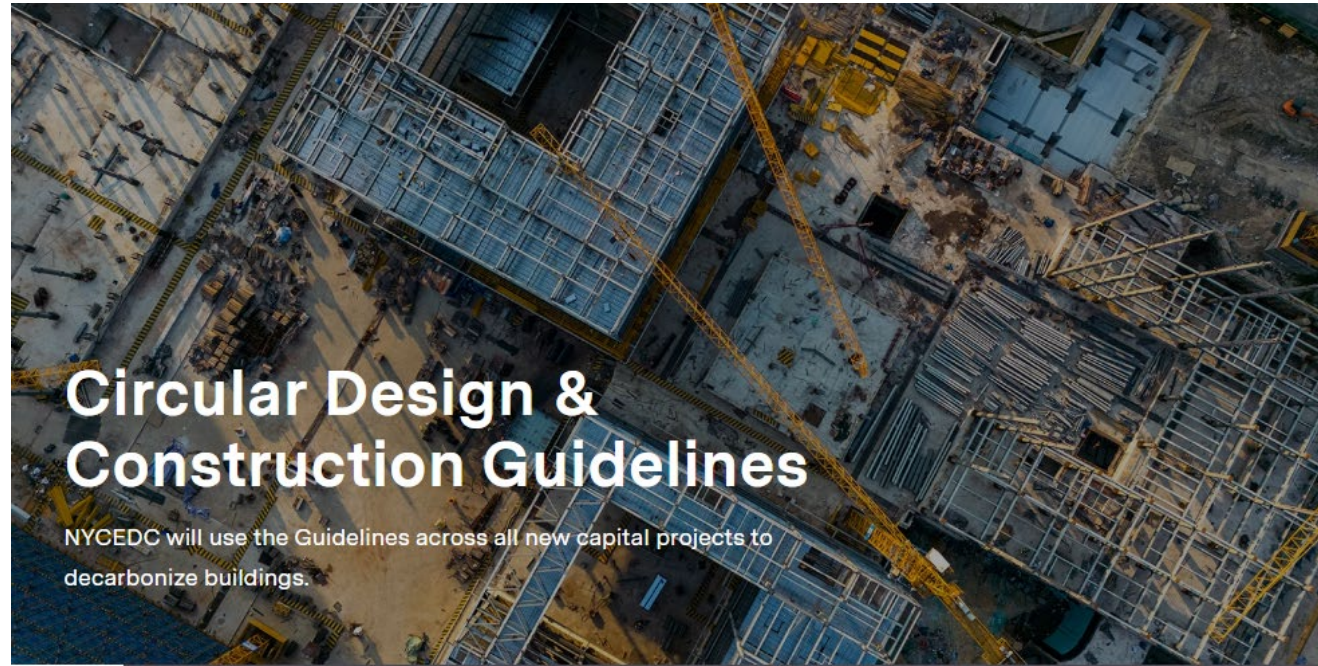
Save Cost
through Efficiency

Add Value to
Existing Buildings

Market the Wins

Seeds of Opportunity

Recover Materials for Reuse



Save Cost
through Efficiency

Add Value to
Existing Buildings

Market the Wins

Recover Materials
for Reuse

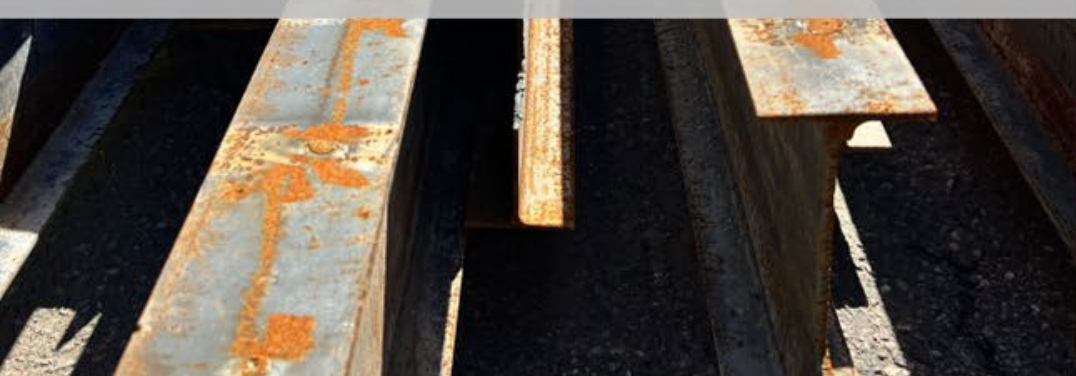


Alexis Feitel
KL&A

Carbon Leadership Forum Rocky Mountain x Los Angeles
June 11th, 2024

Boulder Community Hospital

Deconstruction, Stockpiling, and Reuse of Structural Steel



Alexis Feitel, P.E.
Team Carbon Unit Director & BCH Project Manager afeitel@klaa.com

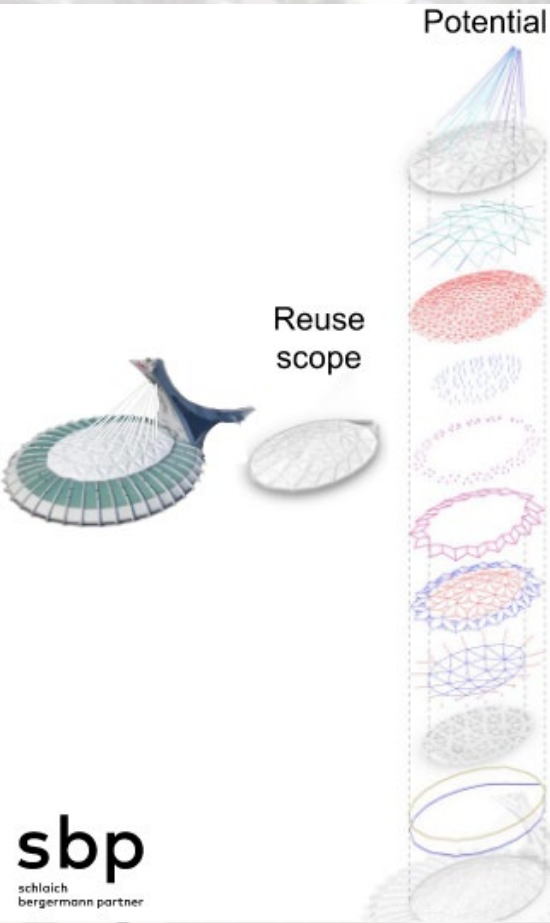


KL&A
Engineers & Builders

Dan Bergsagel Schlaich Bergermann Partner



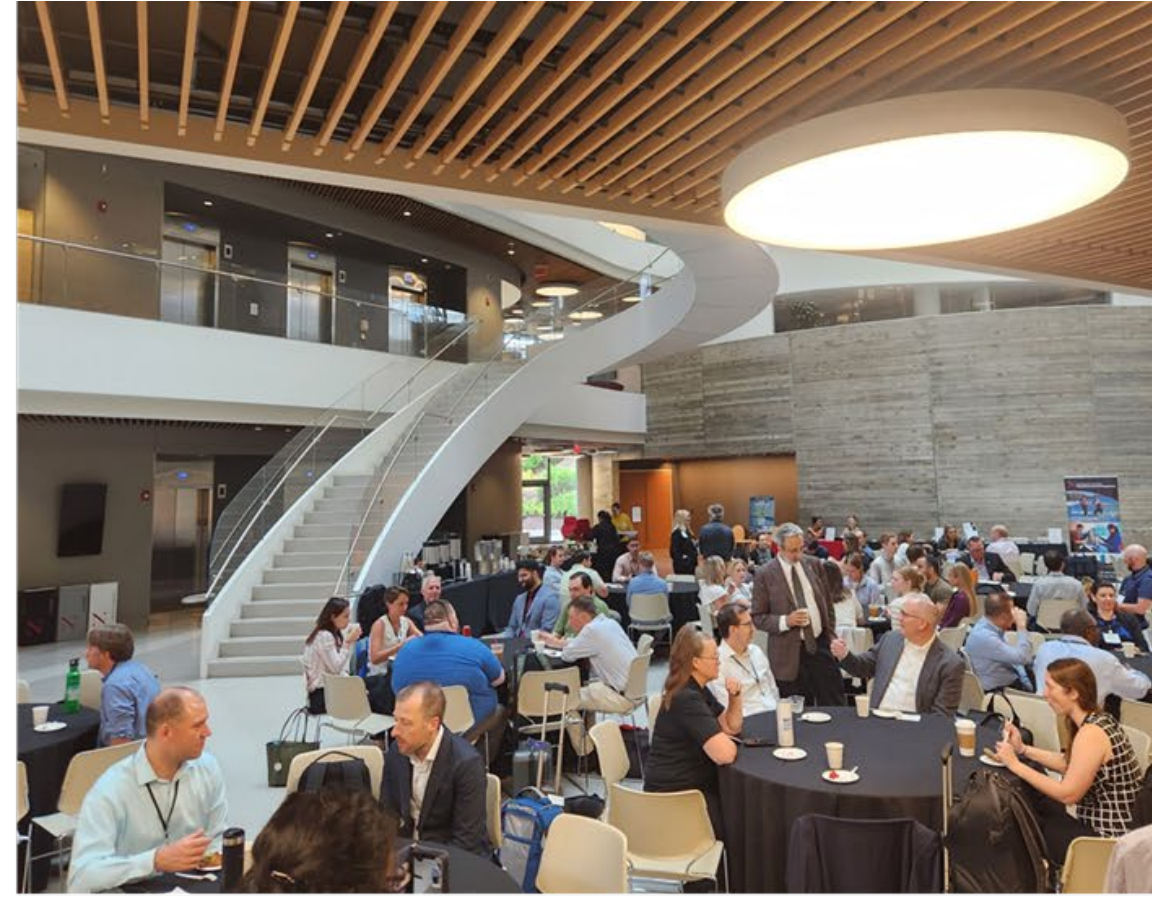
Envisioning the Future of Structural Engineering




***“I’d be a pessimist but
it would never work.”***

WHAT CAN I DO?

- Join the SE 2050 Commitment Program
- Ask to be included in a project's sustainability meetings and design charrettes
- Advocate within industry and to your clients!



Towards Zero Carbon: Developing a Roadmap for the Structural Engineering Profession and SEI
ASCE an SEI Workshop held July 23-24, 2024 at Northeastern University



Save the date for the 2025 event: **June 26-27th**. More details to come soon.

Sign-up for email updates about the 2025 event

Towards Zero Carbon: Developing a Roadmap for the Structural Engineering Profession and SEI
ASCE an SEI Workshop held July 23-24, 2024 at Northeastern University



STRUCTURAL
ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE



Questions?

Luke Lombardi, P.E.
luke.lombardi@burohappold.com

**Are you ready to join the
movement?**

<https://se2050.org/sign-up/>

THANK YOU!

SLIDE APPENDIX

***Engineering is the art of
modelling materials we do not wholly understand,
into shapes we cannot precisely analyse,
so as to withstand forces we cannot properly assess,
in such a way that the public has no reason
to suspect the extent of our ignorance.***

-- Dr. A. R. Dykes, British Institution of Structural Engineers

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:



A project has a total of 100 concrete trucks delivered to site.

The project has achieved a 20% carbon reduction in the concrete mix.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Approximately how many New York to Los Angeles flights would need to be avoided by one person in order to achieve the same carbon savings as the project?

- 5 flights
- 10 flights
- 25 flights
- 50 flights

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Approximately how many New York to Los Angeles flights would need to be avoided by one person in order to achieve the same carbon savings as the project?

- 5 flights
- 10 flights
- 25 flights
- 50 flights

EMBODIED CARBON INTENSITY DIAGRAMS

EMBODIED CARBON INTENSITY DIAGRAMS (ECIDs)

Intent: Start to establish fluency in EC metric

Objective: Using a set of criteria, engineers were tasked with designing a “typical bay”

Tools:

- Athena IE
- tallyLCA
- One Click LCA

Scope:

- Cradle-to-Grave (Life Cycle Stages A-C)
- Cradle-to-Cradle (Life Cycle Stages A-D)

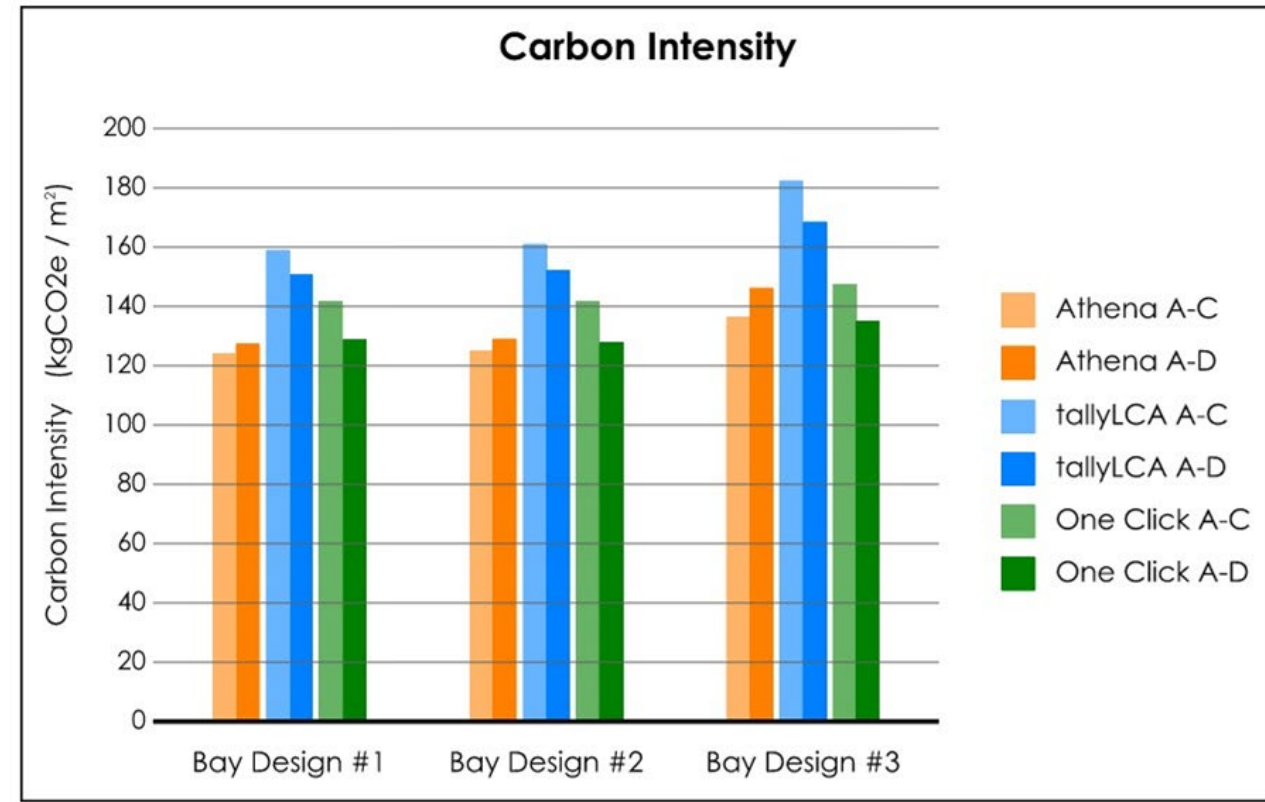
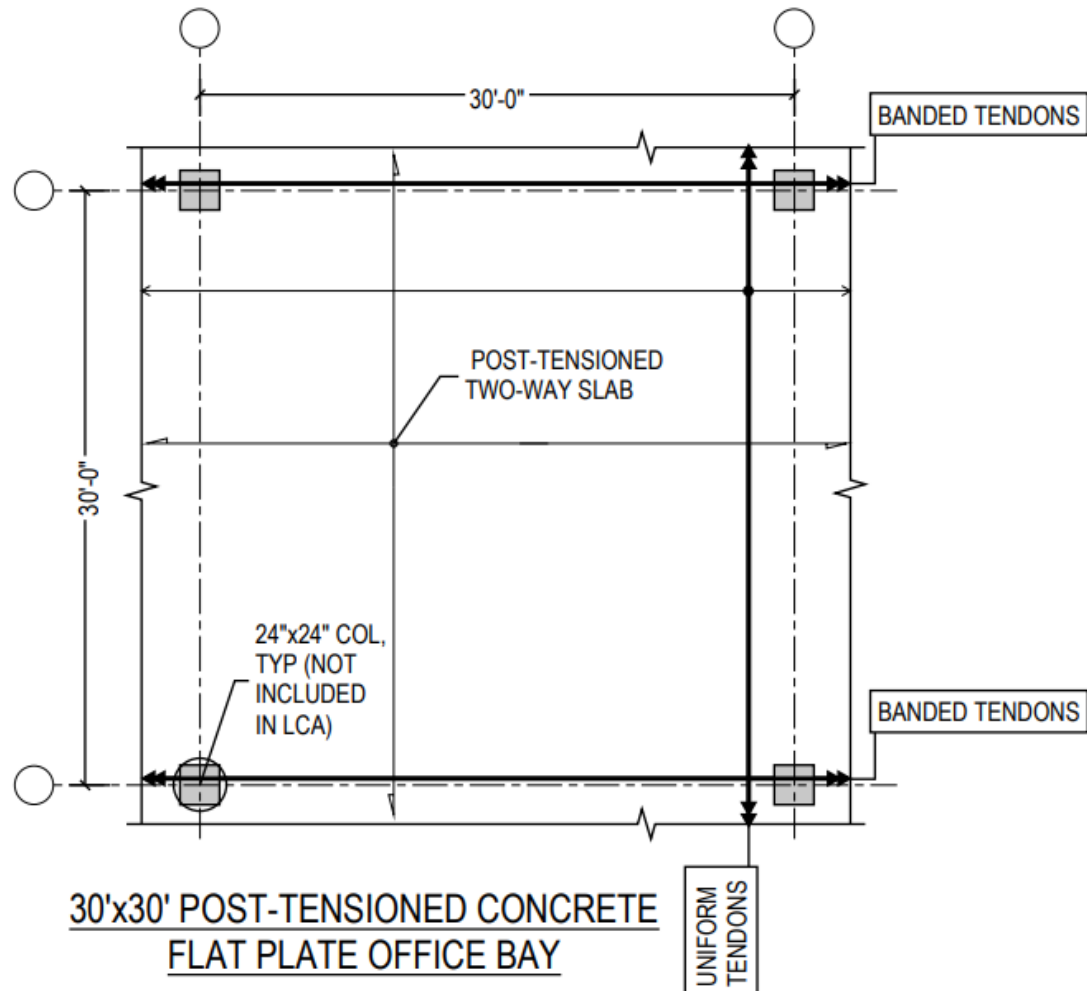
Office Bays

- PT Concrete
- Concrete Joist
- Composite Steel
- Hybrid Timber & Steel
- Timber (Post & Beam)

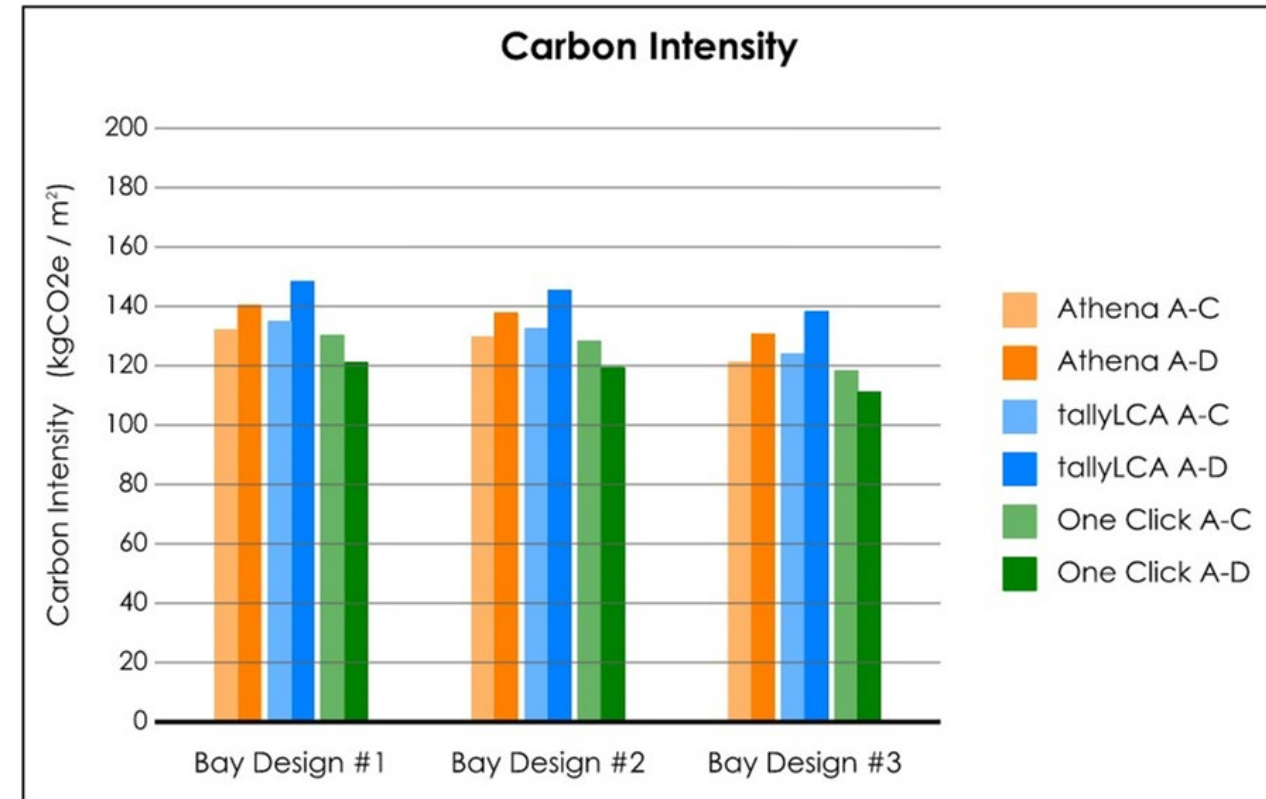
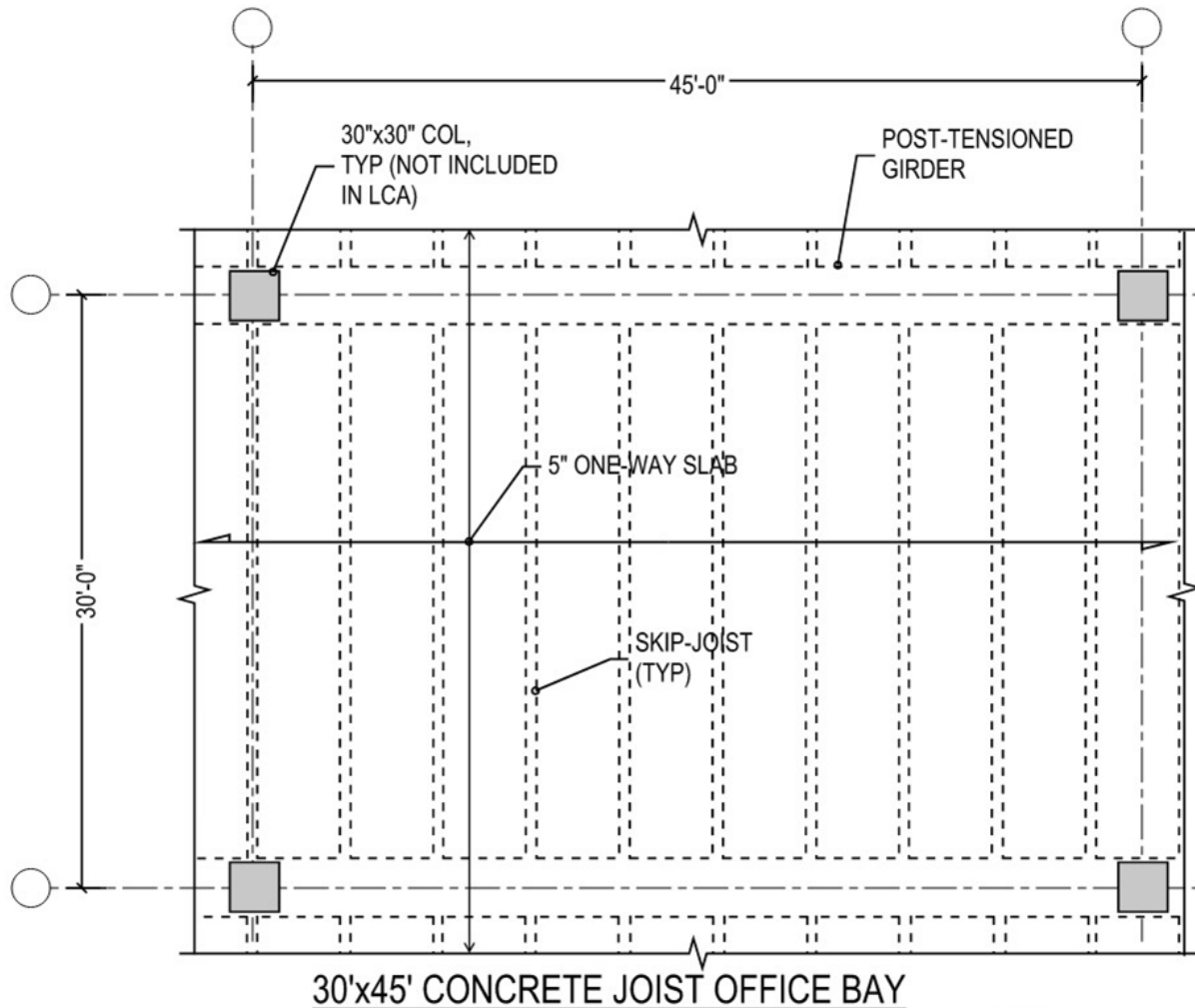
Residential Bays

- Mild Concrete
- Light-Framed Wood

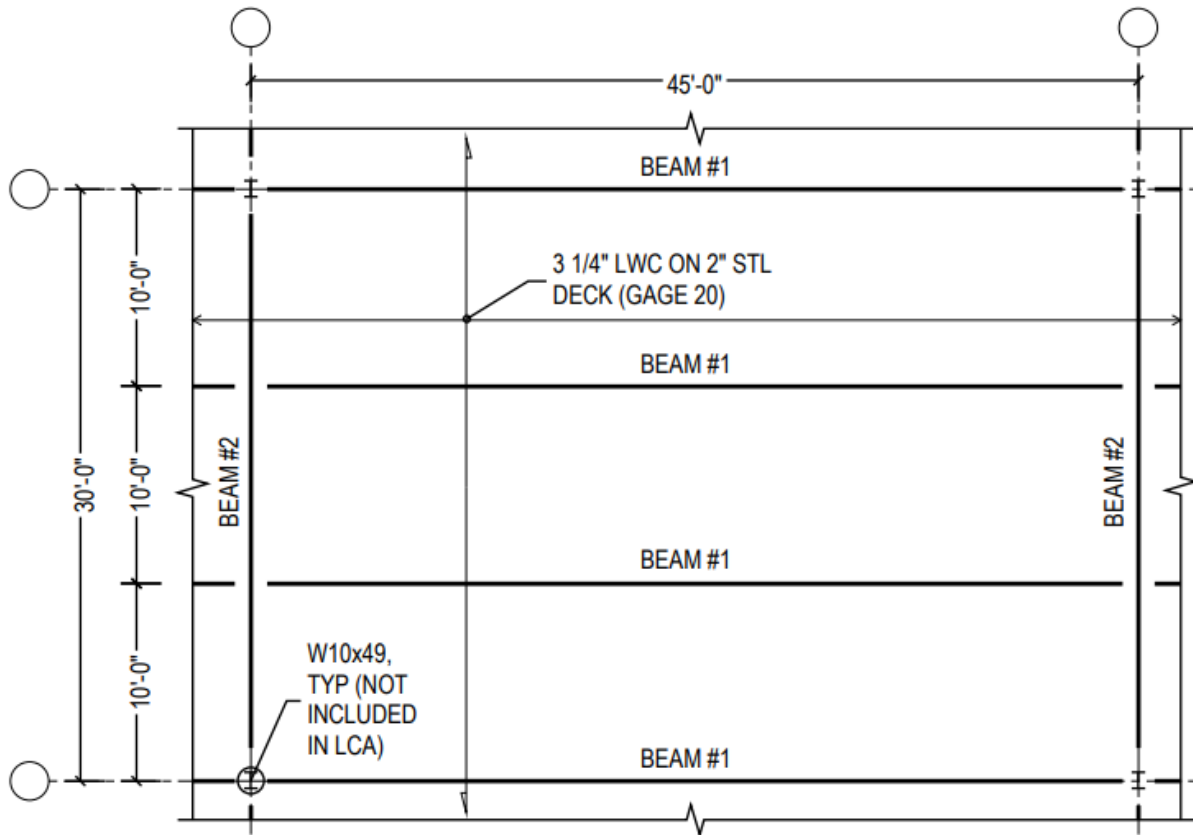
POST-TENSIONED CONCRETE FLAT PLATE OFFICE ECID



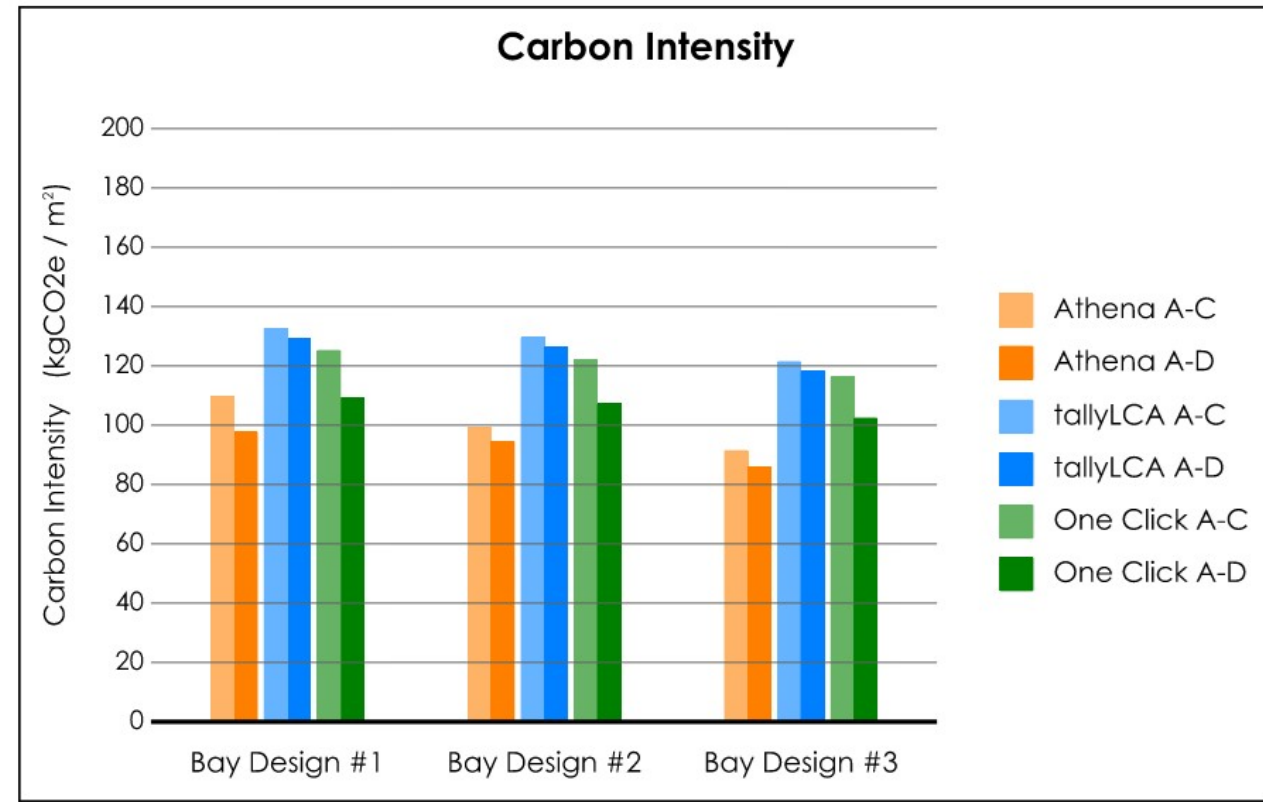
CONCRETE JOIST OFFICE ECID



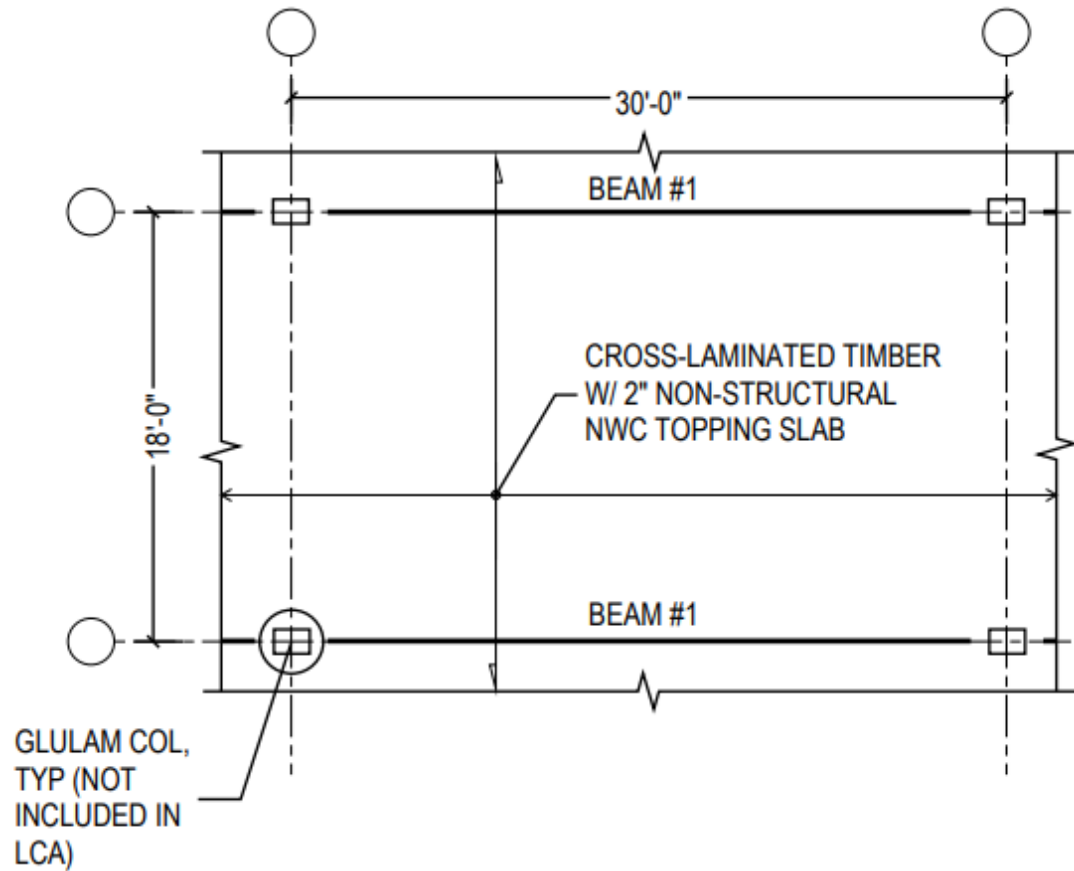
COMPOSITE STEEL OFFICE ECID



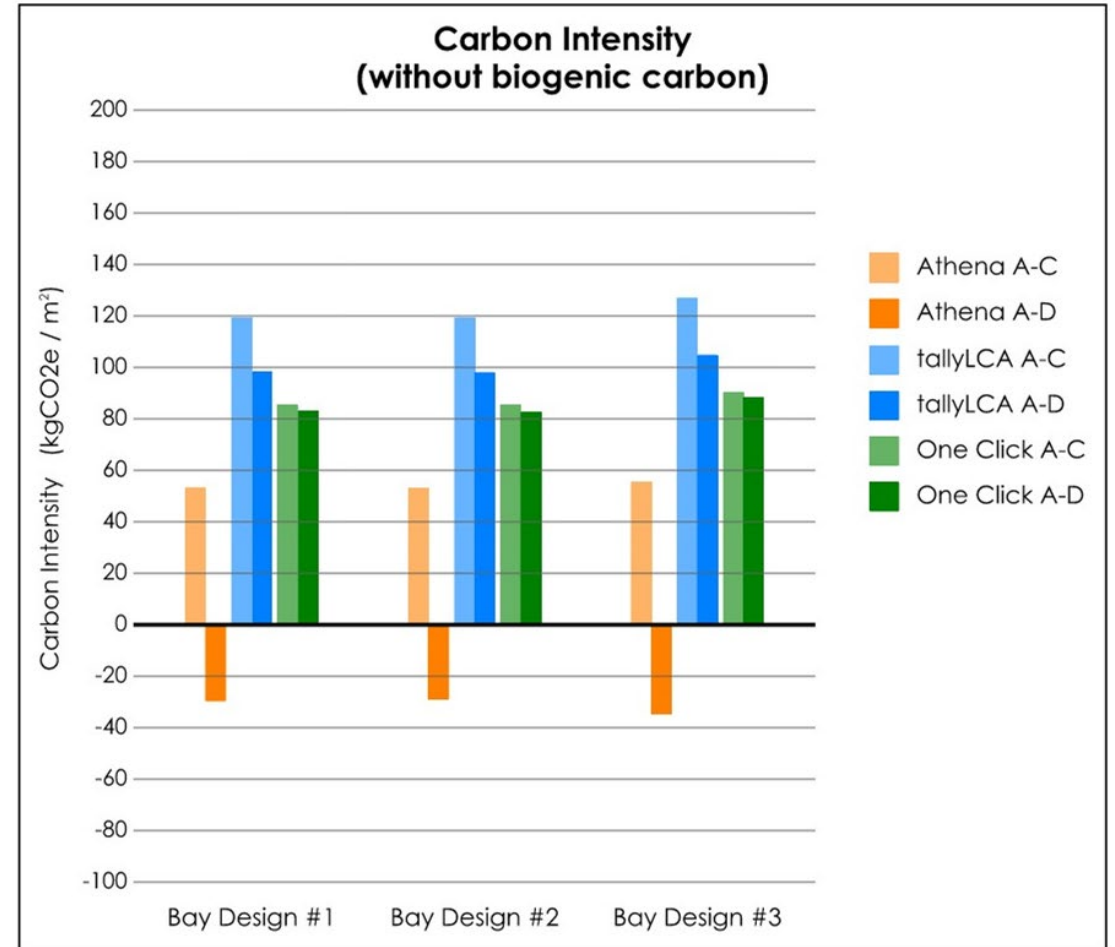
30'x45' COMPOSITE STEEL OFFICE BAY



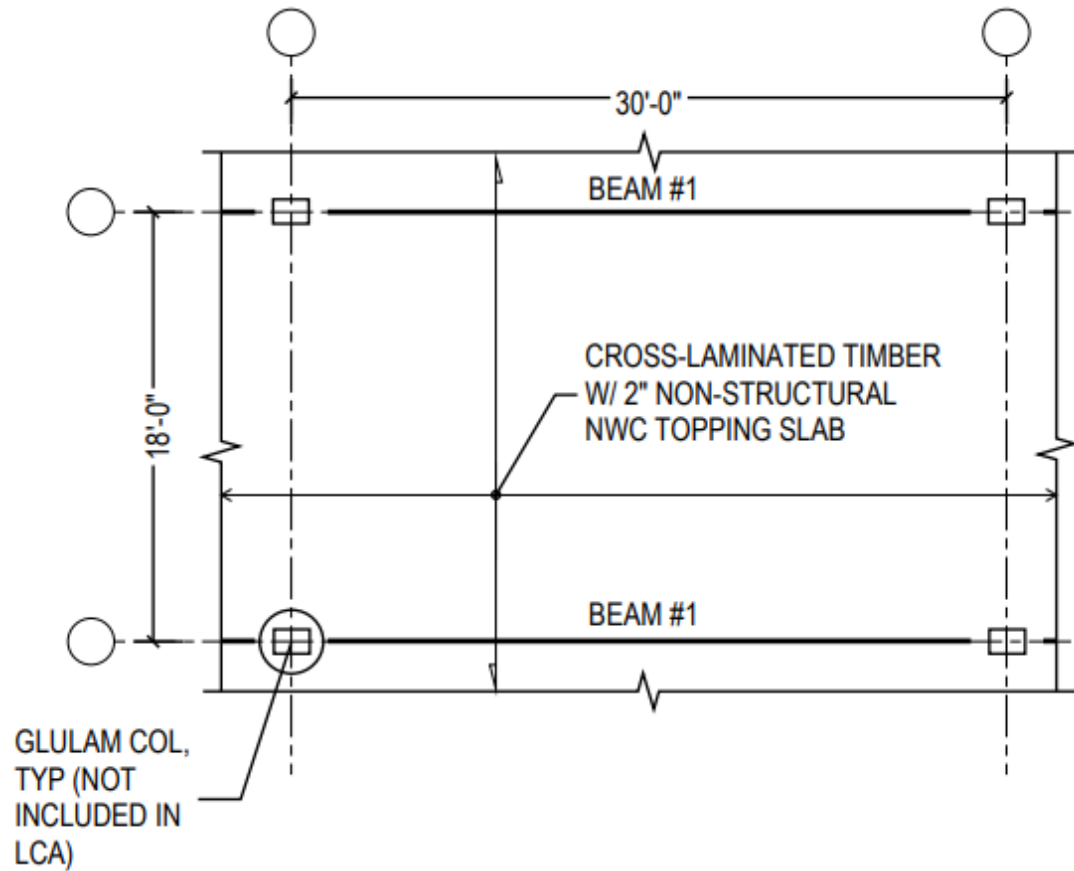
MASS TIMBER POST-AND-BEAM OFFICE ECID



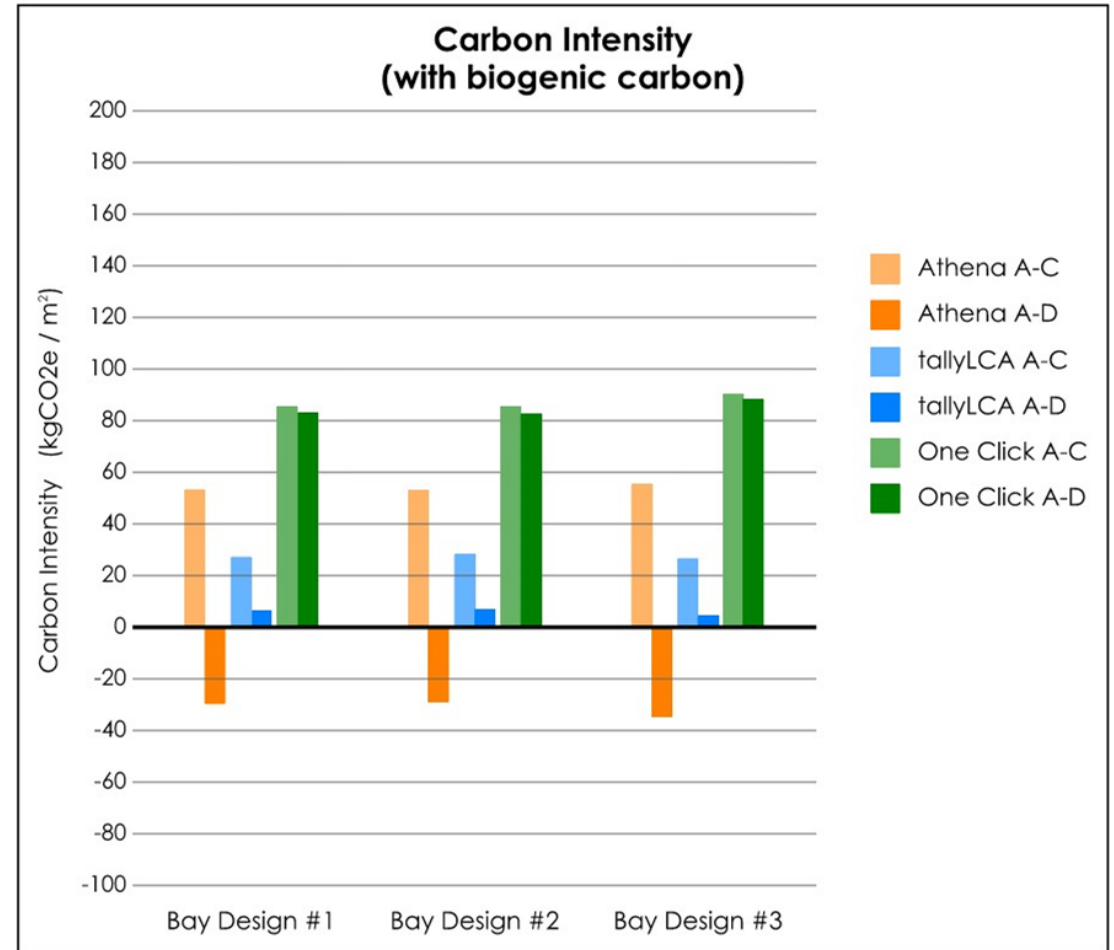
**18'x30' MASS TIMBER
POST-AND-BEAM OFFICE BAY**



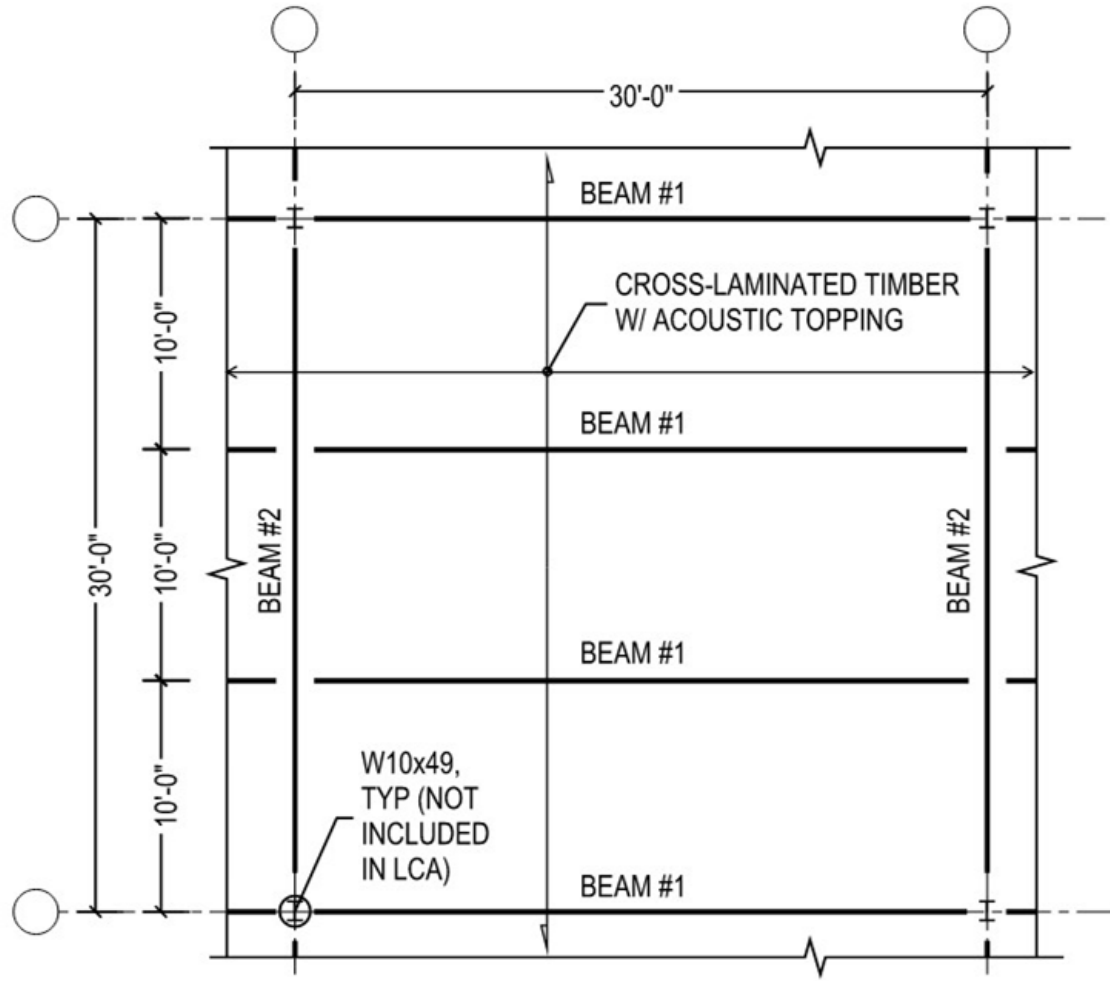
MASS TIMBER POST-AND-BEAM OFFICE ECID



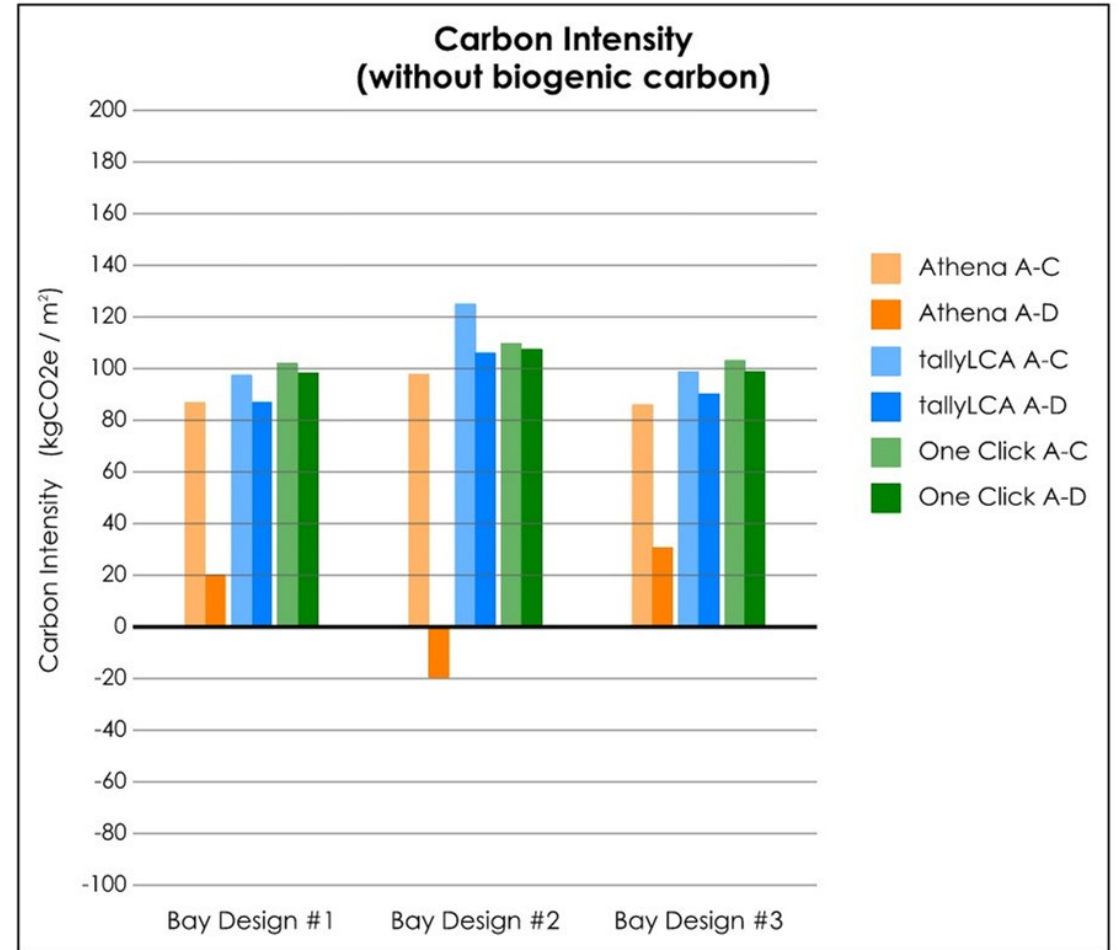
**18'x30' MASS TIMBER
POST-AND-BEAM OFFICE BAY**



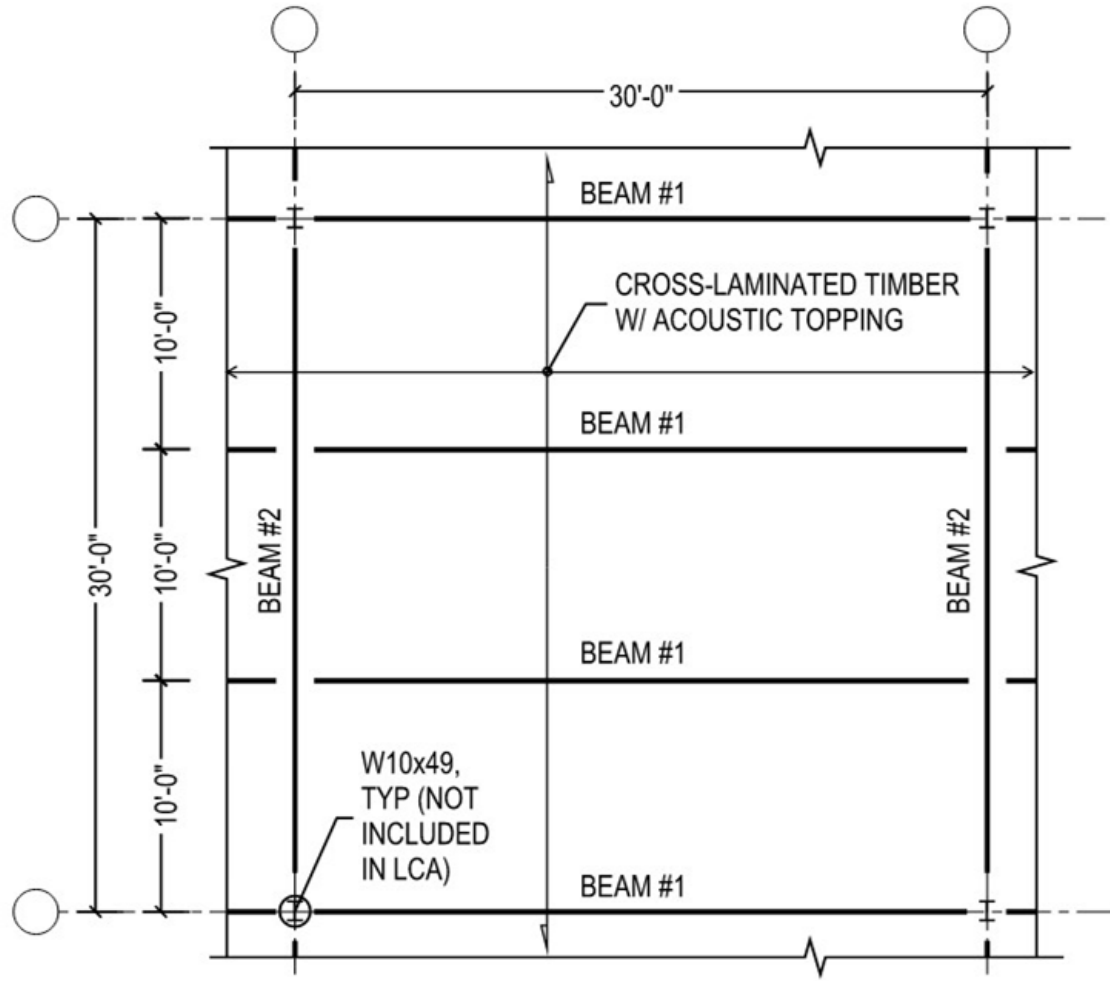
HYBRID MASS TIMBER / STEEL OFFICE ECID



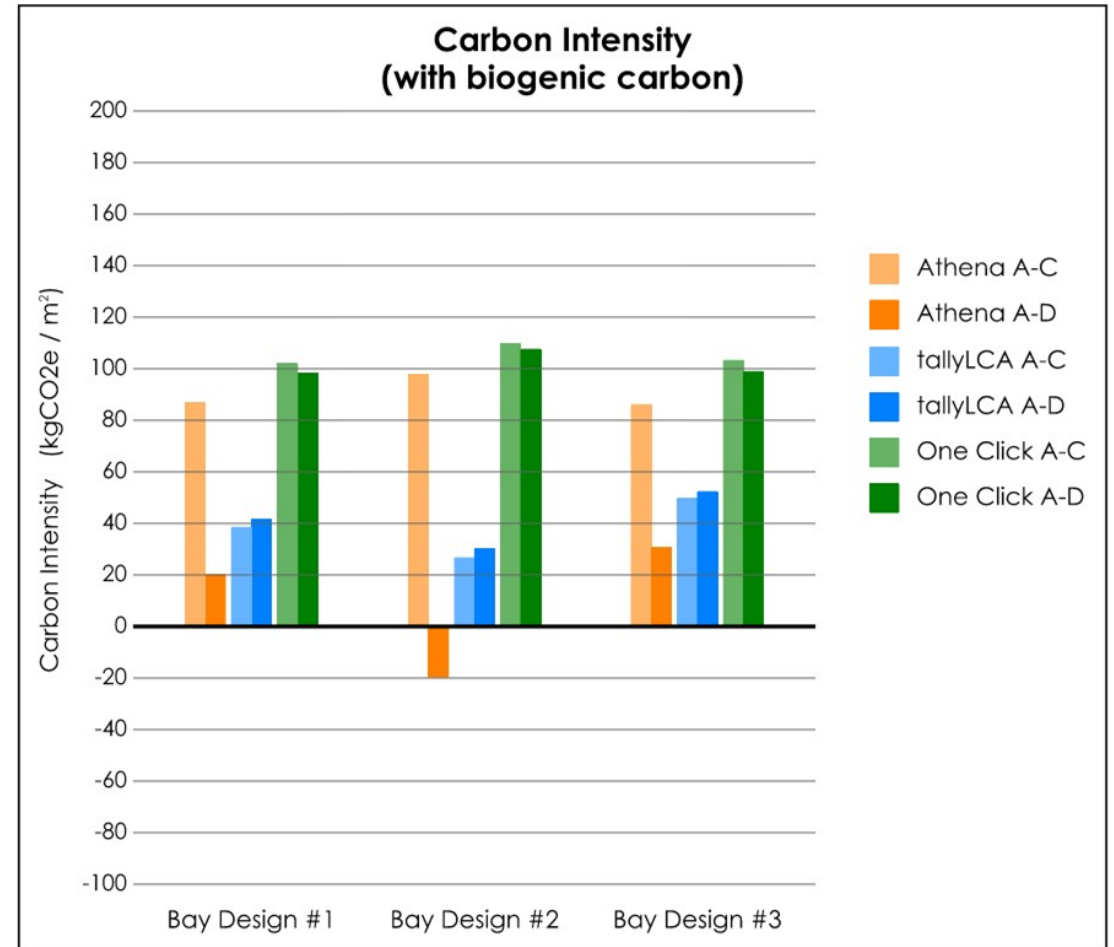
30'x30' HYBRID MASS TIMBER / STEEL OFFICE BAY



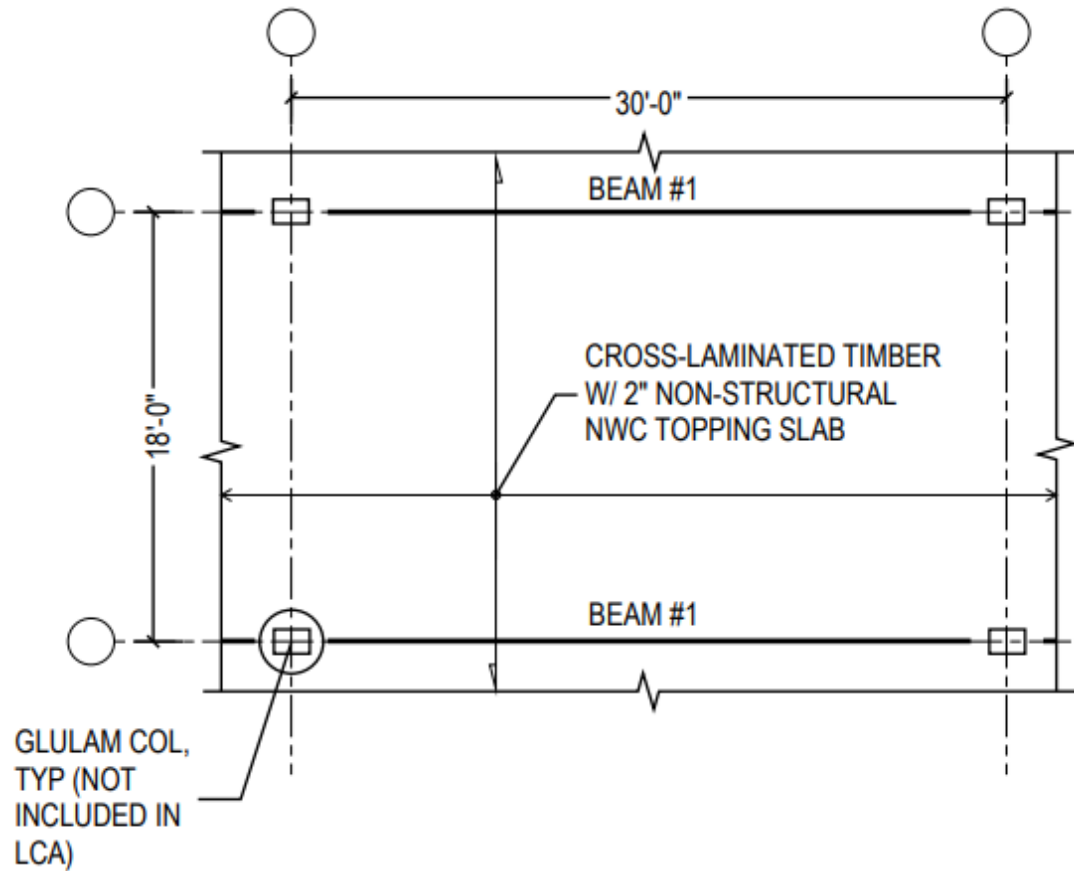
HYBRID MASS TIMBER / STEEL OFFICE ECID



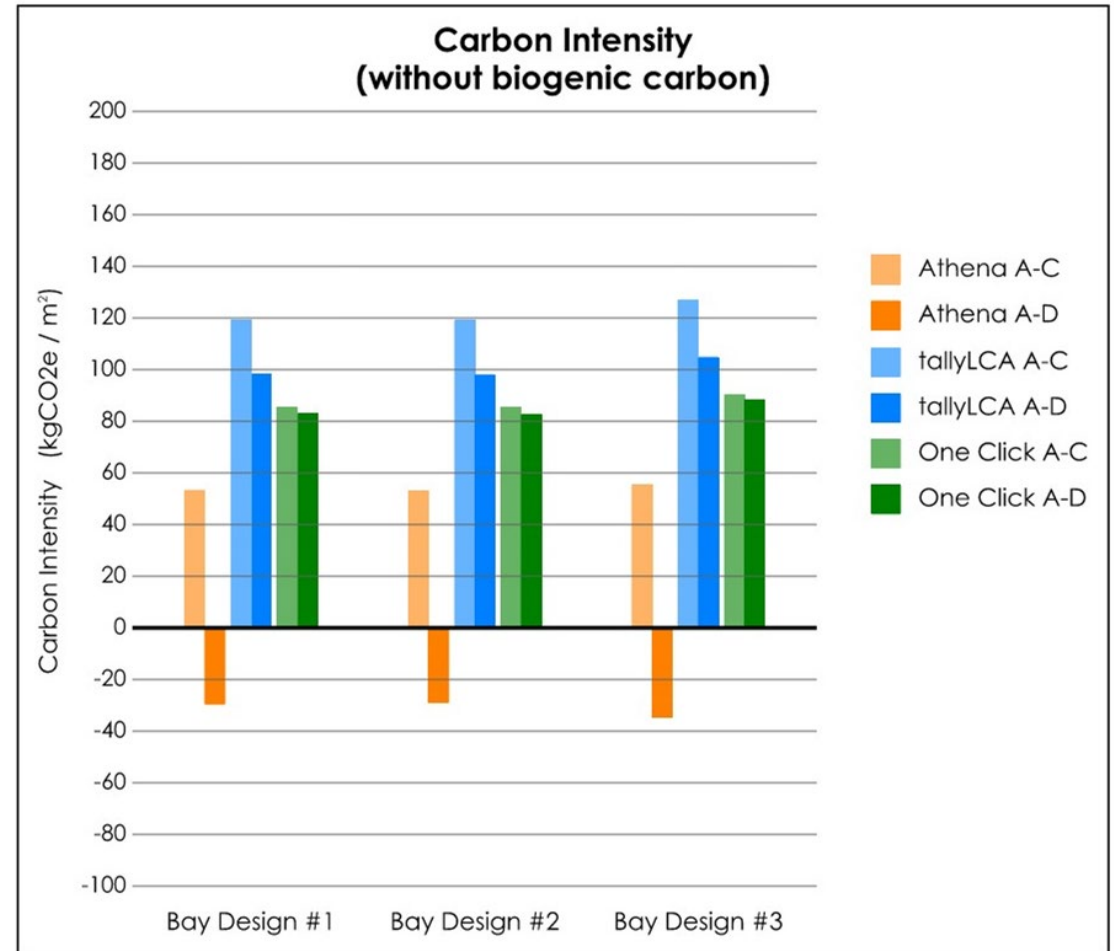
30'x30' HYBRID MASS TIMBER / STEEL OFFICE BAY



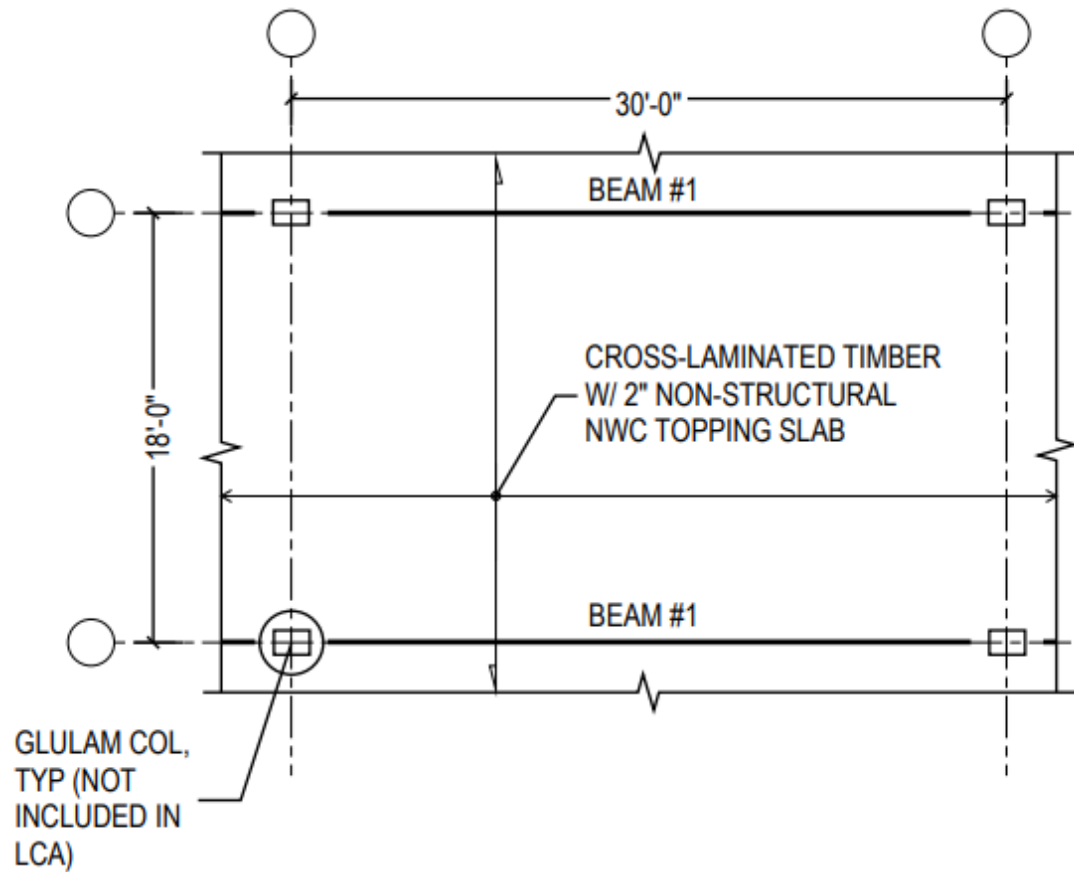
MASS TIMBER POST-AND-BEAM OFFICE ECID



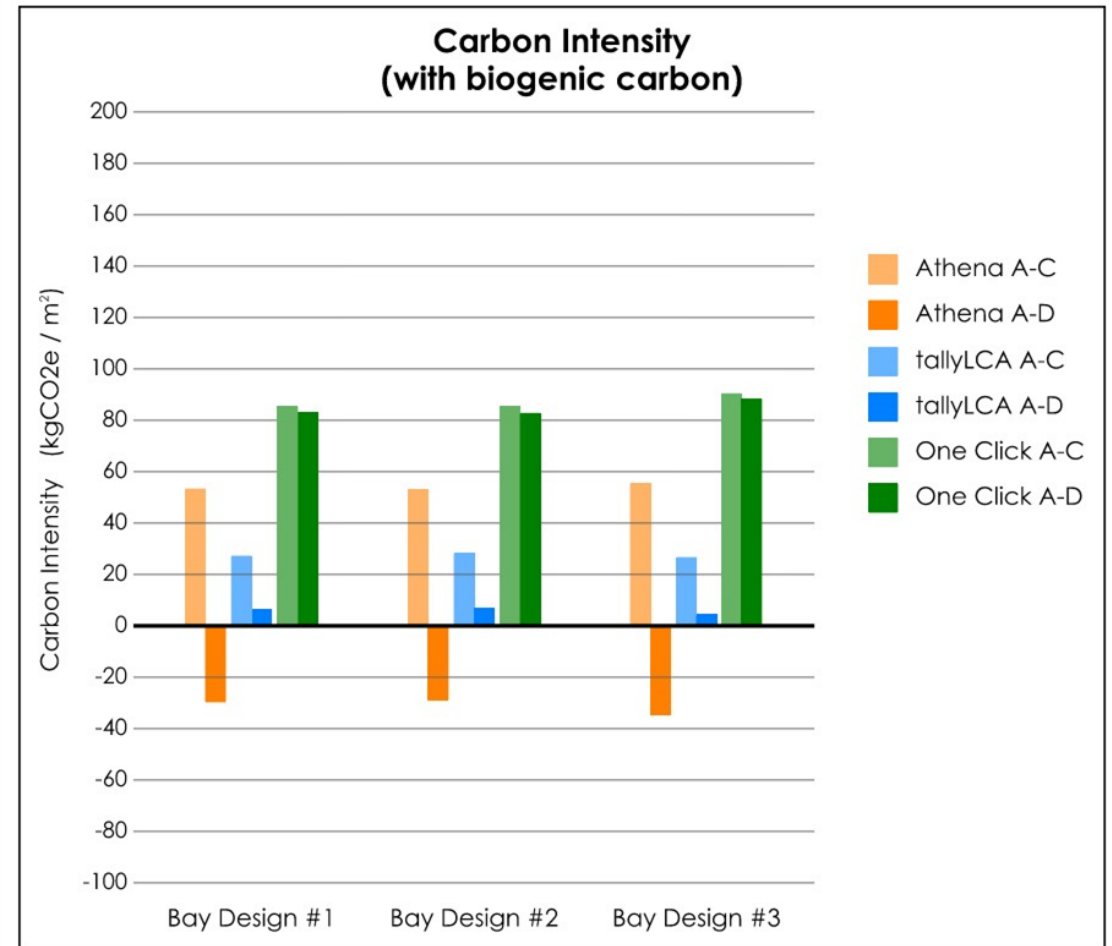
**18'x30' MASS TIMBER
POST-AND-BEAM OFFICE BAY**



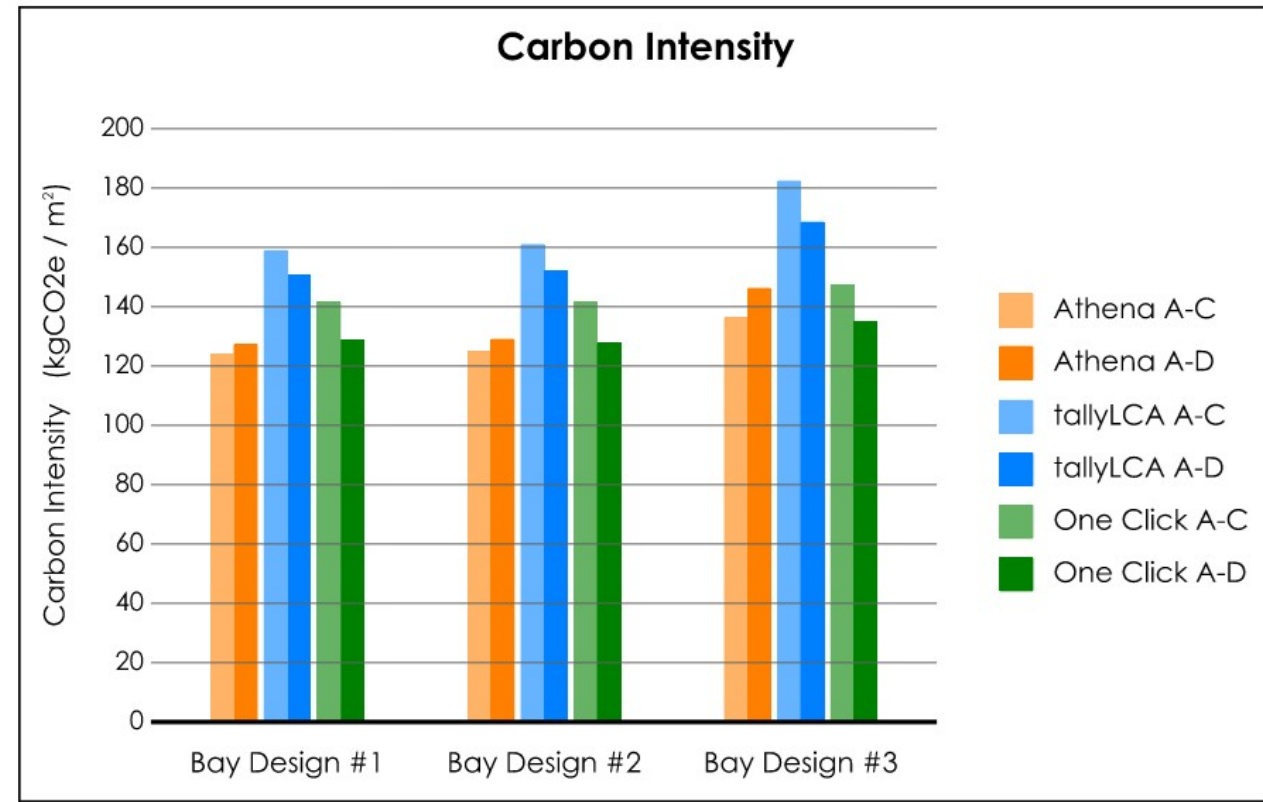
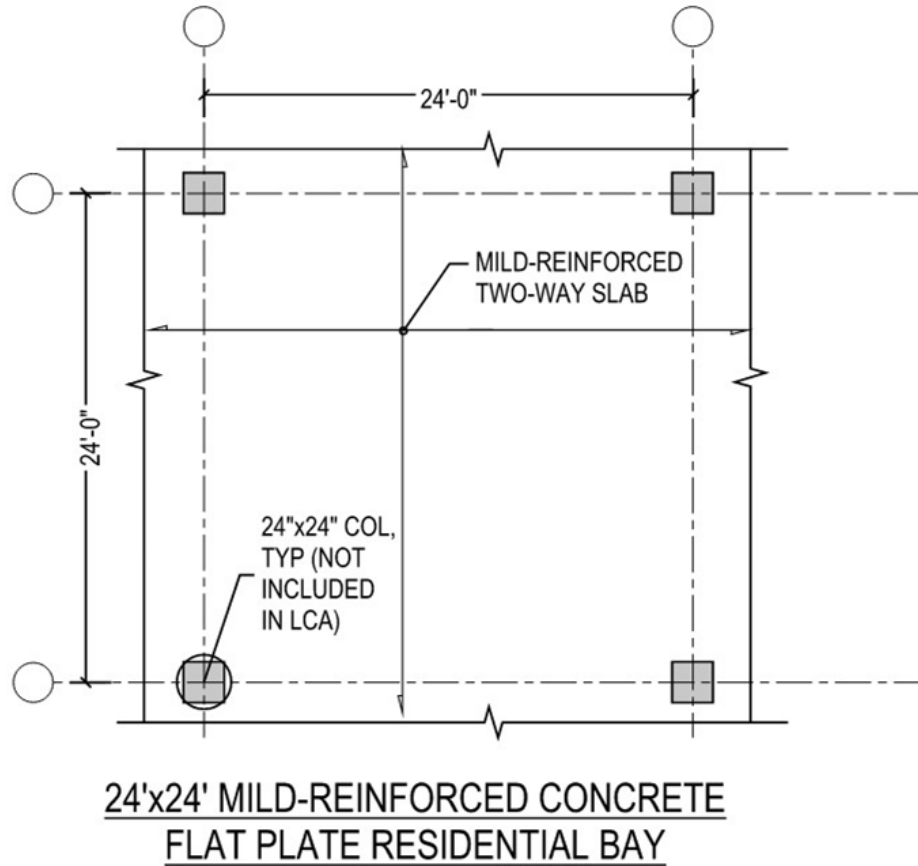
MASS TIMBER POST-AND-BEAM OFFICE ECID



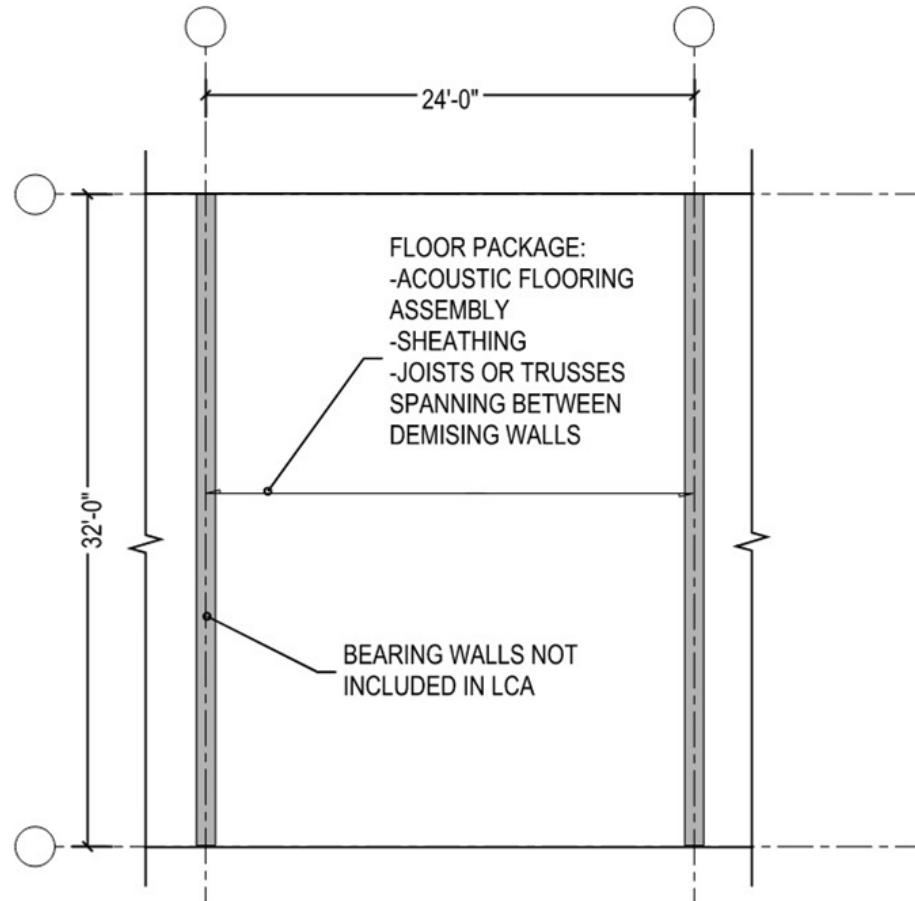
**18'x30' MASS TIMBER
POST-AND-BEAM OFFICE BAY**



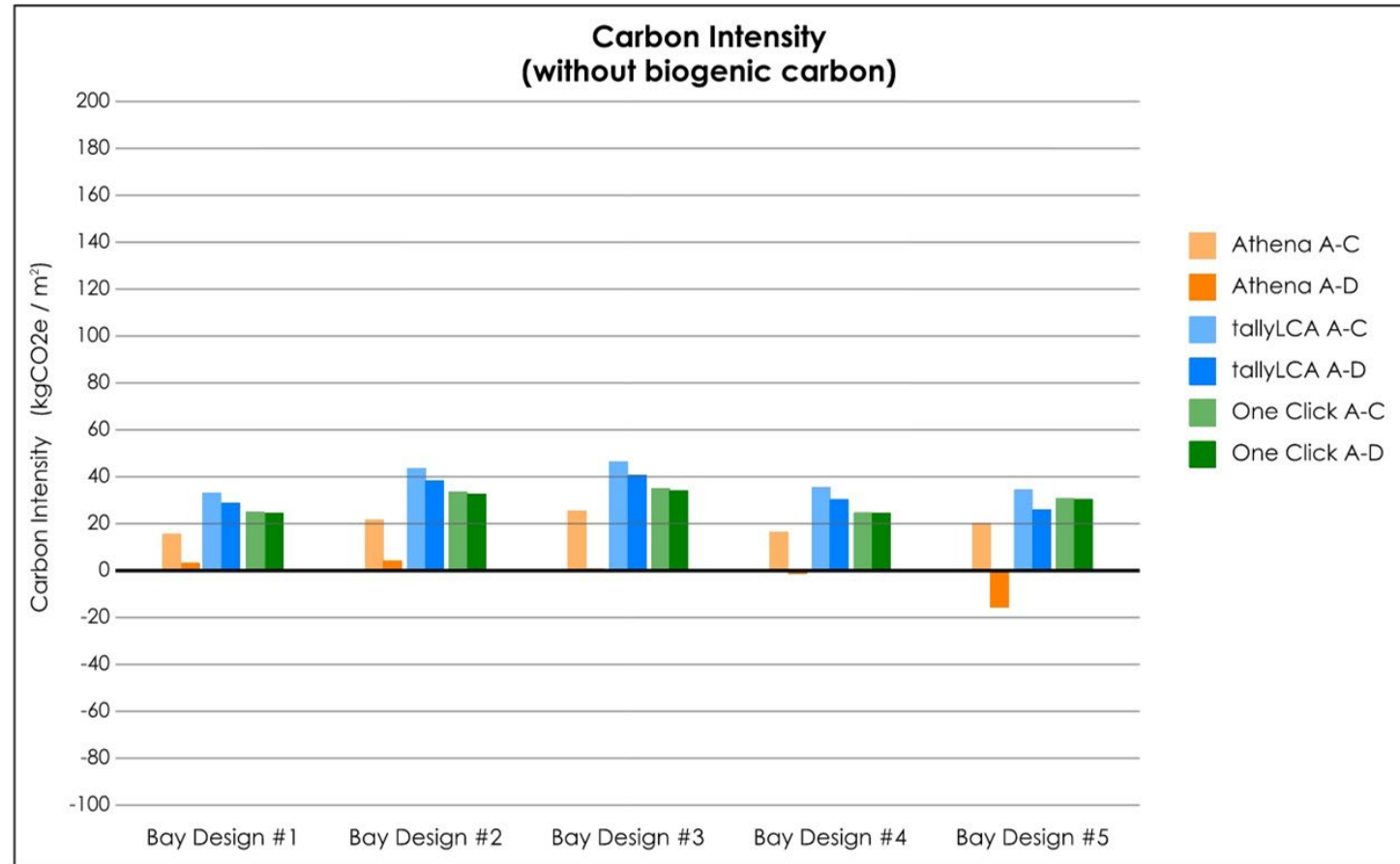
MILD-REINFORCED CONCRETE FLAT PLATE RESIDENTIAL ECID



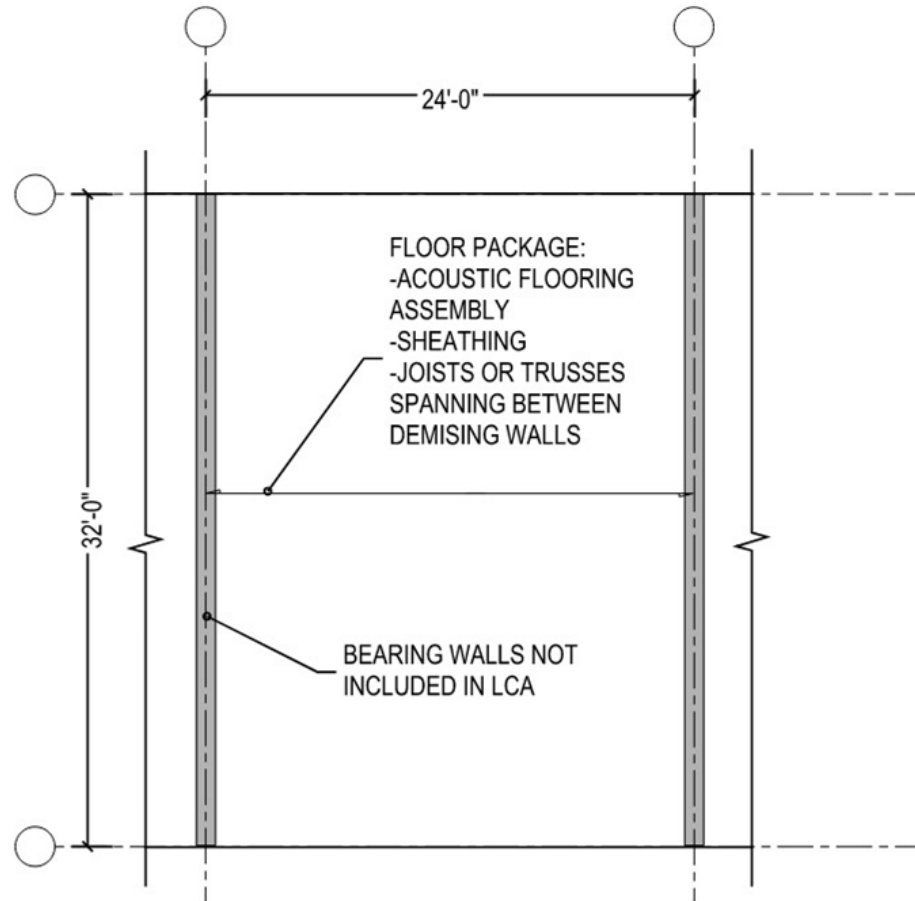
LIGHT-FRAMED RESIDENTIAL ECID



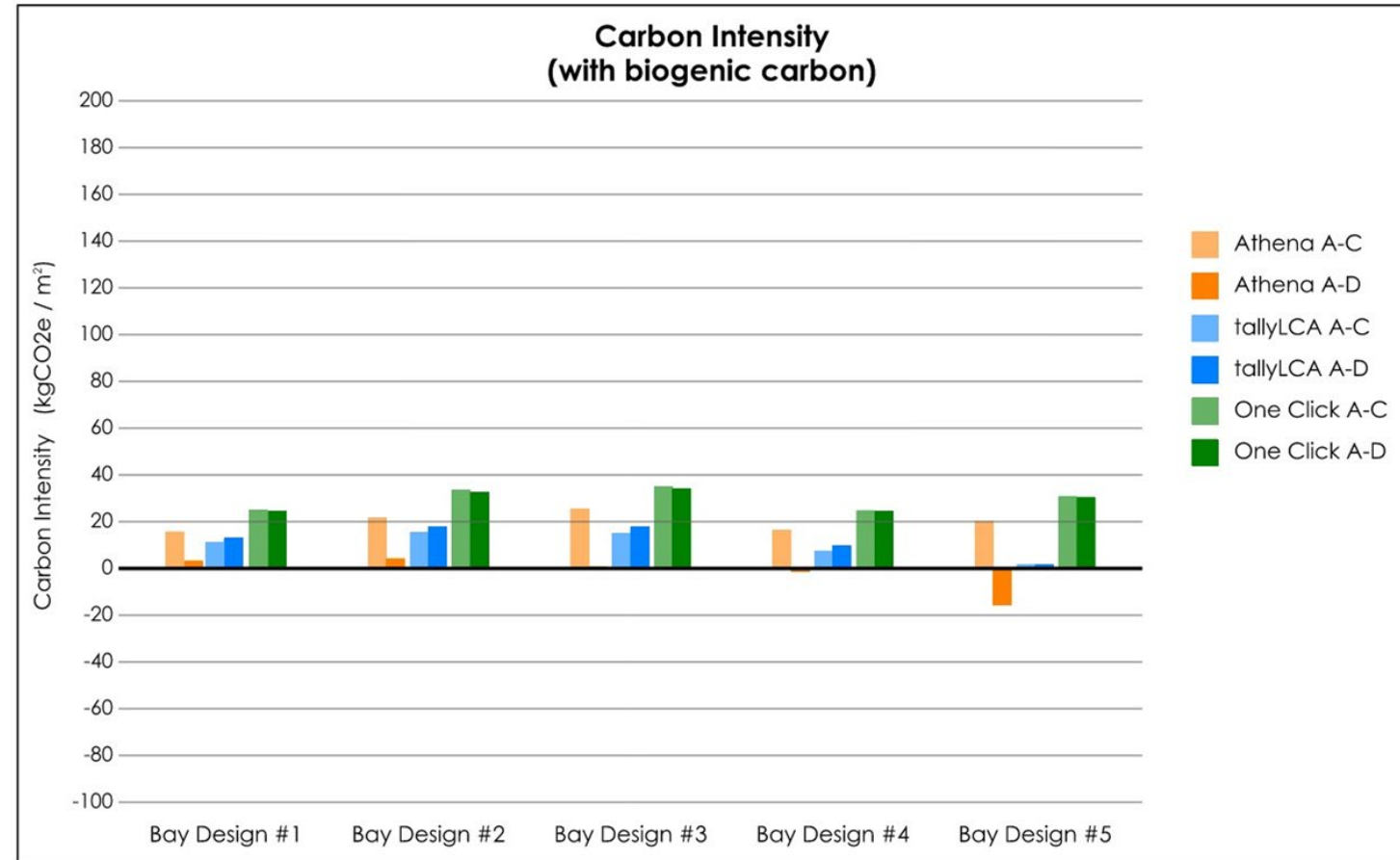
LIGHT-FRAMED MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL BAY



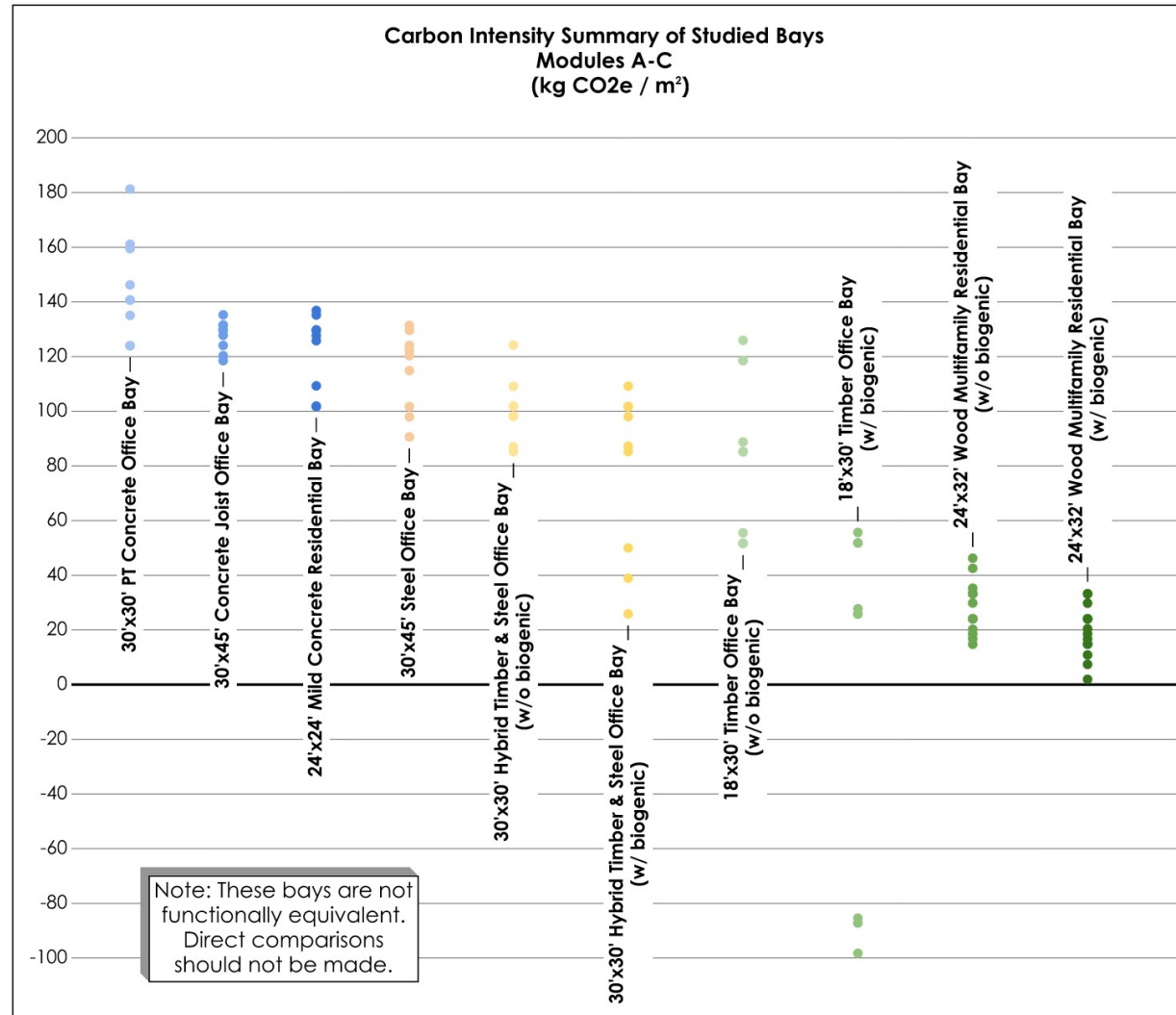
LIGHT-FRAMED RESIDENTIAL ECID



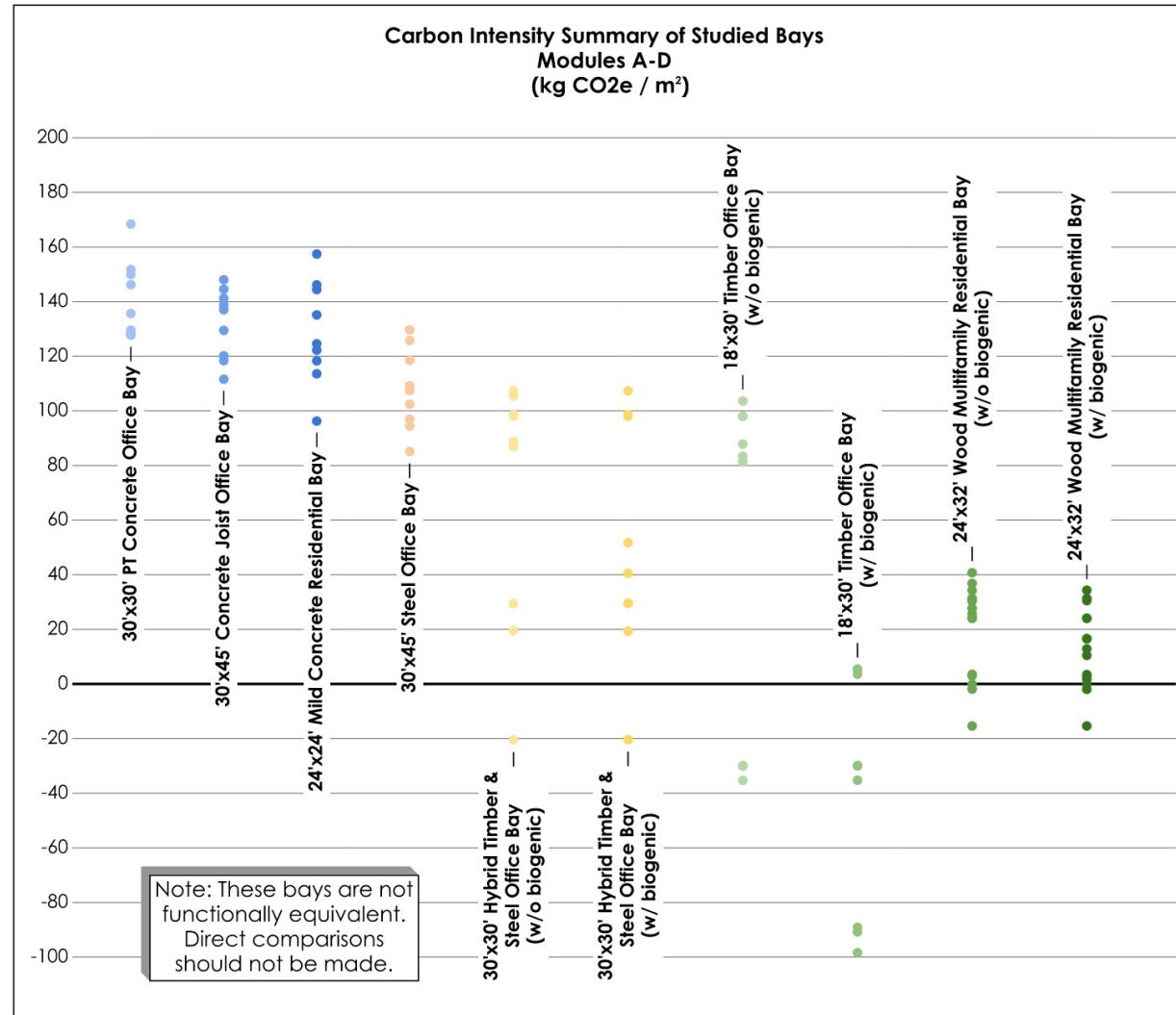
LIGHT-FRAMED MULTIFAMILY RESIDENTIAL BAY



EMBODIED CARBON INTENSITY DIAGRAM SUMMARY



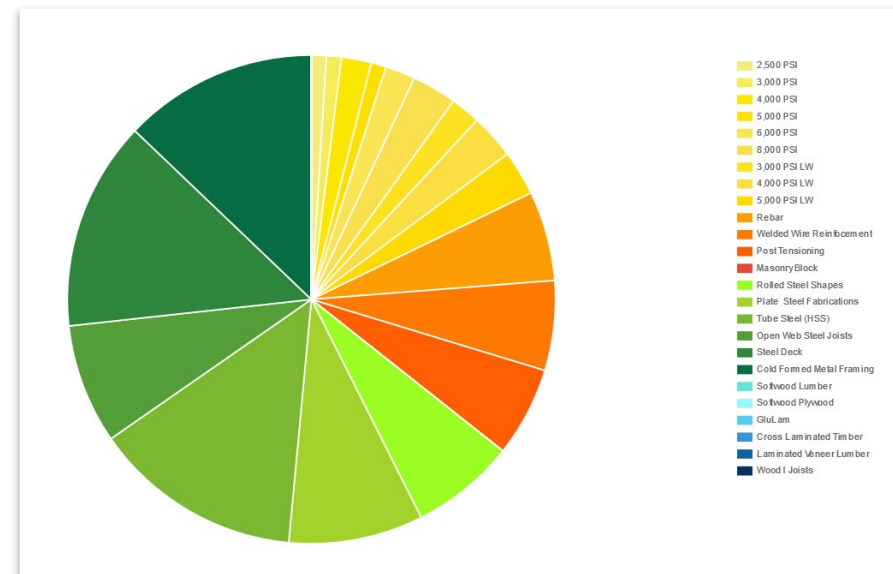
EMBODIED CARBON INTENSITY DIAGRAM SUMMARY



ECOM TOOL

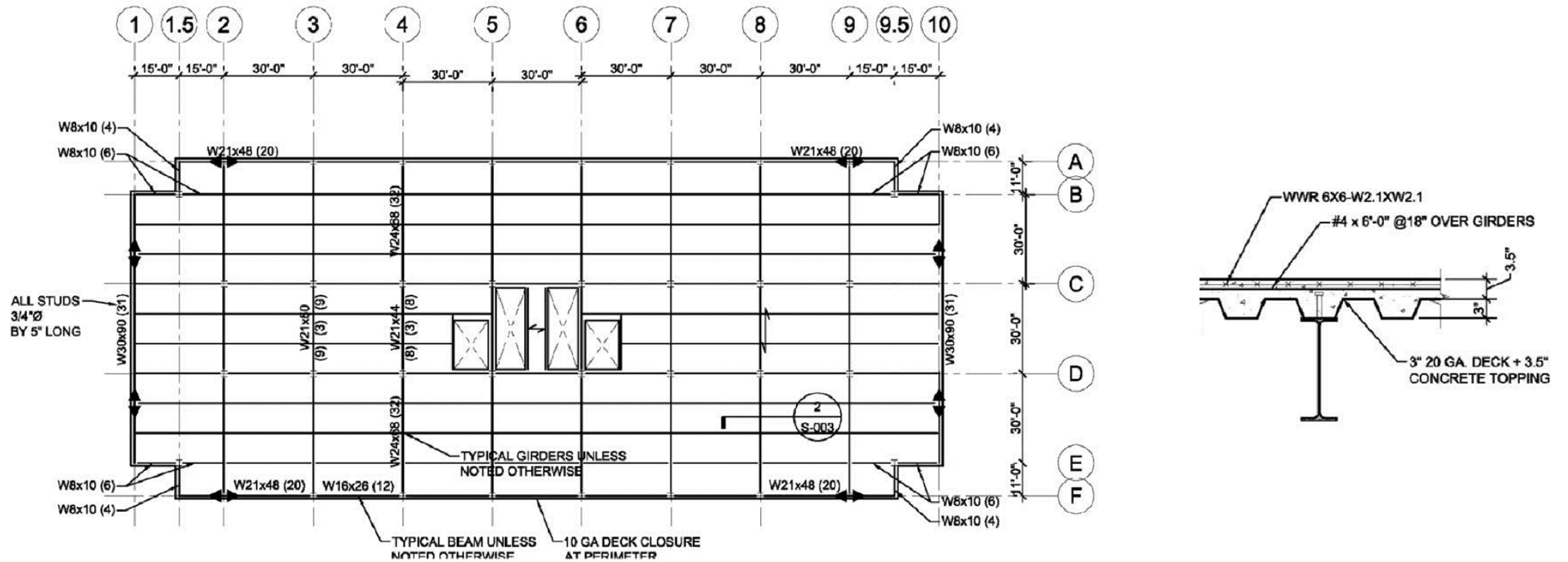
ECOM TOOL

- Embodied Carbon Order of Magnitude Tool
- A simple product tool that calculates global warming potential
- Designers can identify hot spots



<https://se2050.org/ecom-tool/>

EXAMPLE – FLOOR FRAMING



1 PLAN

1/32" = 1'-0"

WWR 6X6-W2.1XW2.1

FLOOR PLATE MATERIAL QUANTITIES

Item	Quantity
3,500 psi Concrete	455 Cubic Yards
Rebar	1.25 Tons
Metal Deck	34 Tons
Shear Studs	1 Ton
Welded Wire Reinforcement	4.25 Tons
Steel Shapes	83 Tons
Deck Closure	2.25 Tons

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Estimate the embodied carbon (Phases A1 - A3) in the floor framing (ca. 30,000 sf)

- 3 Tons CO₂e
- 30 Tons CO₂e
- 300 Tons CO₂e
- 3,000 Tons CO₂e

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Estimate the embodied carbon (Phases A1 - A3) in the floor framing

- 3 Tons CO₂e
- 30 Tons CO₂e
- 300 Tons CO₂e
- 3,000 Tons CO₂e

SE 2050 – ECOM - INPUT

Material	Structural Component	Quantity	Unit	Total Impact (lb CO ₂ e)	Total Impact (kg CO ₂ e)	% of Total
Concrete	2,500 PSI	0	Cubic Yards	0	0	0.0%
	3,000 PSI	455	Cubic Yards	227,903.95	103,376.55	37.8%
	4,000 PSI	Input quantity here	Cubic Yards			0.0%
	5,000 PSI	Input quantity here	Cubic Yards			0.0%
	6,000 PSI	Input quantity here	Cubic Yards			0.0%
	8,000 PSI	Input quantity here	Cubic Yards			0.0%
	3,000 PSI LW	Input quantity here	Cubic Yards			0.0%
	4,000 PSI LW	Input quantity here	Cubic Yards			0.0%
	5,000 PSI LW	Input quantity here	Cubic Yards			0.0%
Steel Reinforcement	Rebar	1.21	Tons	2,369.38	1,074.65	0.4%
	Welded Wire Reinforcement	4.25	Tons	8,321.5	3,774.61	1.4%
	Post Tensioning	Input quantity here	Tons			0.0%
Masonry	Normal Weight Masonry Block	Input quantity here	Tons			0.0%
	Light Weight Masonry Block	Input quantity here	Tons			0.0%
	Masonry Grout	Input quantity here	Cubic Yards			0.0%
	Mortar	Input quantity here	Cubic Yards			0.0%
Steel	Rolled Steel Shapes	83	Tons	192,560	87,344.64	32.0%
	Plate Steel Fabrications	Input quantity here	Tons			0.0%
	Tube Steel (HSS)	Input quantity here	Tons			0.0%
	Open Web Steel Joists	Input quantity here	Tons			0.0%
	Steel Deck	34	Tons	161,600	73,101.7	26.7%
	Cold Formed Metal Framing	2.25	Tons	10,260	4,653.91	1.7%
Timber	Softwood Lumber	Input quantity here	Cubic feet			0.0%
	Softwood Plywood	Input quantity here	Cubic feet			0.0%
	Glulam	Input quantity here	Cubic feet			0.0%
	Cross Laminated Timber	Input quantity here	Cubic feet			0.0%
	Laminated Veneer Lumber	Input quantity here	Cubic feet			0.0%
	Wood Joists	Input quantity here	LBS			0.0%

Embodied Carbon Area	
Total Area (ft ²)	29,000
Total Area (m ²)	2,694.1

Steel Reinforcement	Rebar	1.21	Tons
	Welded Wire Reinforcement	4.25	Tons
	Post Tensioning	Input quantity here	Tons

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Which assemblies are responsible for at least 25% of the embodied carbon in floor framing? (Choose all that apply)

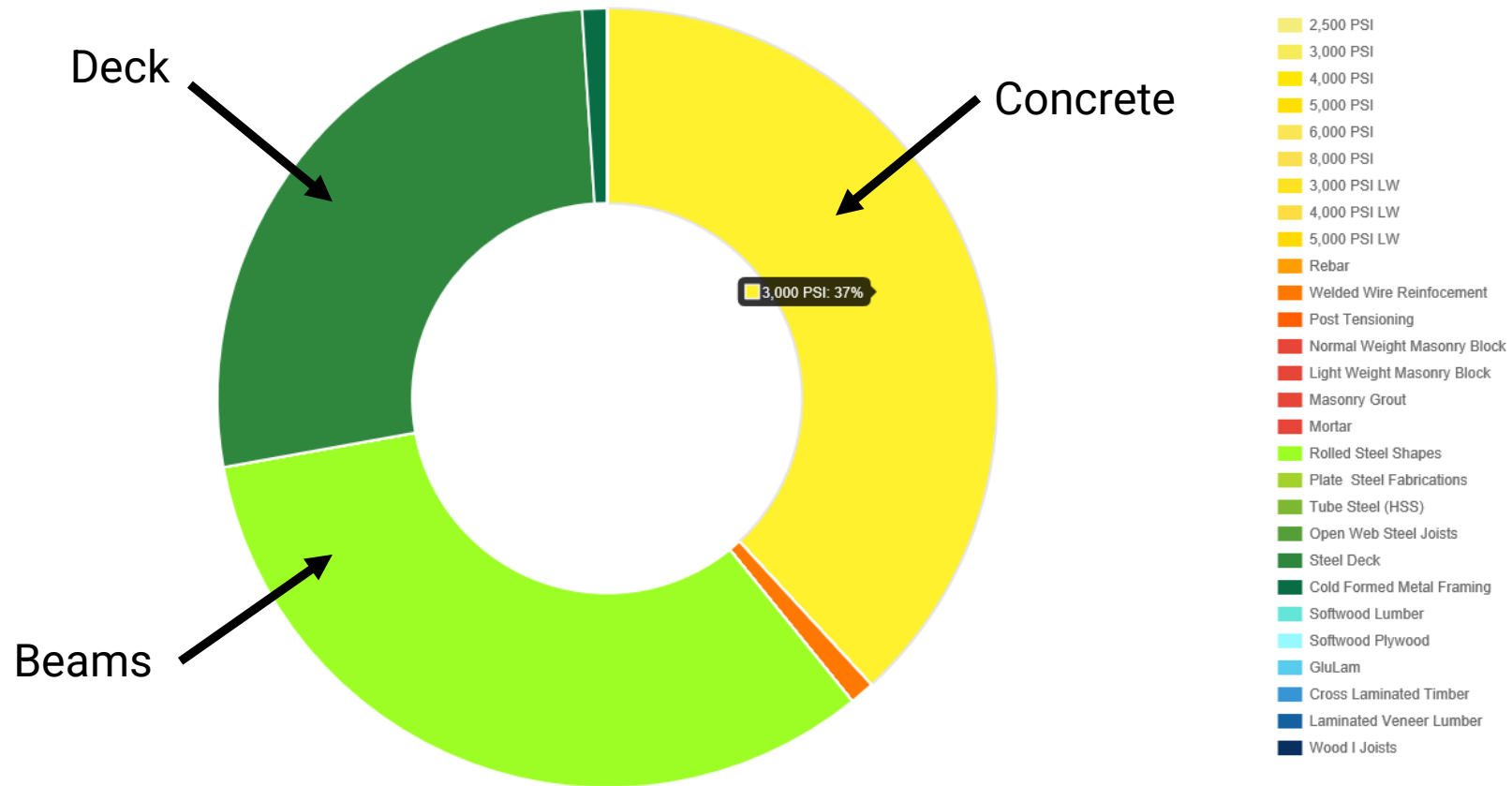
- Steel Beams
- Steel Deck
- Rebar
- Concrete

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

Which assemblies are responsible for at least 25% of the embodied carbon in floor framing? (Choose all that apply)

- Steel Beams
- Steel Deck
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SE 2050 – ECOM OUTPUT



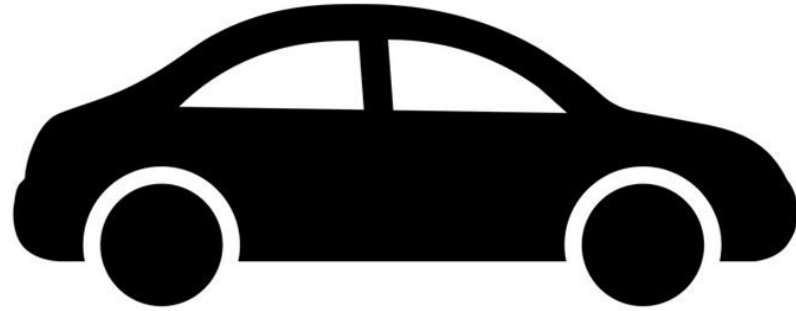
Embodied Carbon Totals	
Total Impact (lb CO ₂ e)	602,573
Total Impact (kg CO ₂ e)	273,322

Embodied Carbon Intensities	
Intensity (lb CO ₂ e/ ft ²)	20.78
Intensity (kg CO ₂ e/ m ²)	101.45

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE - CONTEXT

The embodied carbon in the floor is roughly equivalent to driving....

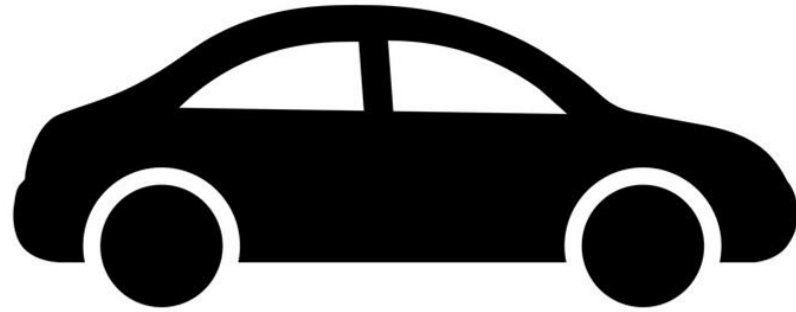
- >500 Miles?
- >5,000 Miles?
- >50,000 Miles?
- >500,000 Miles?



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE - CONTEXT

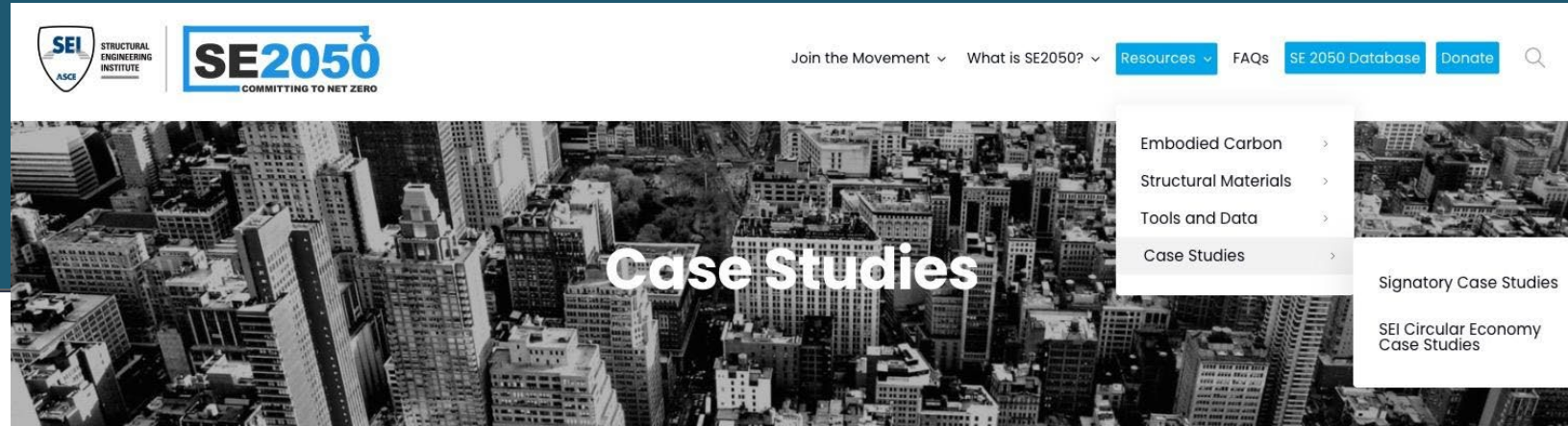
The embodied carbon in the floor is roughly equivalent to driving....

- >500 Miles?
- >5,000 Miles?
- >50,000 Miles?
- >500,000 Miles?



CASE STUDIES

CASE STUDIES



Signatory Case Studies (coming soon)



SEI Circular Economy Case Studies




SIGNATORY CASE STUDIES

The SE 2050 Resources Working Group is calling on all signatories to contribute project case studies for publication on the SE 2050 website!

Firms are invited to contribute project-specific key findings, recommendations and lessons learned as related to implemented embodied carbon reduction strategies.

Projects submitted could be SE 2050 database contributions but do not need to be.

Projects may be anonymous or identified.

 **SE2050** ACCELERATING THE NET ZERO January 5, 2024

CASE STUDY:
Bush School

This project is a new, deep green classroom and commons building for a private K-12 school. The building includes ten classrooms, casual break-out areas, 400-seat multipurpose room with pre-function spaces, student lounge, student/faculty collaboration center, administrative offices and faculty work room.


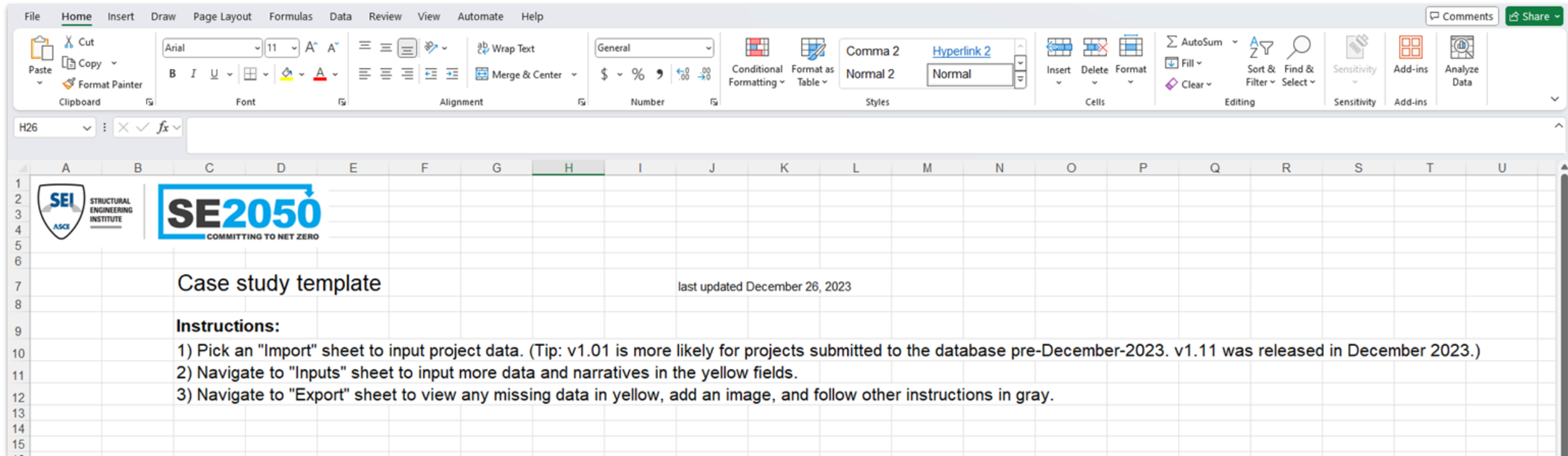


Image credit: Lara Swimmer

Project Data

Location	Seattle, Washington, United States
Primary Building Use Type	Education
New building or Renovation project:	New Construction
Construction Year (or Anticipated):	2022
Gross Square Footage (sq ft):	20000
Mean Roof Height (ft):	29.5
Number of Stories Above Grade:	2
Number of Stories Below Grade:	1
Expected Building Life (years):	60

SIGNATORY CASE STUDIES



Our provided template makes it easy to prepare a case study submission, especially if you have used the Database Input Spreadsheet to submit the project.

SIGNATORY CASE STUDIES

Motivations for this effort include:

- **Share lessons learned**, successes & challenges
- **Contribute knowledge** in reducing emissions at an industry level
 - This type of knowledge-sharing was specifically requested by signatory firms
- **Uncover narratives** behind one anonymized data point in the database
- **Demonstrate leadership** to clients and future talent

We hope to hear from you!

SEI **SE2050** January 5, 2024

CASE STUDY:
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Image credit: Lara Swimmer

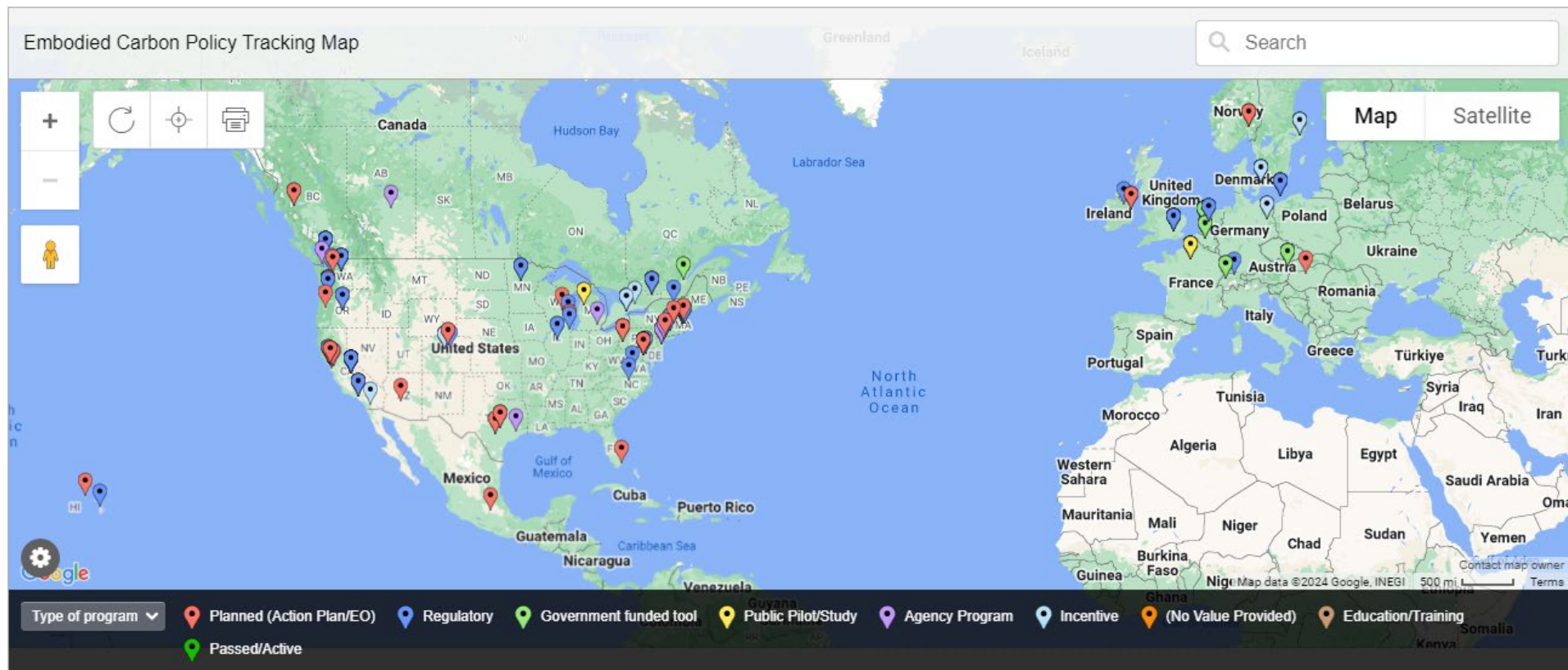
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EMBODIED CARBON POLICIES

EMBODIED CARBON POLICIES

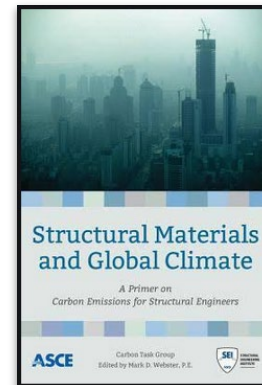
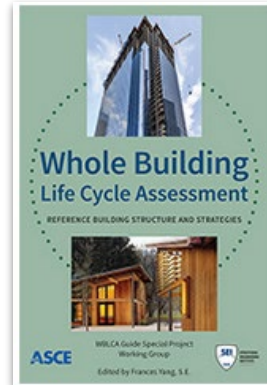
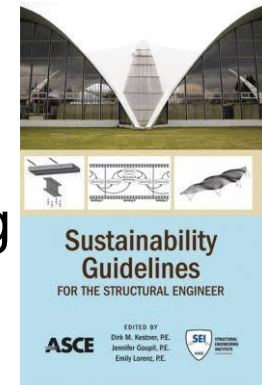
- Carbon Leadership Forum's Policy Map
- SE 2050-NCSEA Policy Subgroup



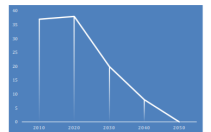
EXTERNAL RESOURCES

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

- Reference Materials:
 - “Sustainability Guidelines for the Structural Engineer”
 - “Whole Building Life Cycle Assessment – Reference Building Structure and Strategies”
 - “Structural Materials and Global Climate”
 - “Achieving Net Zero Embodied Carbon in Structural Materials by 2050”
- Web Resources:
 - www.SE2050.org
 - www.seisustainability.org
 - <https://carbonleadershipforum.org/>



Achieving Net Zero Embodied Carbon in Structural Materials by 2050



A White Paper by the Structural Engineering Institute's Sustainability Committee Carbon Working Group

March 2020
Updated May 2023

Image inspired by Figure 504 in Item #102, Report Number WSP-17-17 (2016), <http://www.sei.org/~/media/SEI/PDF/ReportNumberWSP-17-17-2016.pdf>