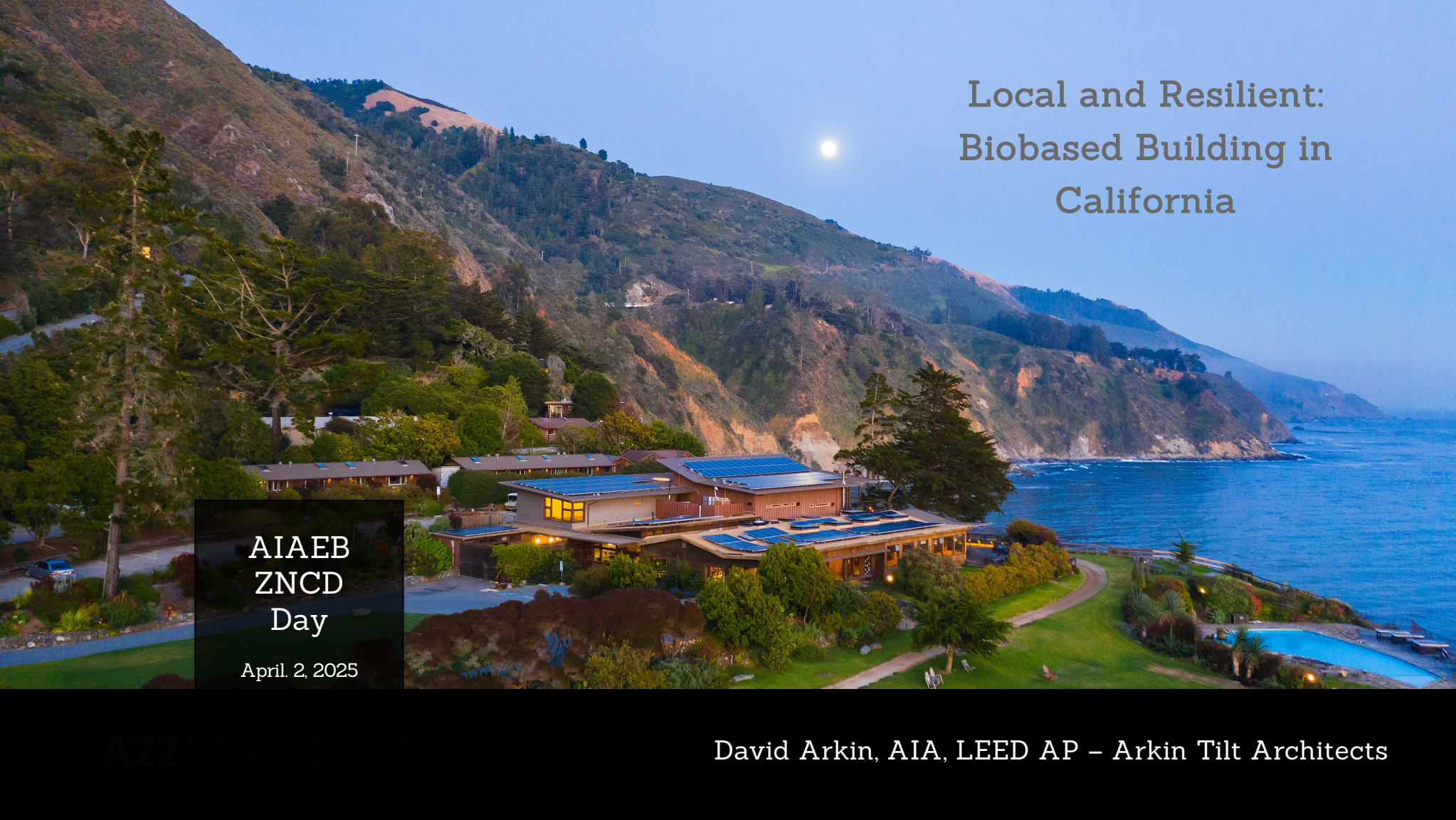




Local and Resilient: Biobased Building in California

AIAEB
ZNCD
Day

April. 2, 2025

N22

David Arkin, AIA, LEED AP – Arkin Tilt Architects

Remaining Global Emissions Budget

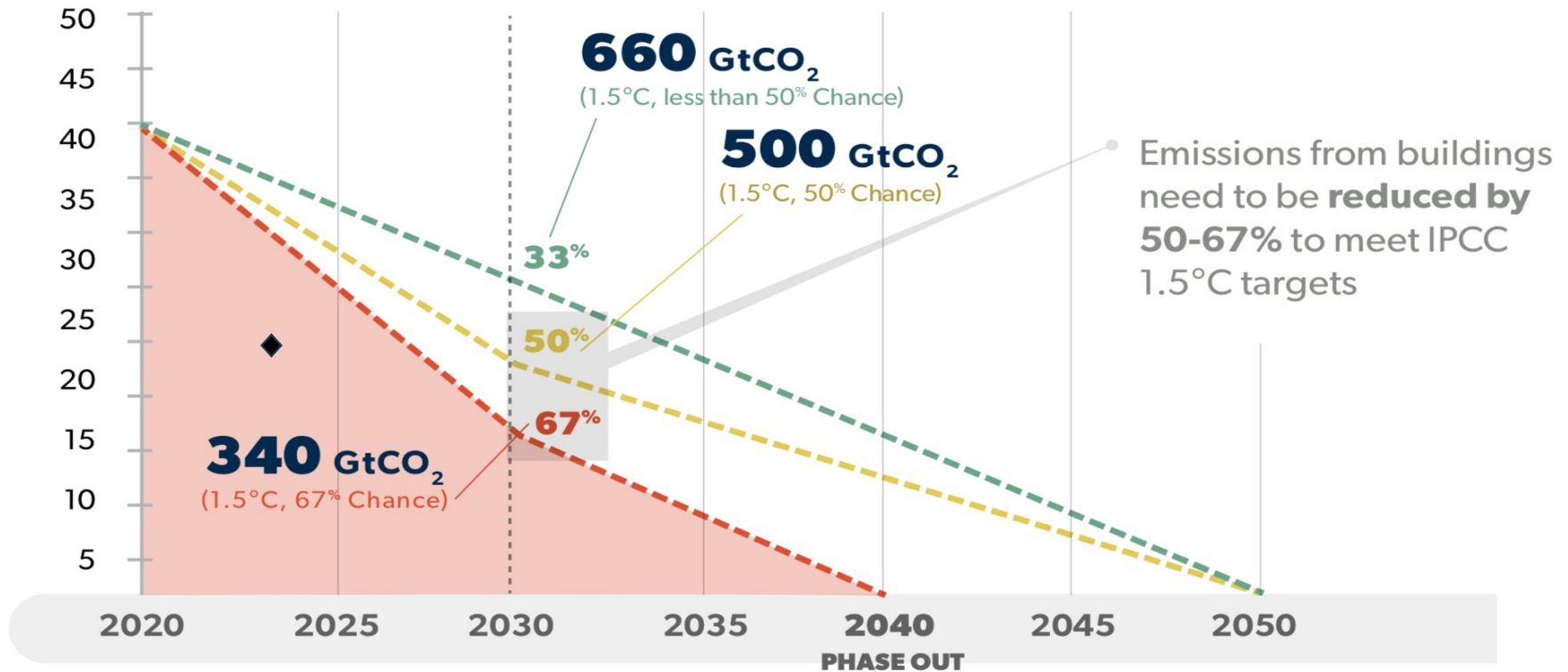
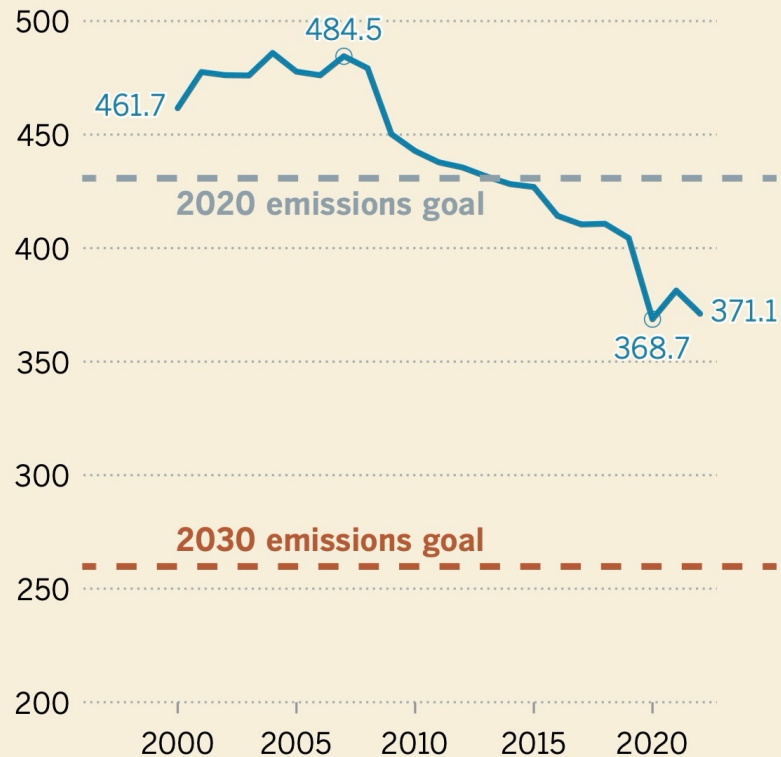


Figure 1: Emission reduction pathways to meet IPCC 1.5C targets Adapted from Architecture 2030.

California's greenhouse gas emissions decreased 2.4% in 2022

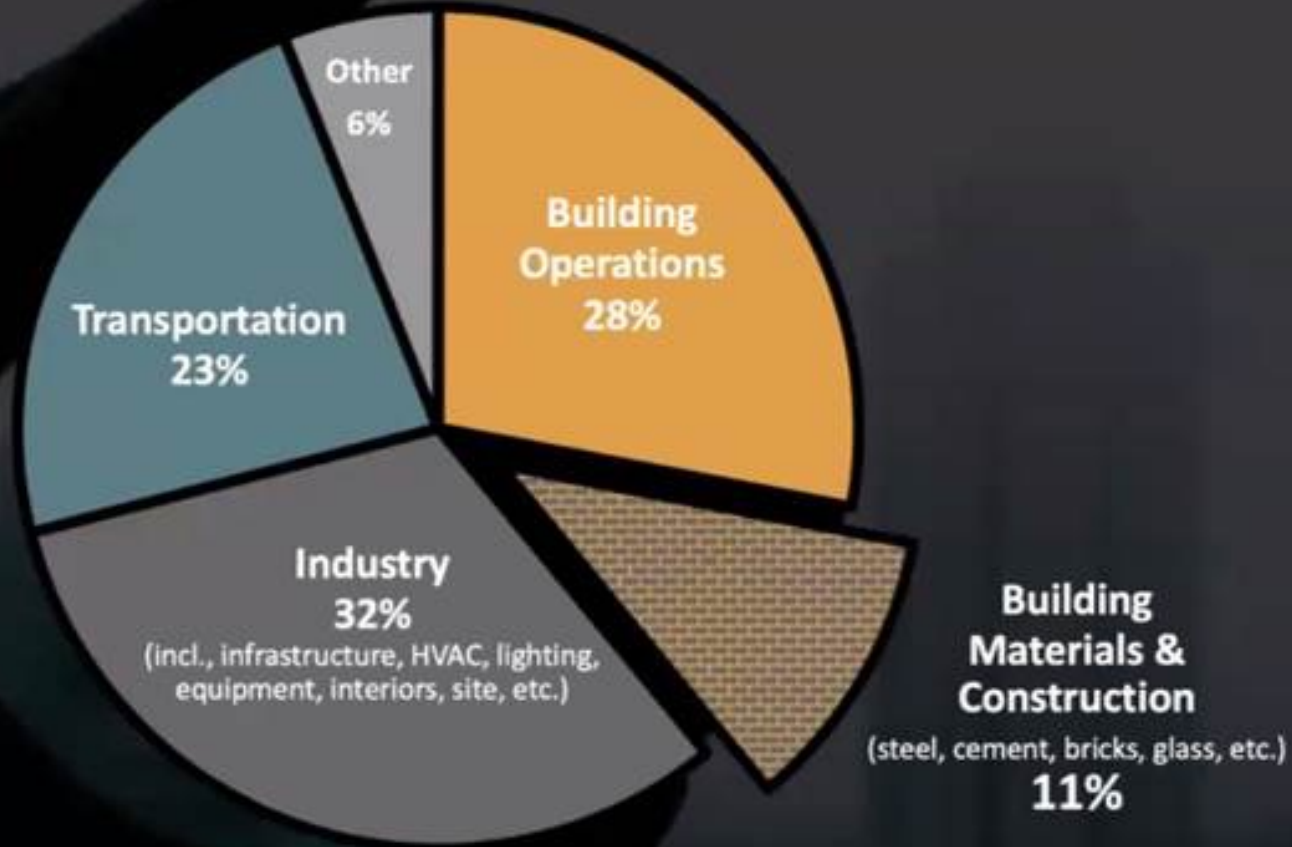
Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, in millions



California Air Resources Board

Sean Greene LOS ANGELES TIMES

L.A. Times – Oct. 2024



www.architecture2030.org

Global Fossil Fuel CO₂ Emissions by Sector
Source: IEA, Global ABC

Energy Use Intensity – E U I

kBTU/ft²/year

Operational Carbon Impacts due to Energy Consumption including:

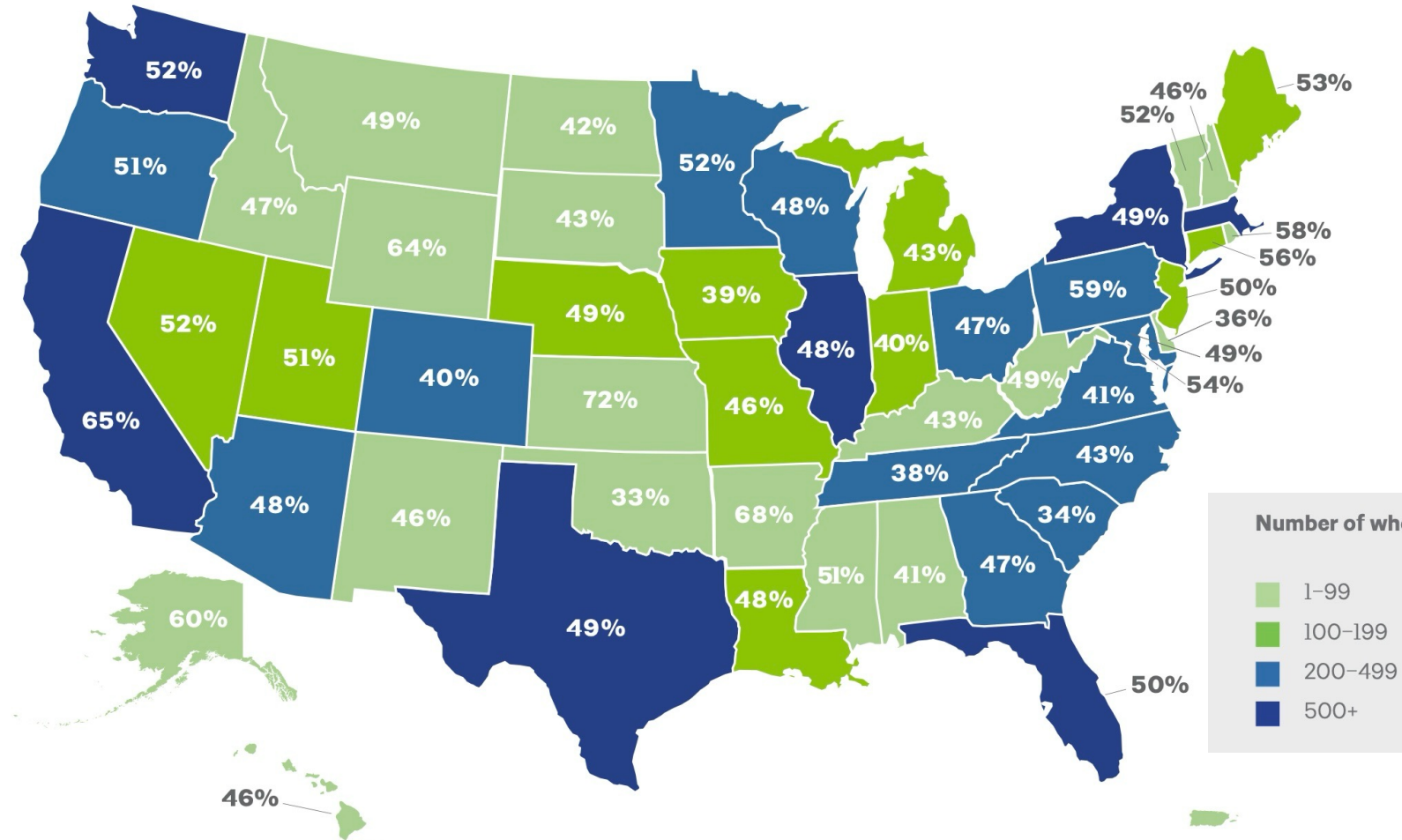
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning
- Lighting Loads
- Equipment and Plug Loads
- Other Ongoing Energy Needs Tied to Building Operation

Pathway to zero emissions



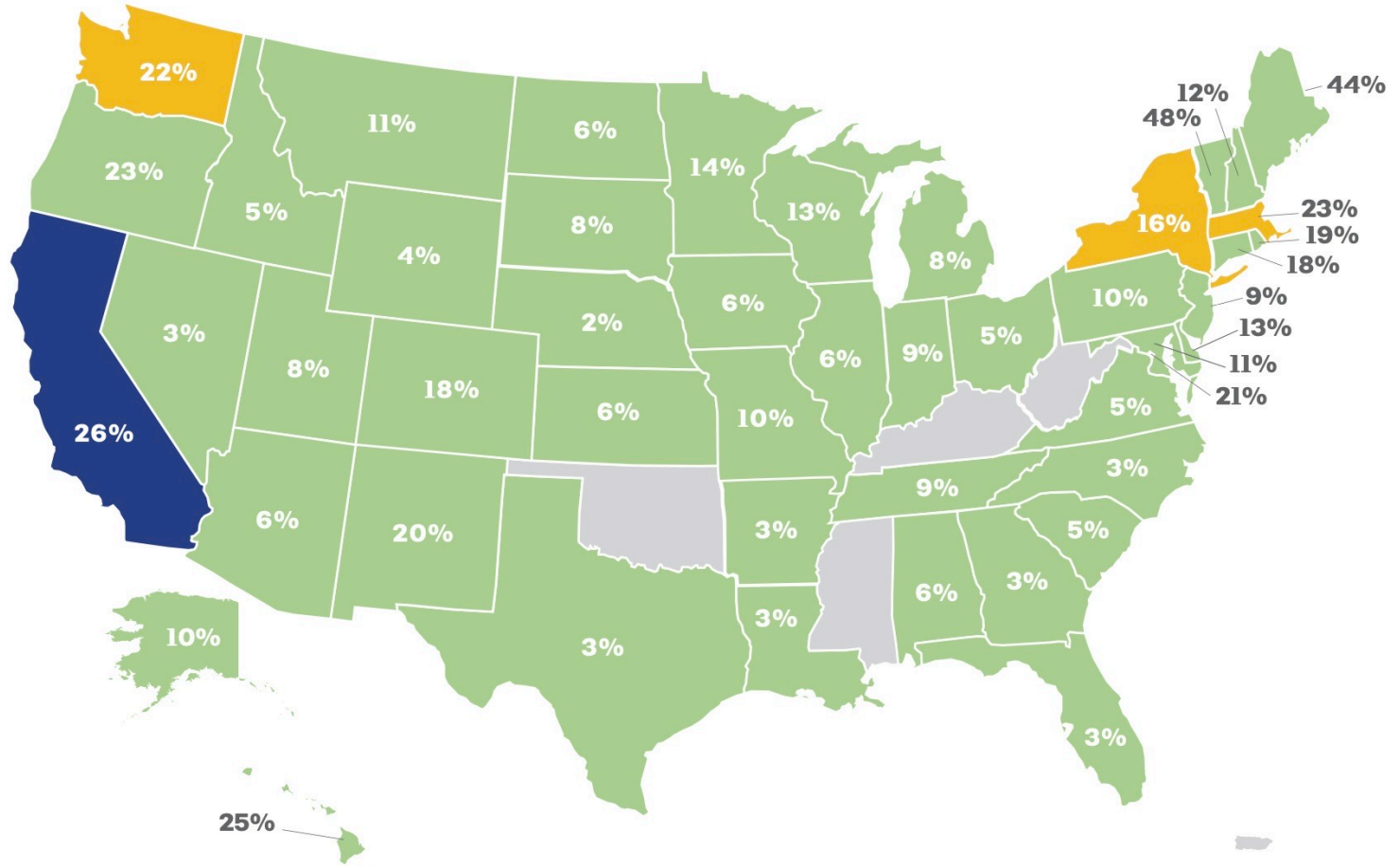
Achieving zero emissions from new buildings will require energy efficient buildings that use no on-site fossil fuels and are 100% powered by on- and/or off-site renewable energy.

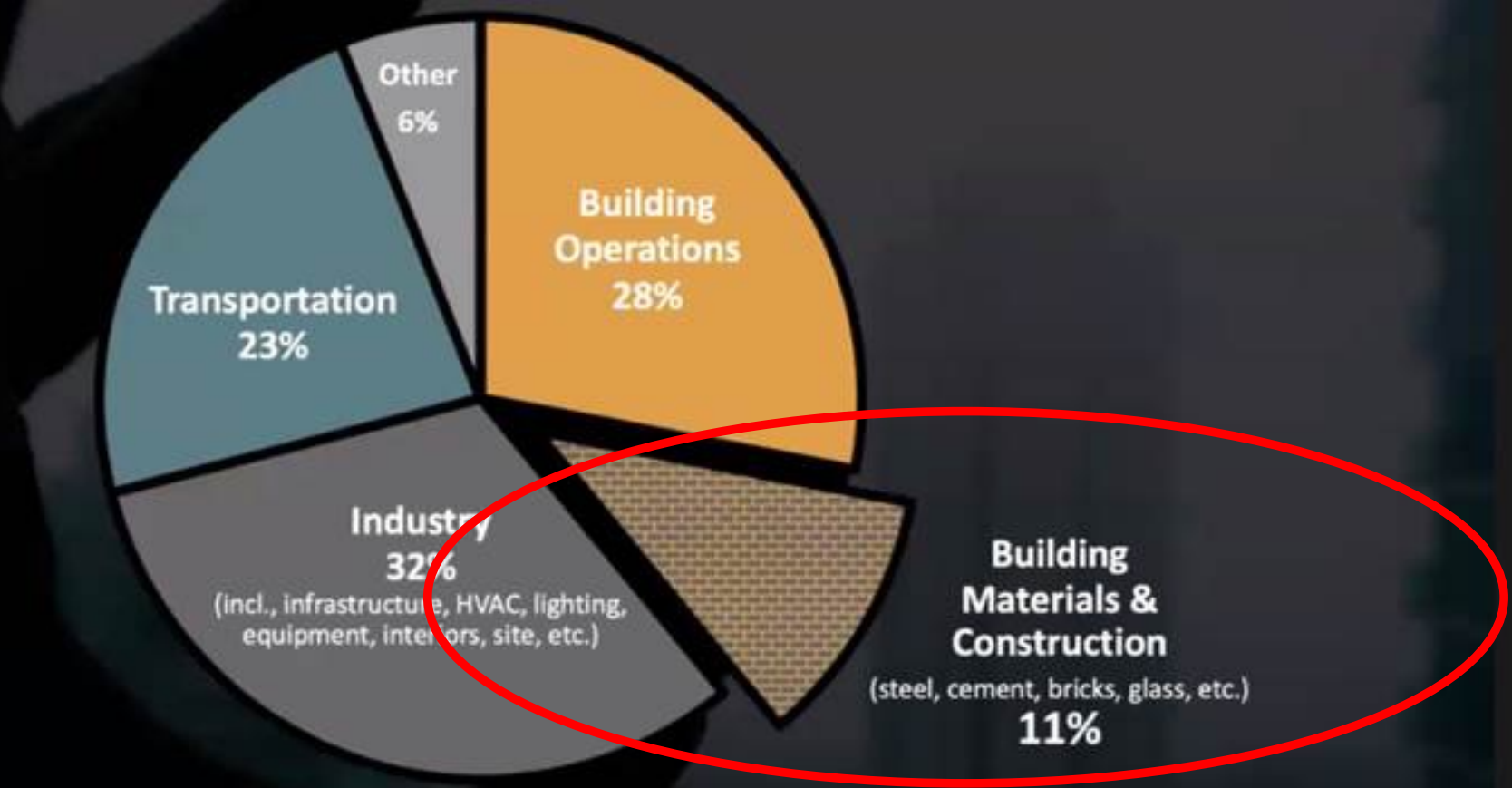
pEUI % REDUCTION BY STATE



PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL PROJECTS WITH RENEWABLE ENERGY BY U.S. STATE

Number of projects





www.architecture2030.org

Global Fossil Fuel CO₂ Emissions by Sector
Source: IEA, Global ABC

Embodied Carbon Intensity – E C I

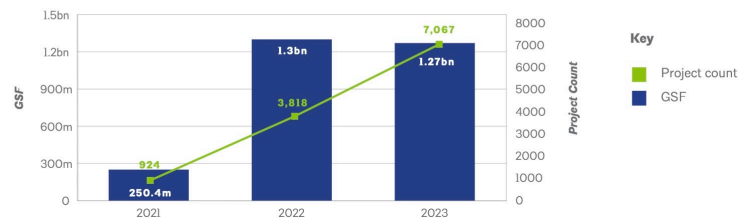
kgCO₂e/m²

Carbon Embodied in the Extraction, Production and Transport of Building Materials and Construction Activities, including:

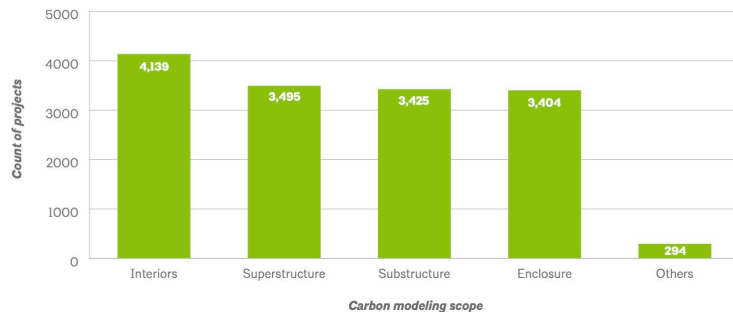
- Excavation and Site Development Impacts
- Manufacturing and Transport of All Building Materials
- Energy Use During Construction (fuel and electricity)

EMBODIED CARBON / 2023 key takeaways for projects reporting embodied carbon

PROJECTS REPORTED WITH EMBODIED CARBON



PROJECTS REPORTED EMBODIED CARBON BY SCOPE

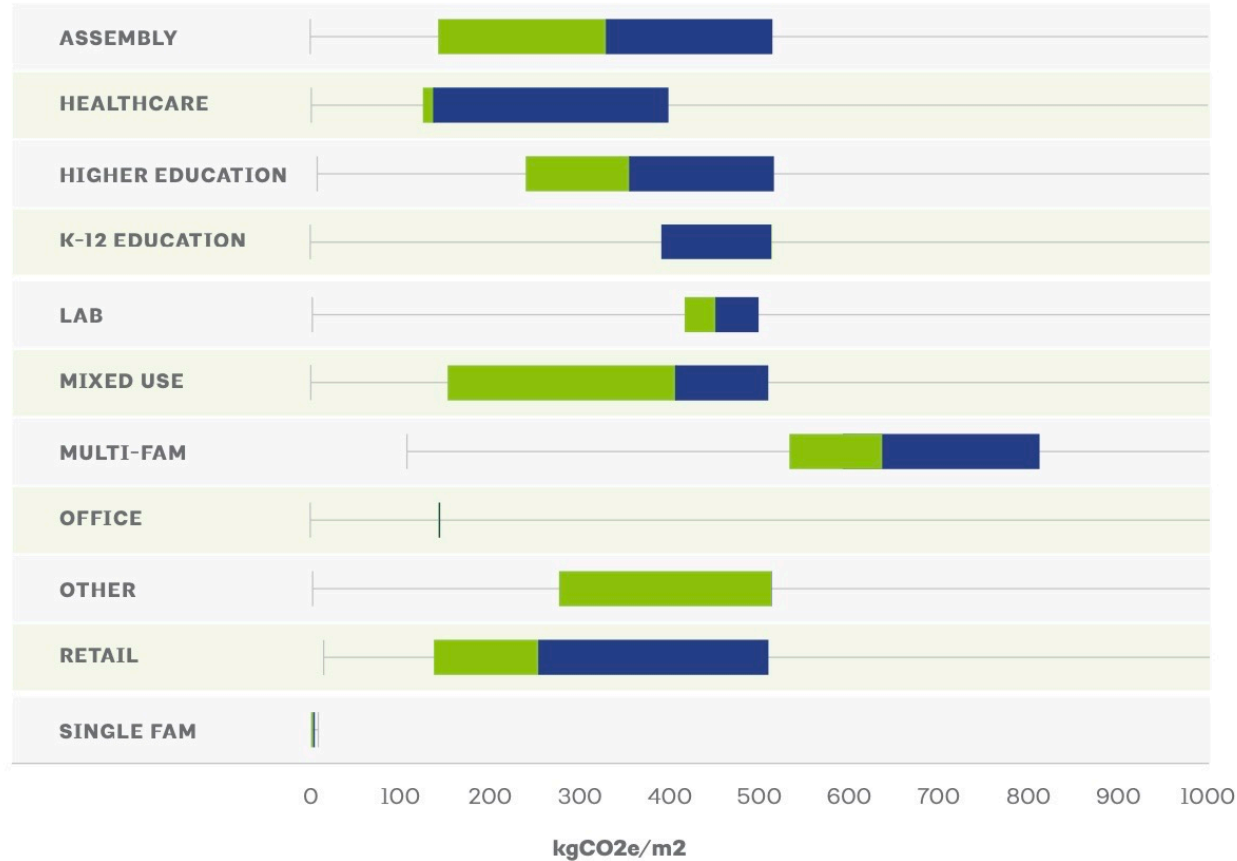


NUMBER OF PROJECTS REPORTED BY EMBODIED CARBON CALCULATION TOOL

Tool	2021	2022	2023
Tally	195	278	5,655
Build Carbon Neutral	317	398	382
EPIC Tool	-	-	296
OneClick	63	114	268
Other	136	2,940	247
cove.tool	-	-	41
CARE Tool	-	-	40
BEAM	-	-	33
EC3	200	48	29
Athena	12	34	26
TallyCAT	-	-	22
TallyLCA	-	-	12
ECOM	-	-	8
eTool	1	6	6
Autodesk Insight	-	-	2
Total	924	3,818	7,067

www.aia.org/resources/202041-the-2030-commitment

REPORTED EMBODIED CARBON INTENSITY BY USE TYPE IN kgCO₂e/m²



±400 kgCO₂e/m² average / ±200 kgCO₂e/m² low rise



Carbon
Leadership
Forum
San Francisco

The Bay Area embodied carbon community

Events

About

Join

Resources

Initiatives

Contact

Building LCA and Embodied Carbon Tools



EC3

Free
Web-based
Bim360 and Tally Import
Construction-focused
Focuses on Manufacturing Stage
Good for Commercial Buildings



Built-in EC3 Plug-in



Tally

Paid
Revit plug-in
Design-focused
Covers all Life Cycle Stages
Good for Commercial Buildings



OneClick LCA

Paid
Web-based
Imports from many tools
Design and construction focused
Good for all building types



EPIC

Free (beta)
Early Phase Integrated Carbon
First step strategies and targets
Not high-resolution or LCA



Carbon
Leadership
Forum
San Francisco

The Bay Area embodied carbon community

[Events](#)

[About](#)

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[Resources](#)

[Initiatives](#)

[Contact](#)

Building LCA and Embodied Carbon Tools



Athena Impact Estimator

Free
Standalone
Design-focused
Covers all Life Cycle Stages
Good for Commercial and Residential



BEAM

Free
Excel-based
Design-focused
Focused on manufacturing impacts
Good for Residential Buildings



Tally

Paid
Revit plug-in
Design-focused
Covers all Life Cycle Stages
Good for Commercial Buildings



Cardinal LCA

Free
Rhino plug-in
Focused on conceptual design
Manufacturing, Use, End-of-Life Stages
Good for Commercial Buildings



Carbon
Leadership
Forum
San Francisco

The Bay Area embodied carbon community

[Events](#)

[About](#)

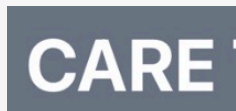
[Join](#)

[Resources](#)

[Initiatives](#)

[Contact](#)

Building LCA and Embodied Carbon Tools



CARE TOOL

Free
Renovation Specific
Compares to Building New
Not high-resolution or LCA



BEAM

Free
Excel-based
Design-focused
Focused on manufacturing impacts
Good for Residential Buildings



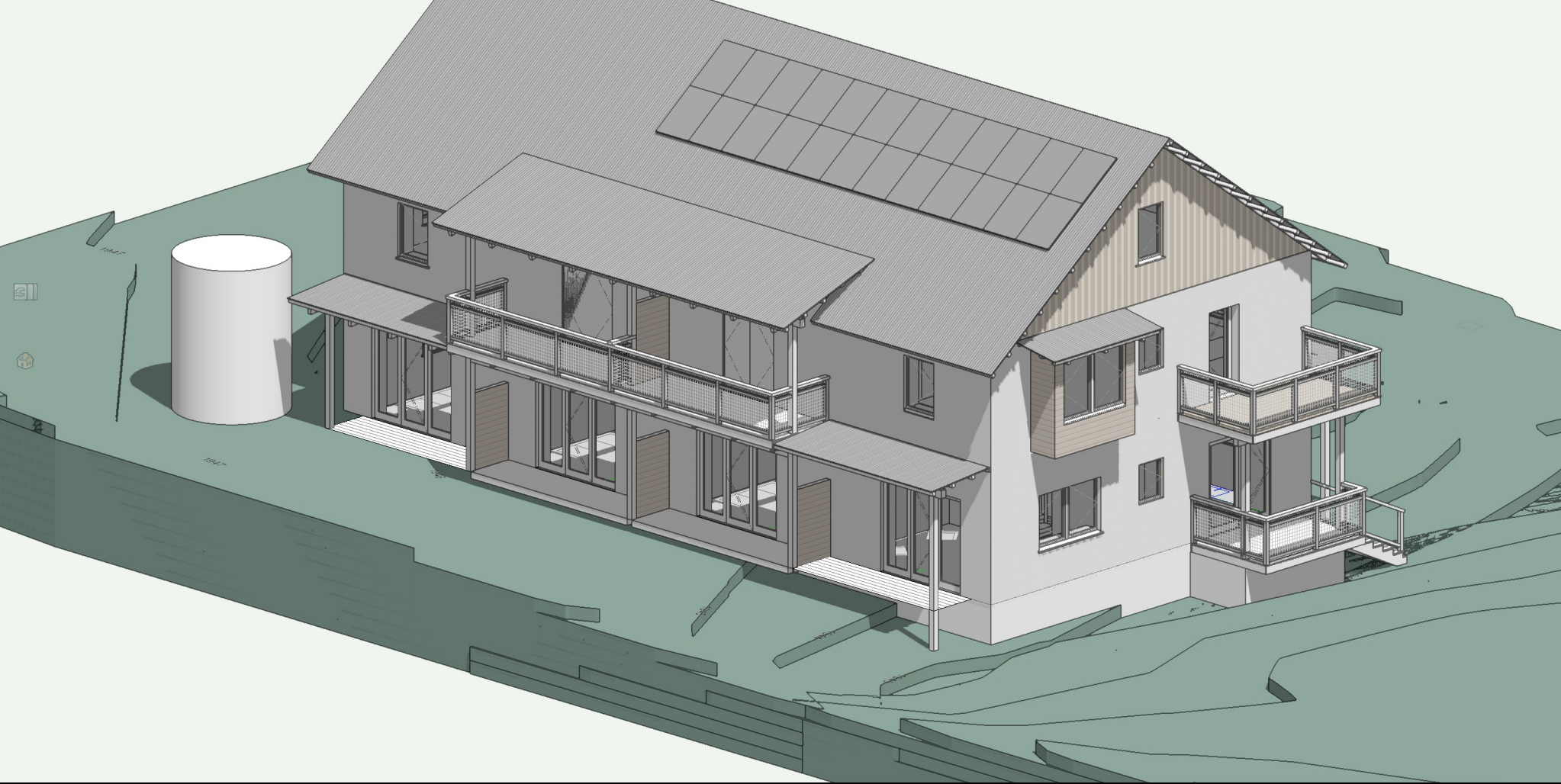
VectorWorks

Built-in Plug-in to CAD Program
Bath Inventory of Carbon & Energy (ICE)
Covers all phases including Transportation
Inputs from BIM Takeoffs



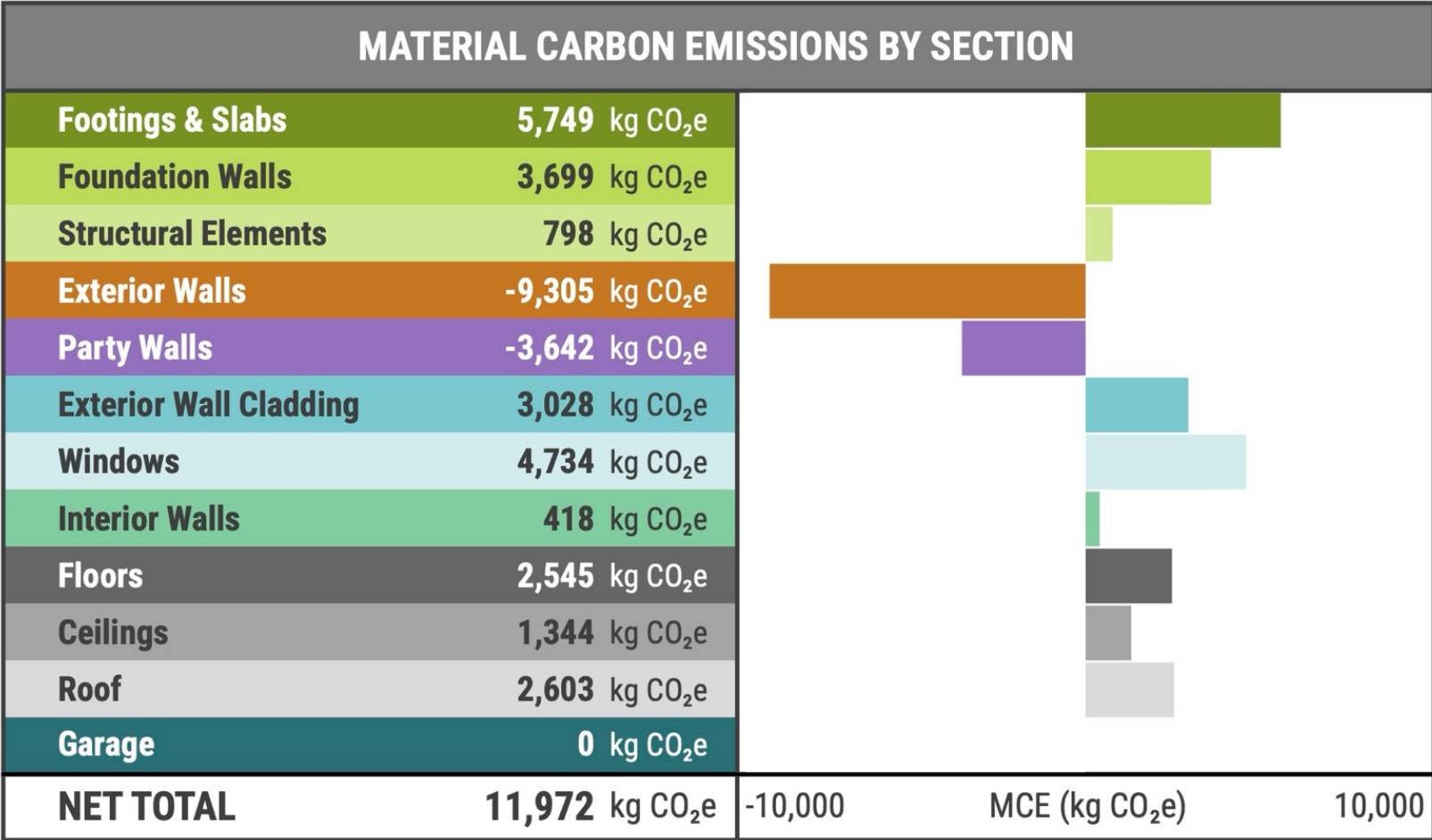
EPIC

Free (beta)
Early Phase Integrated Carbon
First step strategies and targets
Not high-resolution or LCA





Oceanspray Townhomes – Ashland, Oregon

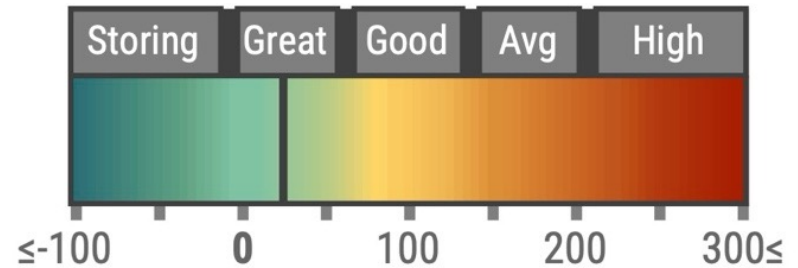


25 kgCO₂e/m²

MATERIAL CARBON RESULTS

	MCE		MCI (Conditioned)	
Net Project Emissions	11,972	kg CO ₂ e	25	kg CO ₂ e/m ²

MCI by Area Type	Metric	Imperial
Total Area	20.7	4.2
Conditioned Area	25.3	5.2
	kg CO ₂ e/m ²	lb CO ₂ e/ft ²



MCE: Material Carbon Emissions (net total)

MCI: Material Carbon Intensity (MCE per unit area)

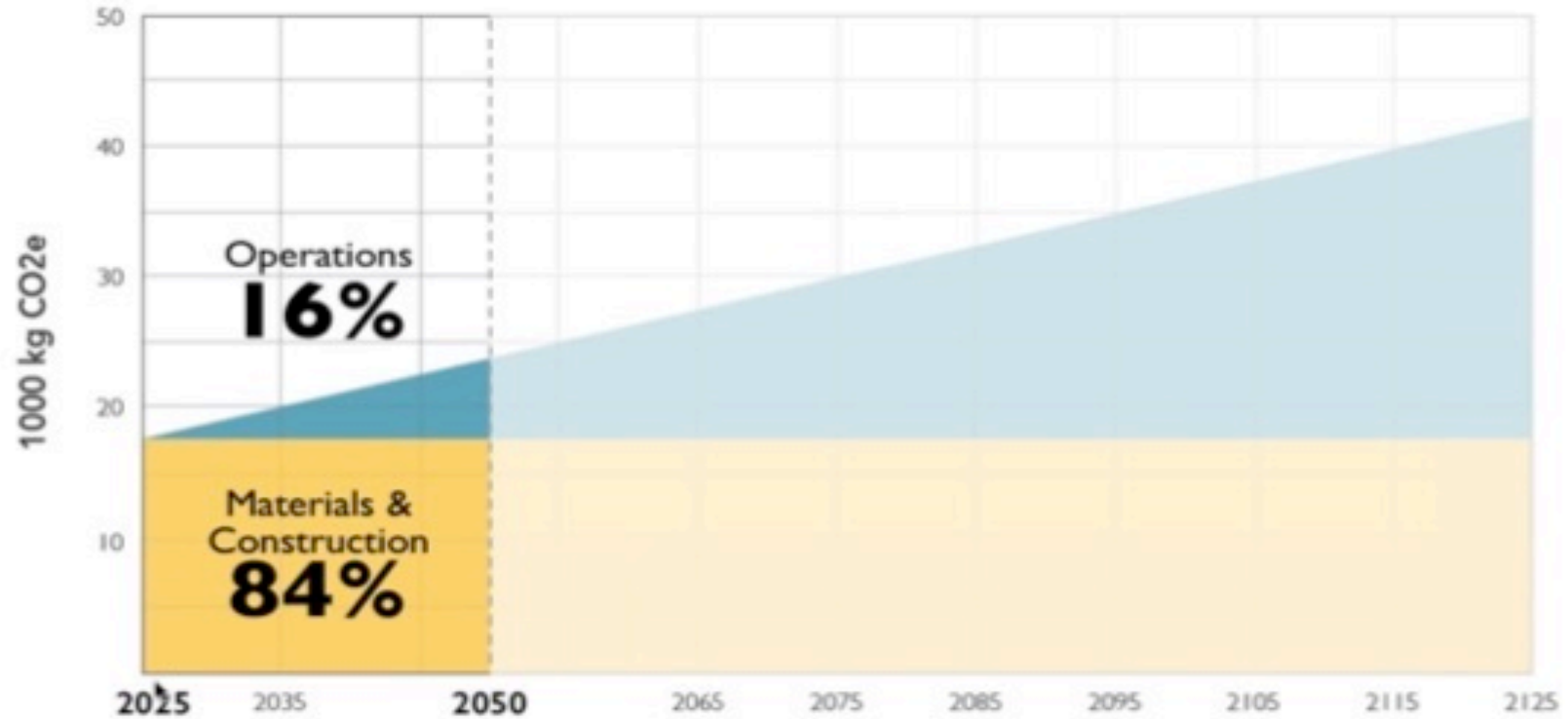
BASELINE EUI: ±400 kgCO₂e/m² average / ±200 kgCO₂e/m² low rise



Oceanspray Townhomes – Ashland, Oregon



Carbon Emissions Typical High Performance Commercial Building



www.architecture2030.org

Definition of Bio-Based Materials

The USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) defines bio-based as products made from renewable biological resources. These products are derived from plants, animals, marine, or forestry materials, and provide an alternative to petroleum-based ones. Bio-Based specifically applies to materials or products with primary content derived from biological sources rather than fossil resources.



Timber



Wood Fiber Board



Cork



ReWall



Waste Textiles



Cellulose



Straw



Mycelium



Rice Hulls



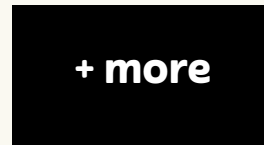
Bamboo / BamCore



Coconut Coir

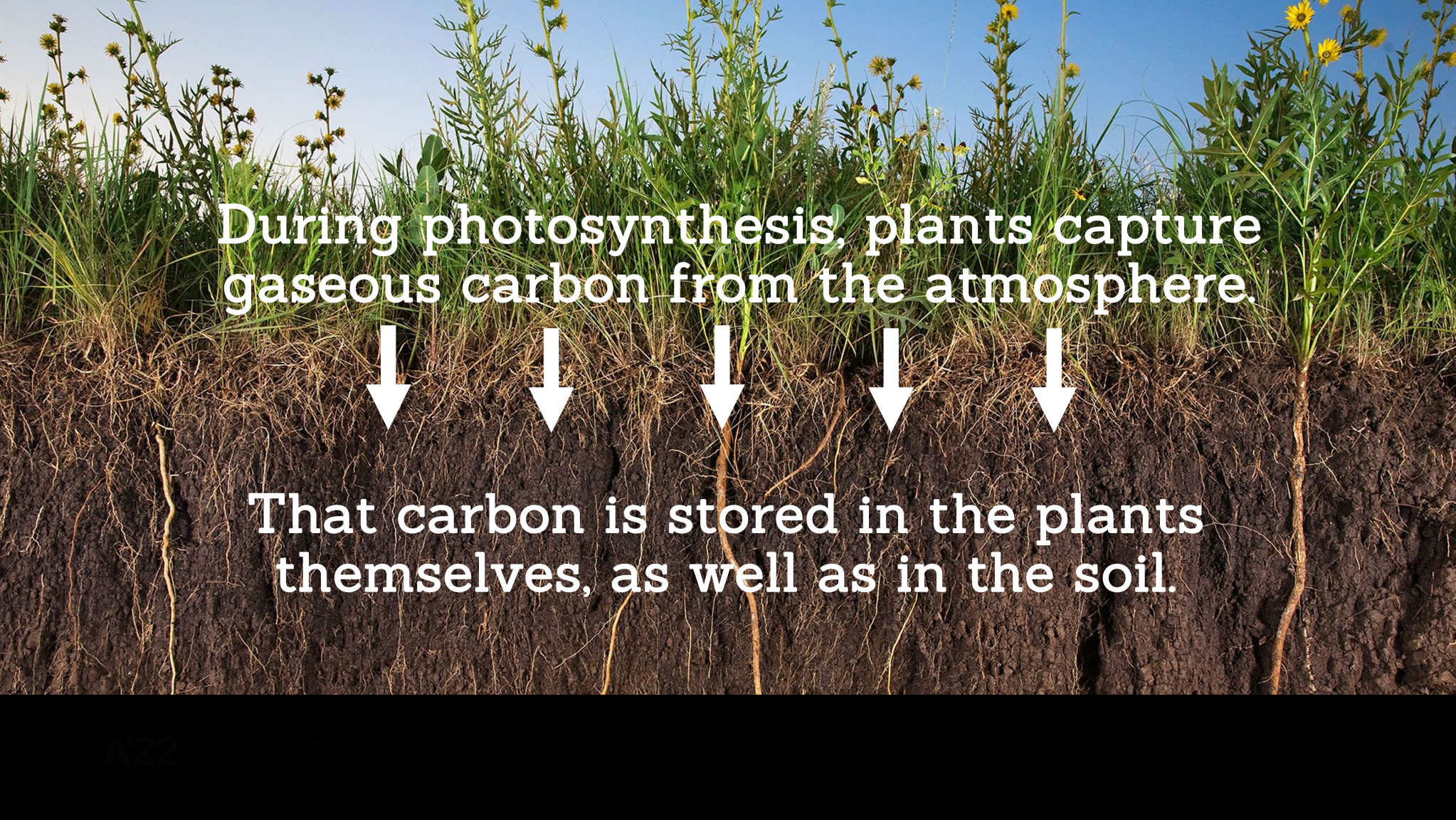


Hemp OSB



+ more

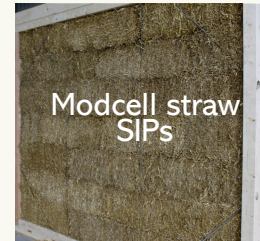
There are lots of plant-based, carbon-storing building materials, which are healthier and safer too!

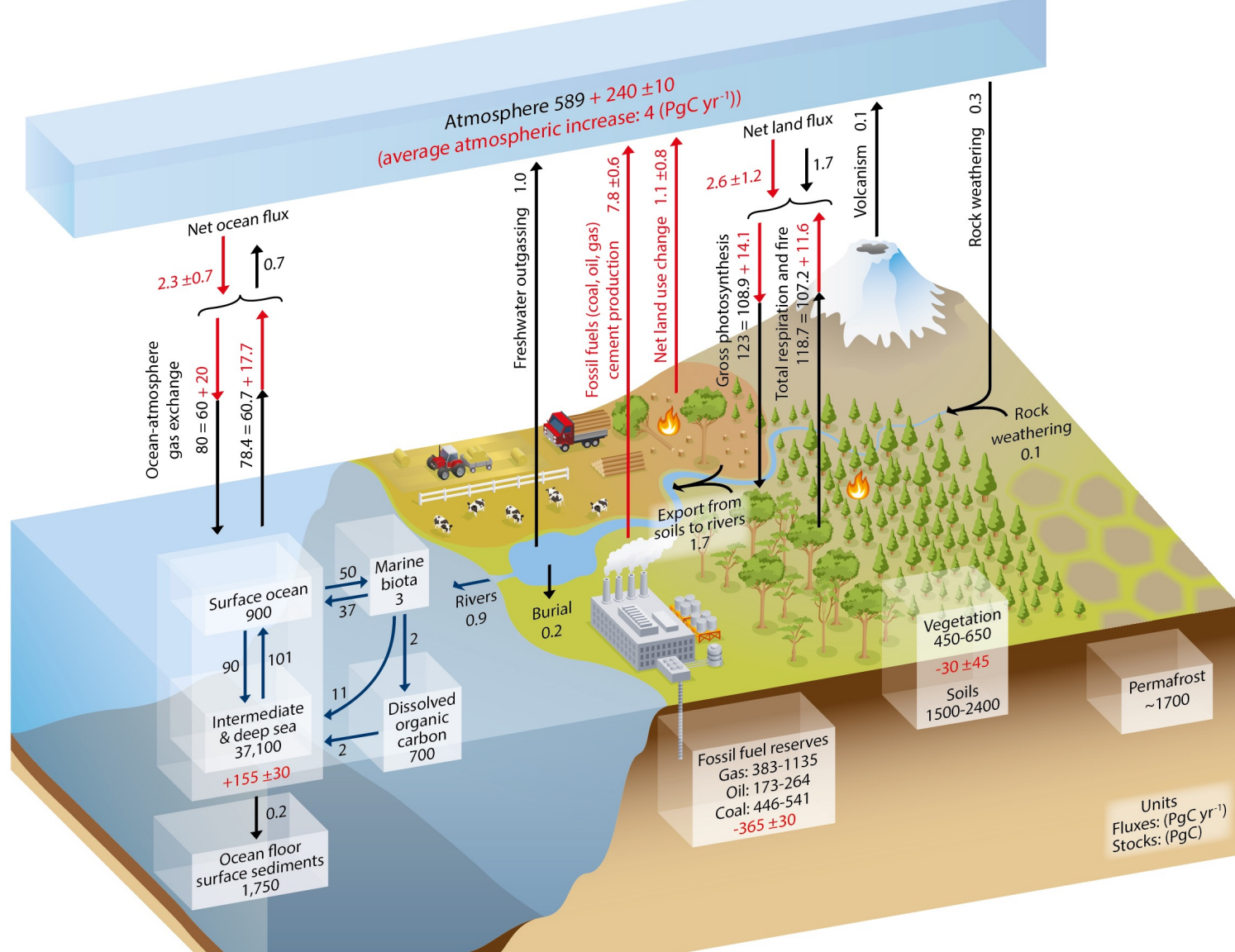


During photosynthesis, plants capture gaseous carbon from the atmosphere.

That carbon is stored in the plants themselves, as well as in the soil.

2.16 billion tons of grain straw were grown globally in 2016. That's enough carbon storage to offset all current transportation GHG emissions and more than replace all current insulation materials.





Earth's Five Natural Carbon Sinks

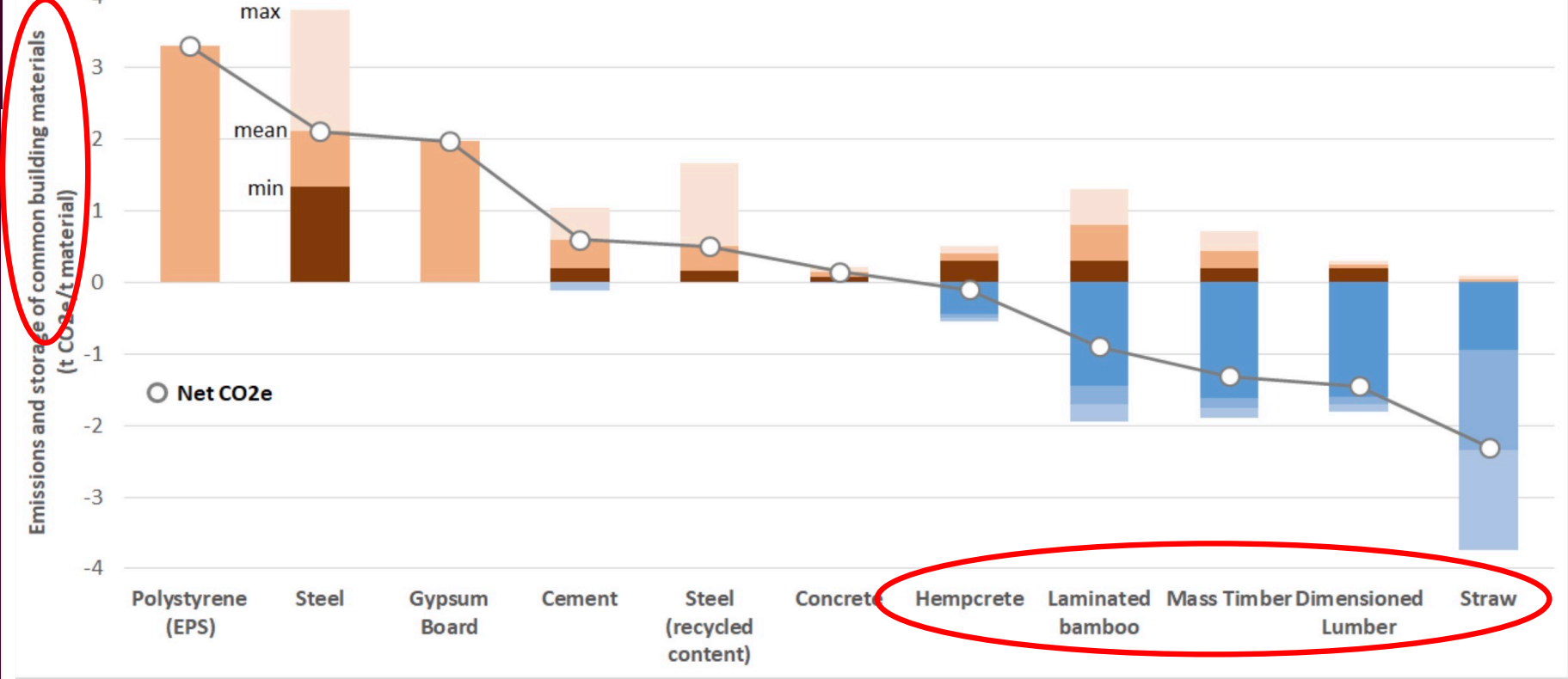


Figure 1. CO₂ emissions and CO₂ storage capacity of building materials where the net CO₂e is the difference between the mean emissions estimate and the mean storage estimate. Data from ref ¹³ and ¹⁴ evaluated on a life cycle assessment system boundary of A1-A3 (see Figure 2, below).

Buildings Can Become the Earth's Sixth Carbon Sink

BUILDING MATERIALS AND THE CLIMATE: CONSTRUCTING A NEW FUTURE



UN@
environment
programme



Yale

2.9 Decarbonising buildings and construction through the Avoid-Shift-Improve approach



GlobalABC Report on Building Materials and Climate – www.globalABC.org

ECHO PROJECT

Embodied Carbon
Harmonization
and Optimization

a collaboration between:



American Society of
Landscape Architects



Building
Transparency



INTERNATIONAL
LIVING FUTURE
INSTITUTE

MEP 2040
Committing to Zero



Urban Land
Institute



Materials Pledge Signatory



Human
Health



Climate
Health



Ecosystem
Health

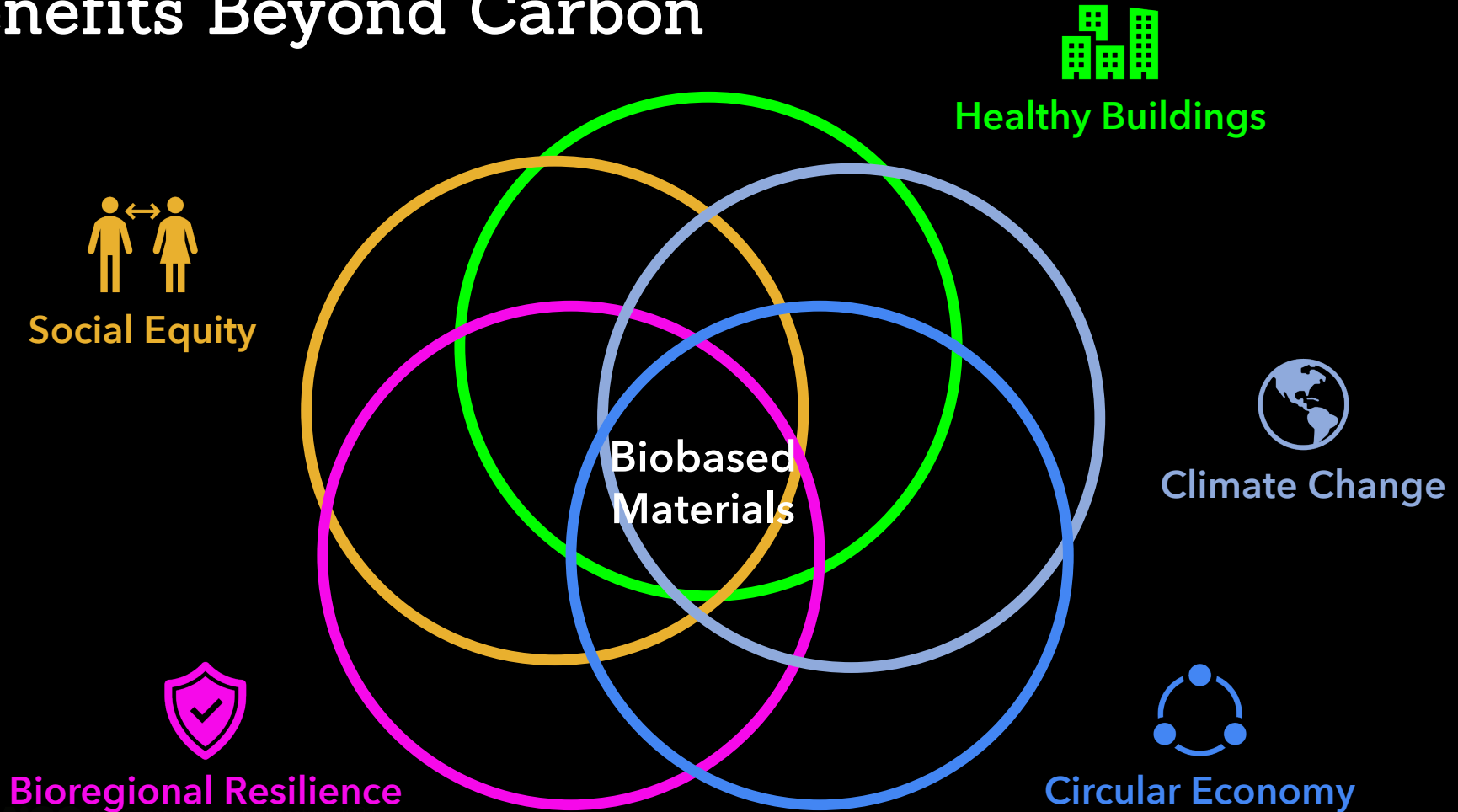


Social Health
& Equity



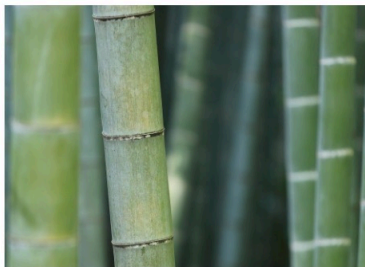
Circular
Economy

Benefits Beyond Carbon



CARBON-SMART MATERIALS

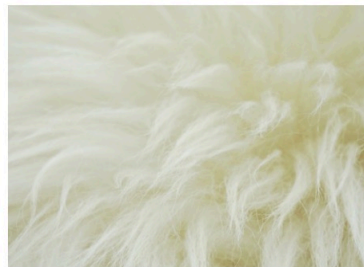
Low carbon/carbon sequestering materials



BAMBOO



HEMPCRETE



SHEEP'S WOOL



STRAW-BALE



WOOD

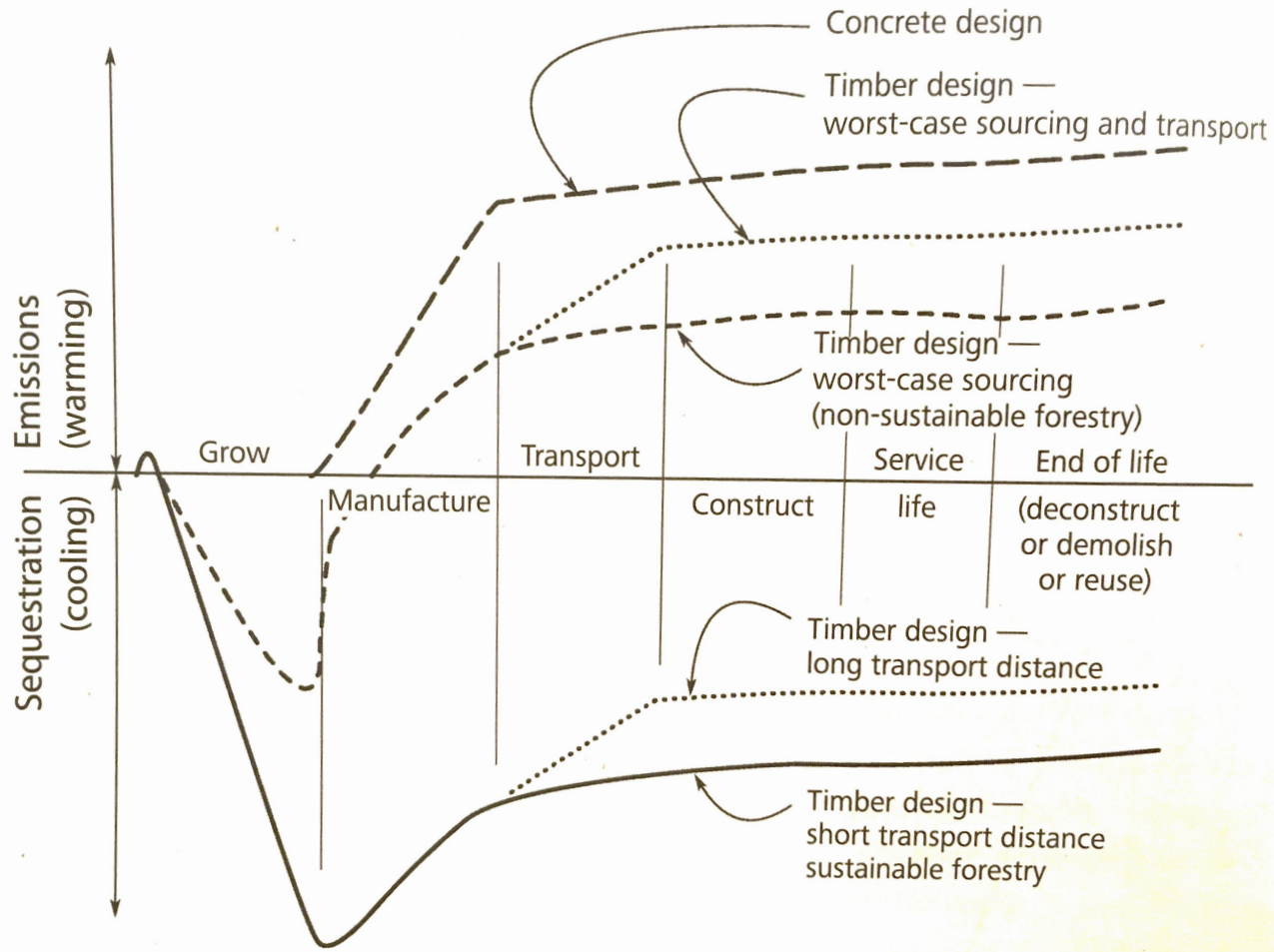


Wood*



Wood from HERE looks the same as wood from HERE

Global warming effect



Comparison of carbon emissions between timber design and concrete design over life cycle of structural materials.

Credit: Arup / Bruce King
The New Carbon Architecture



- Renewable
- Recyclable
- Energy-efficient
- Non-toxic
- Biodegradable
- Sequesters carbon

FSC CERTIFIED TIMBER



SALVAGED TIMBER



Esalen Lodge Renovation and Expansion







N22







TIMBER TRUSSES (Instead of Steel or Concrete)



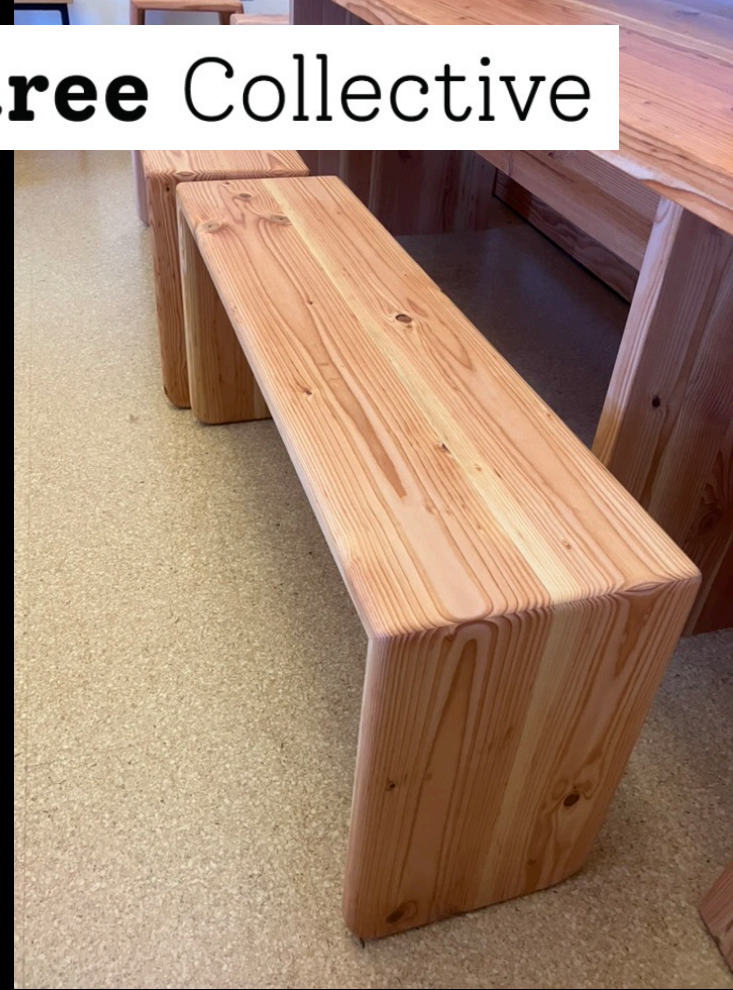
Ascent, Milwaukee – Korb + Assoc. Architects / CD Smith / Thornton Tomasetti
TALL TIMBER* (with appropriate sourcing)



Ascent, Milwaukee – Korb + Assoc. Architects / CD Smith / Thornton Tomasetti
TALL TIMBER* (with appropriate sourcing)



Fore**tree** Collective



N22

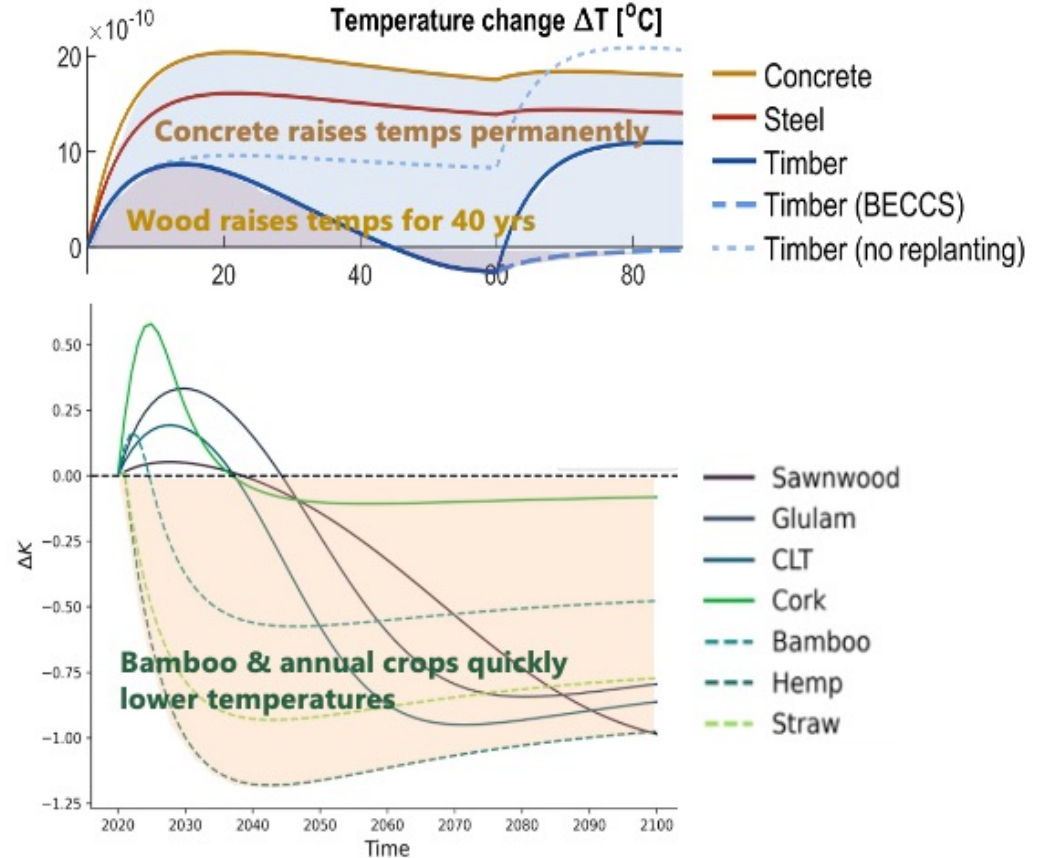
Fore**tree** Collective Ligniloc Hardwood Nail-Laminated Timber Panels

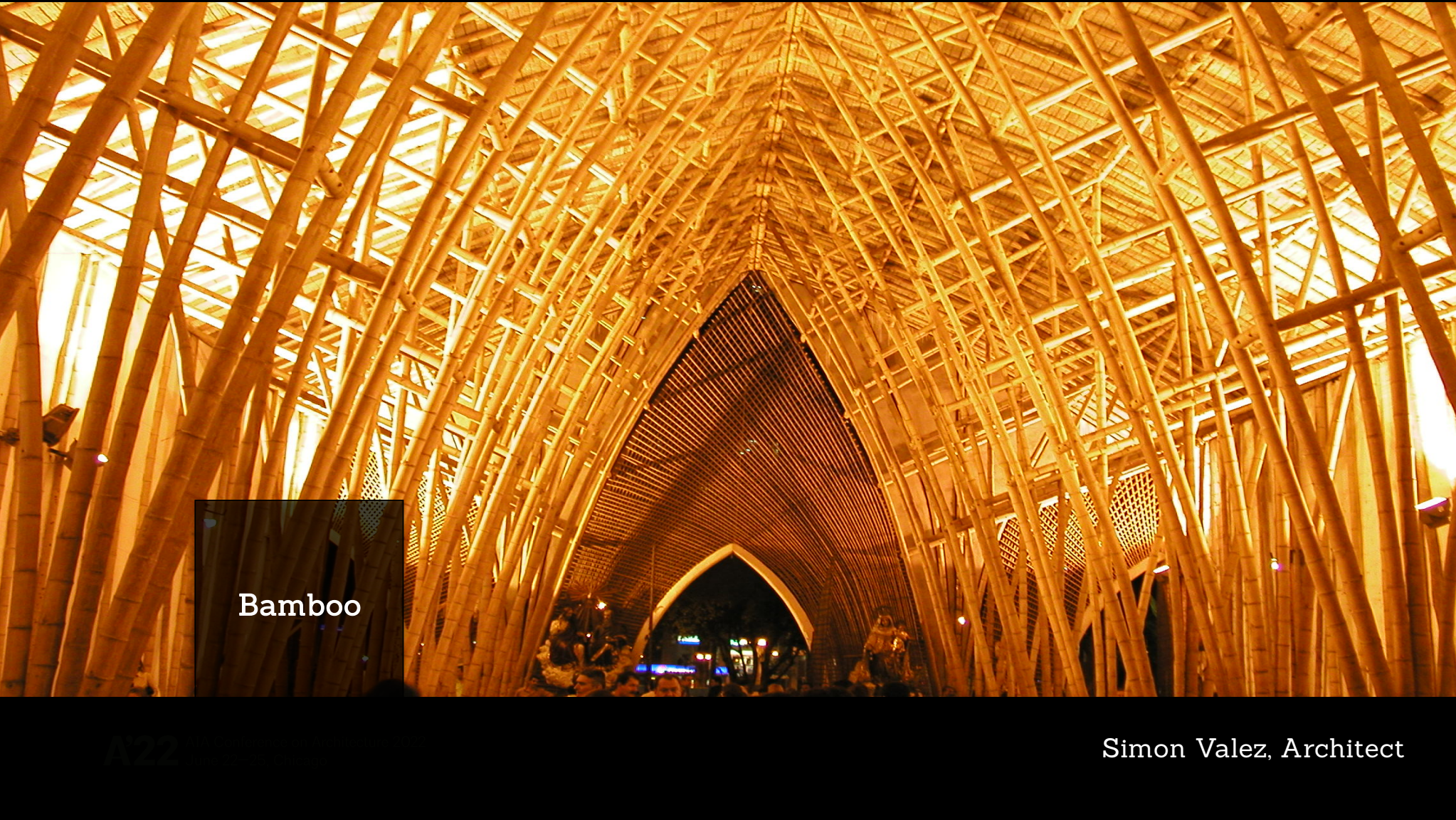
Why does fast growth matter?

Time Value of Carbon and presence of tipping points

Fast-growing materials achieve net-cooling impacts much sooner due to short rotation periods

Traditional LCA approaches (static) do not account for the speed of regrowth (dynamic)



The image shows the interior of a large, modern structure made of bamboo. The ceiling is a complex, vaulted lattice of bamboo poles, creating a series of triangular and polygonal patterns. The walls are also made of bamboo, with some sections featuring a woven or lattice pattern. The structure has a series of arched openings, and the lighting is warm and golden, highlighting the natural texture of the bamboo. The overall effect is one of organic complexity and architectural grandeur.

Bamboo



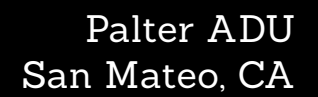
Laminated Bamboo and Mass Timber Bamboo [MTB]



ENGINEERED
BAMBOO
FOR CARBON
STORAGE



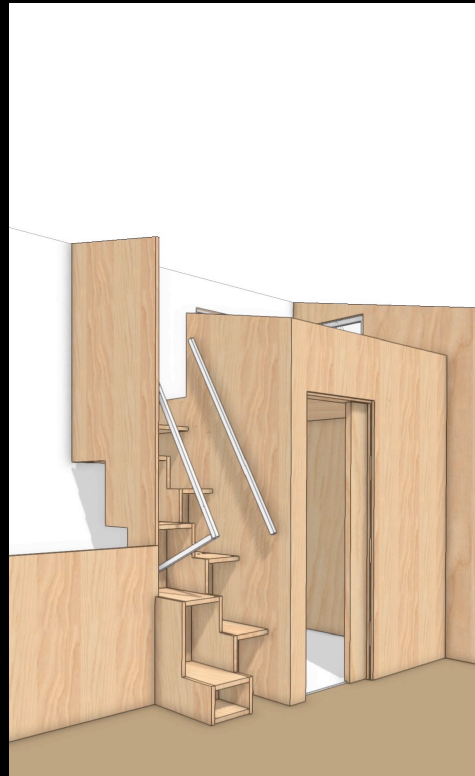
BamCore Panelized Wall System – Windsor, CA



Palter ADU
San Mateo, CA



Palter ADU
San Mateo, CA

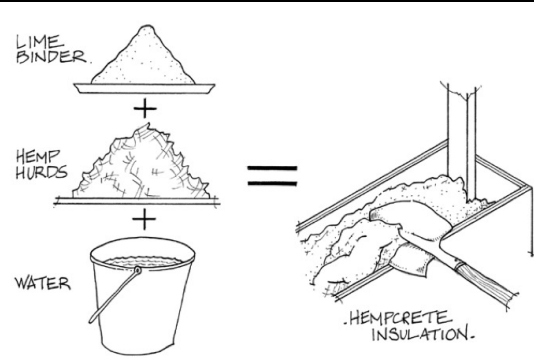


Ward-Waller ADU
Sacramento, CA



Hempcrete

Image courtesy of Chris Magwood



The void space in a hempcrete mix creates pockets of trapped air and is part of the reason the material has desirable thermal properties.



Marks & Spencer Cheshire Oaks Store by Aukett Swanke



Image courtesy of Paula Baker-Laporte / EcoNest



International Residential Code (IRC) – Appendix AR



Kerst Residence – Menlo Park, CA



Adobe

Cob

Vallejo's Petaluma Adobe, Sonoma County, CA
[in the Building Code since ca. 1940]



Straw
Bale
Building

Vine Hill Straw Bale Residence, Sebastopol, California



Simonton House – Purdum, Nebraska 1908



Burritt Museum – Huntsville, Alabama 1938

STACKED BENEFITS

- Annually Renewable– By-Product of Grain
- High Insulation Value – R-30 (1.2 – 2.0/in.)
- Thick Walls – Deep Jambs at Openings
- Good IAQ and Humidity Control
- STORES CARBON !
- Acoustic Control
- Structural Integrity
- Excellent Fire Resistance
- Durable and Long Lasting
- Thermal Mass and Time Lag
- User Friendly- Community Building



Appendix AS:

Strawbale Construction

SECTION AS101 GENERAL

AS101.1 Scope. This appendix provides prescriptive and performance-based requirements for the use of baled straw as a building material. Other methods of strawbale construction shall be subject to approval in accordance with Section 104.11 of this code. Buildings using strawbale walls shall comply with the this code except as otherwise stated in this appendix.

SECTION AS102 DEFINITIONS

AS102.1 Definitions. The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this appendix, have the meanings shown herein. Refer to Chapter 2 of the *International Residential Code* for general definitions.

BALE. Equivalent to straw bale.

CLAY. Inorganic soil with particle sizes less than 0.00008 inch (0.002 mm) having the characteristics of high to very high dry strength and medium to high plasticity.

CLAY SLIP. A suspension of clay particles in water.

FINISH. Completed compilation of materials on the interior or exterior faces of stacked *bales*.

PRECOMPRESSION. Vertical compression of stacked bales before the application of finish.

REINFORCED PLASTER. A plaster containing mesh reinforcement.

RUNNING BOND. The placement of *straw bales* such that the head joints in successive courses are offset not less than one-quarter the bale length.

SHEAR WALL. A strawbale wall designed and constructed to resist lateral seismic and wind forces parallel to the plane of the wall in accordance with Section AS106.13.

SKIN. The compilation of plaster and reinforcing, if any, applied to the surface of stacked bales.

STRUCTURAL WALL. A wall that meets the definition for a load-bearing wall or shear wall.

STACK BOND. The placement of straw bales such that head joints in successive courses are vertically aligned.

STRAW. The dry stems of cereal grains after the seed heads have been removed.

STRAW BALE. A rectangular compressed block of straw, bound by ties.

STRAWBALE. The adjective form of straw bale.

STRAW-CLAY. Loose straw mixed and coated with clay slip.

Straw Bale Building Details



An Illustrated Guide for Design and Construction

CASBA

CASBA

Free Download of Code w/Commentary
from the California Straw Building Assoc.

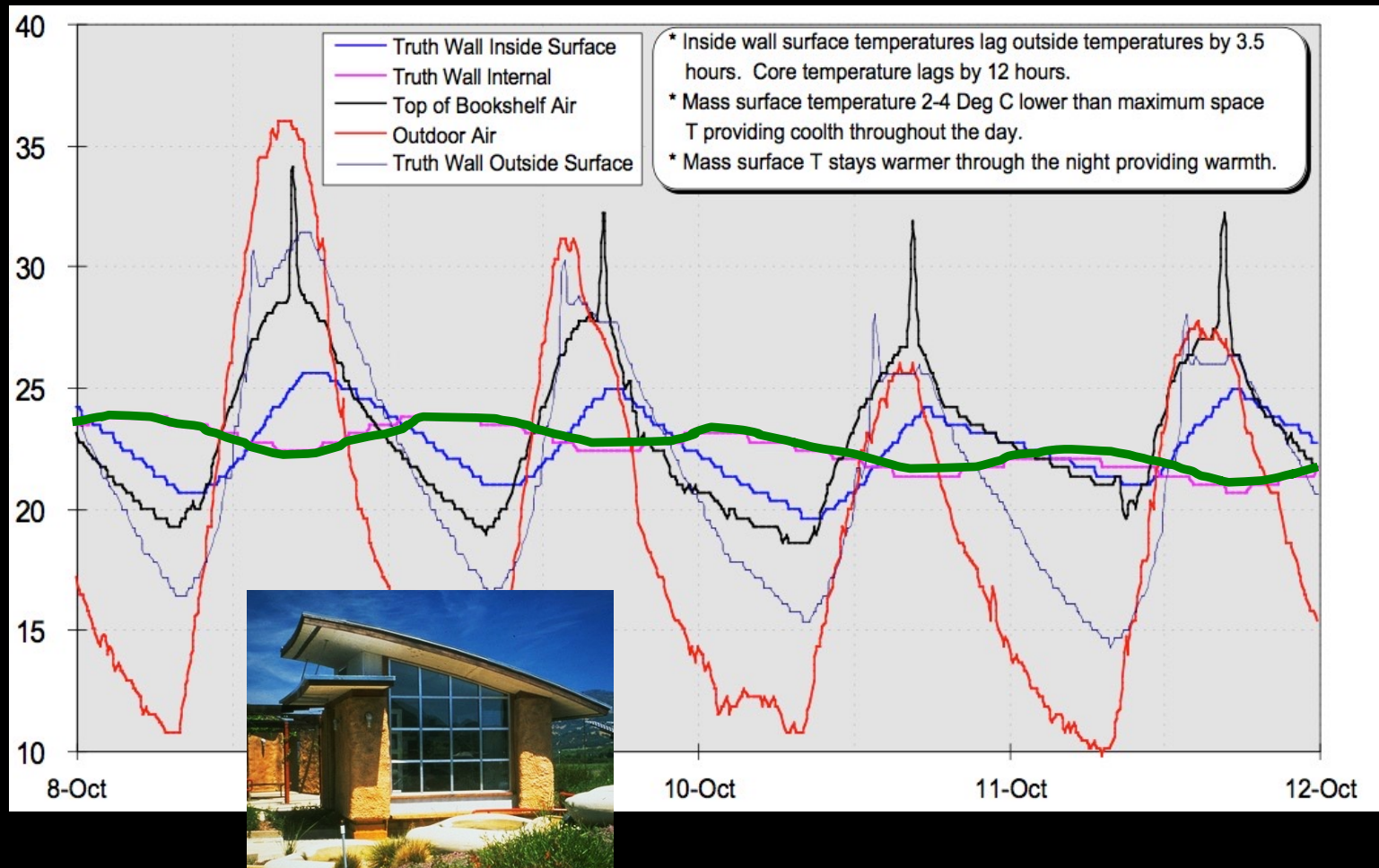
www.strawbuilding.org

Straw Bale Building Details
An Illustrated Guide for
Design and Construction

[https://www.strawbuilding.org/
Straw-Bale-Building-Details/](https://www.strawbuilding.org/Straw-Bale-Building-Details/)

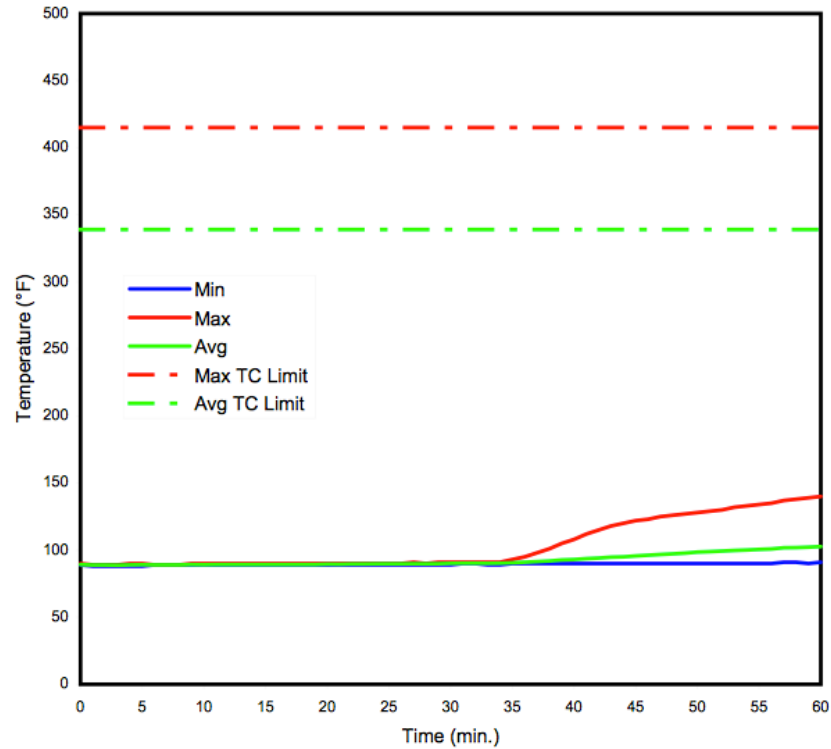
°F

104
95
86
77
68
59
50



Thermal Mass Effect

EBNet
Project No. 3098054B
Min, Avg, Max Cold Side Temperatures



Fire Safety – ASTM Tested for 2 Hour Rated Wall



Norrbom Road Strawbale Home (wildfire survivor), Sonoma, California



Redwood Valley Fire – Oct. 2017 – photo by Edward Doody



Redwood Valley Fire – Oct. 2017 – photo by Edward Doody

STACKED BENEFITS

- Annually Renewable– By-Product of Grain
- High Insulation Value – R-30 (1.2 – 2.0/in.)
- Thick Walls – Deep Jambs at Openings
- Good IAQ and Humidity Control
- **STORES CARBON !**
- Acoustic Control
- Structural Integrity
- Excellent Fire Resistance
- Durable and Long Lasting
- Thermal Mass and Time Lag
- User Friendly- Community Building



Carbon storing prefab



PreFab
Straw
Panels



Endeavour Centre – PreFab Straw Wall Assembly

modcell[®]
straw technology

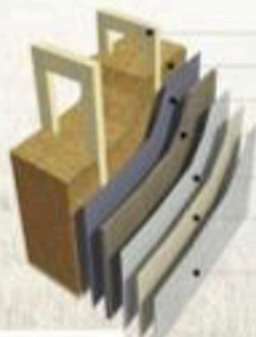
UK, 2005
10" - 17" options
R-2.7 per inch



**eco
cocon**

Headquartered
Slovakia, 2008
Manufactured
Lithuania
15.75" standard
R-2.43 per inch

EcoCocon's straw wall panel system



- # Timber frame
- # Compressed straw
- # Diffusion-open membrane
- # Wood fibre board
- # Mineral-based plaster
- # Reinforcing mesh
- # Finish plaster

Lithuania, 2015
12" - 19" options
R-2.53 per inch

modulina
STRAW PANELS

ISOL
en Paille

France, 2020
8.7" - 18" options
R-2.8 per inch



**RAINBOW
ECOSYSTEM**

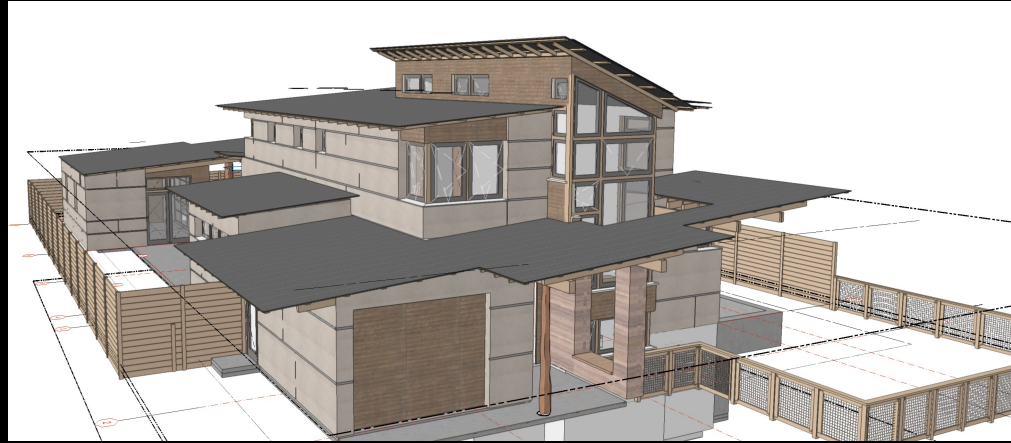


Ukraine, 2016
15.75" standard
R-2.87 per inch

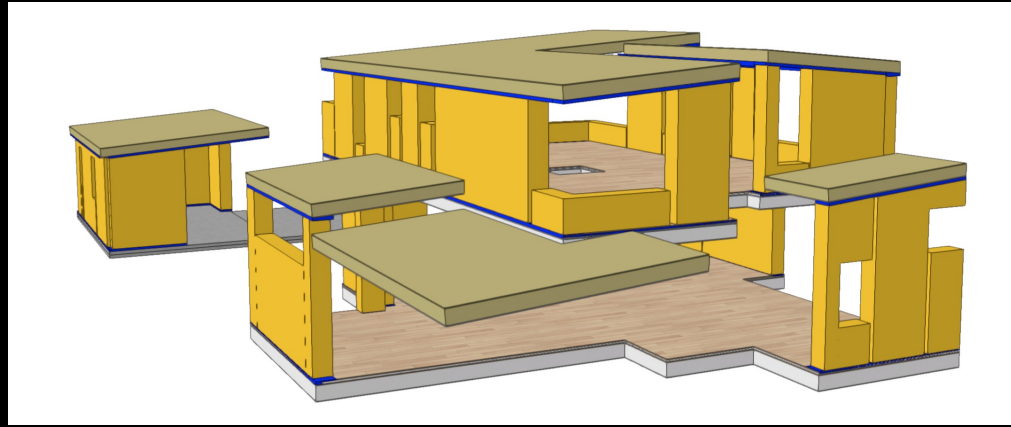




EcoCocon Panel System – Slovakia



Cereza Residence – Palo Alto, California





EcoCocon Panel System – Slovakia

Cereza Residence - Palo Alto, California



Rammed Earth Works Panel System

Cereza Residence - Palo Alto, California



Cork Insulation / Eucalyptus Columns

Cereza Residence - Palo Alto, California



Mahonia Building

Eugene, Oregon

34,000sf, \$147/sq.ft.

10,886 kg CO₂e storage
in straw / wood walls
salvaged resources
rainwater catchment
daylight and community





BOEBS – Bales On End Between Studs



Erica Ann Bush – Day One Design







A22

Los Padres US Forest Service Station, King City, California – WRNS Studio



N22

Ridge Winery – Lytton Springs, California - Freebairn-Smith and Crane Architects

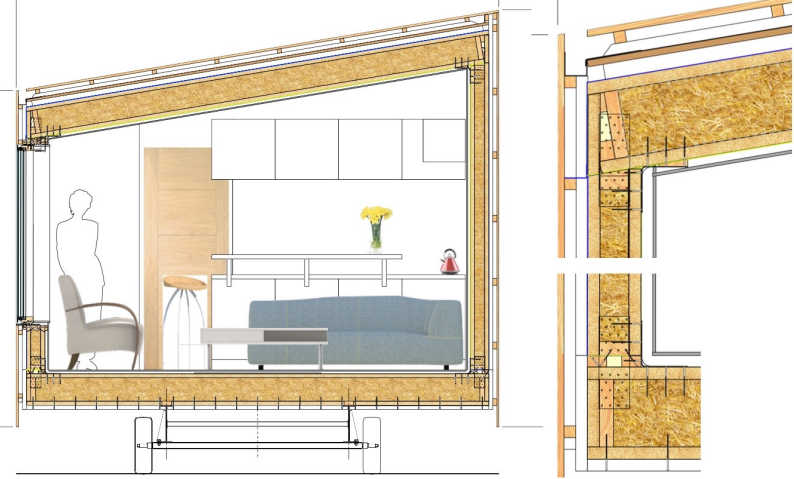
LigniCell - Compressed Straw Board (CSB):



40 thick up to 3.2m long 800 wide

60 thick up to 3.2m long 800 & 1200 wide

LigniCell



TAM 10.5 x 4.6m - 1 bed 36 m²



Stored Carbon = 26,550 kg CO₂

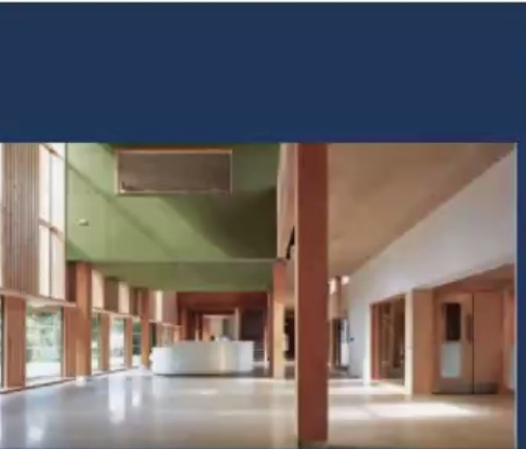
TAM (Infill Housing) – Bristol, UK – Agile Homes / Craig White Architect



MODCELL (panelized straw bale) – Inspire, Bradford, UK – White Design Architects



credit: Architype



<https://sites.uea.ac.uk/adapt/the-enterprise-centre>

Timber, Thatch & Straw Panels - Enterprise Centre, Univ. of East Anglia, UK



Prefab Straw Panels – Gateway Building, University of Nottingham, UK



Ludwigstein, Germany



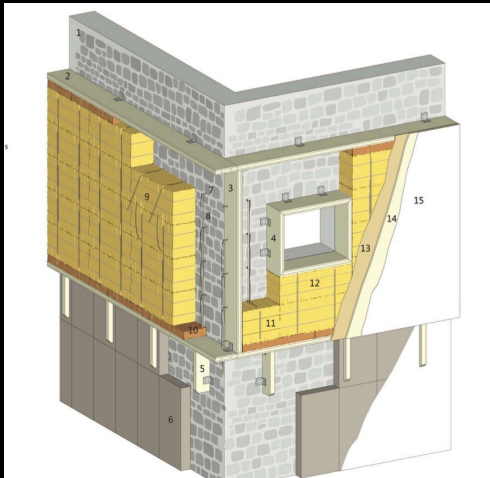
Charles Peguy High School – Dumont Legrand Architectes



Jacques Chirac Recreation Center – Architecture Regenerative



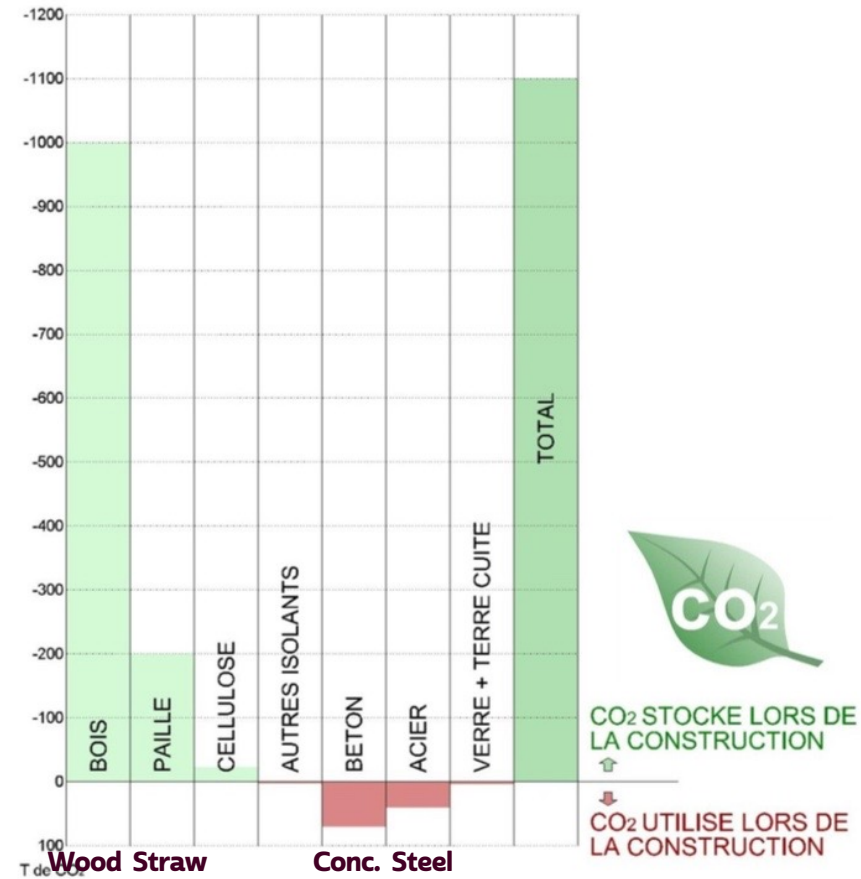
Socopolis Office Building – 10i21a



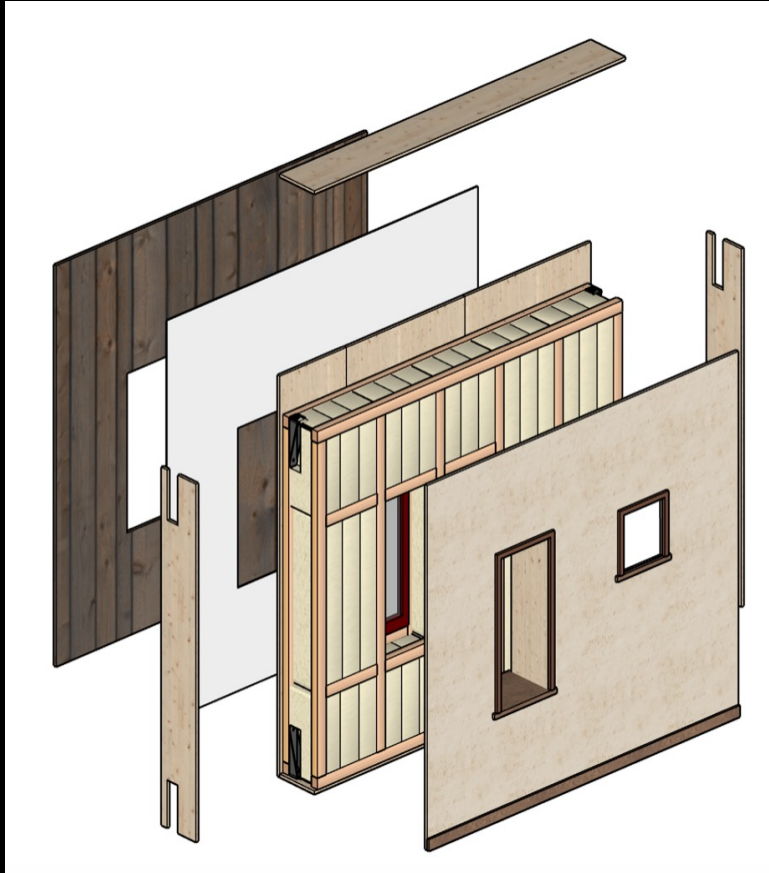
Wrapping Conventional Buildings – Landfabrik / Trait Vivant



Residence Jules Ferry, Saint Die, France – Antoine Pagnaux, ASP Architecture



Residence Jules Ferry, Saint Die, France – Antoine Pagnaux, ASP Architecture



East Bay Carbon Storing Prototype Building

43,225 sf.

-10kg CO₂e/m²

1,100,000 kg CO₂e stored in
Straw / Wood panels
HT-BRB Bracing
CLT Podium Deck

Carbon Smart Materials



Project Carbon Content

GRAND TOTAL kgCO ₂ e	kgCO ₂ e/m ²
-57440	-10

Note: kg/m² comes from total kg divided by habitable floor area

Project Carbon Content

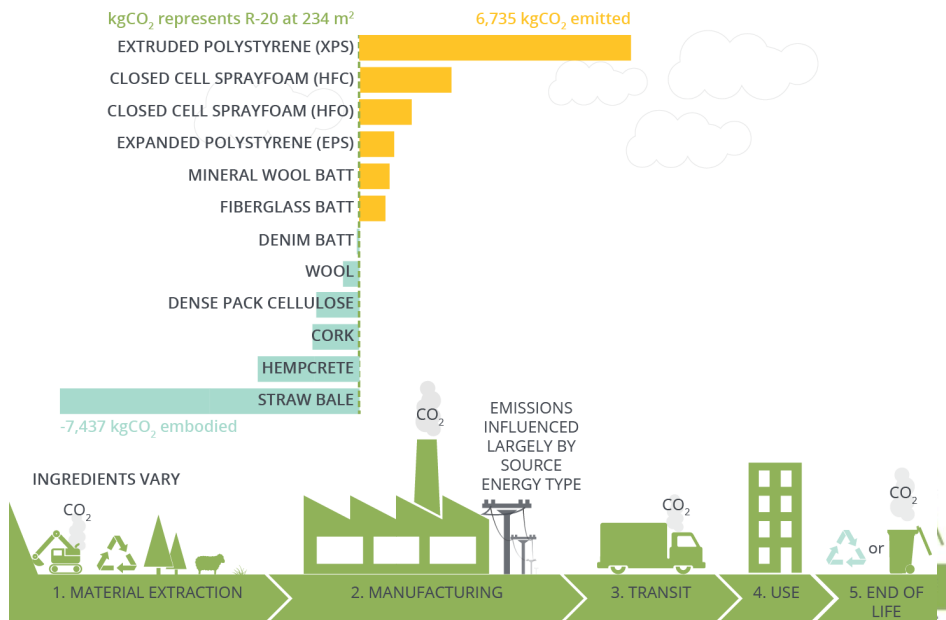
EMITTED	STORED
387940	-445380

Insulation
&
Products

N22

INSULATION

CARBON IMPACTS OF INSULATION



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Carbon impacts data source: Builders for Climate Action - 2019 White Paper
 "Low-Rise Buildings as a Climate Change Solution", Chris Magwood, 2019;

CARBON IMPACT OF INSULATION:

Insulation choices greatly affect the carbon footprint of the building in terms of embodied carbon and operational carbon emissions. Insulation can be either a significant contributor to the embodied carbon footprint of the building, or a carbon sink, depending on the choice of materials used. When selecting insulation, operational performance considerations (thermal performance, climatic requirements, air leakage rates, moisture resistance) should be balanced with embodied carbon targets.

Using natural materials and blown-in applications are the best way to reduce the embodied carbon of insulation.



Cellulose



Sheep's Wool



Hemp Wool

CAVITY INSULATION



Chopped Straw



Rice Hulls



Loose Fill Wool

CAVITY INSULATION



Cork



Compressed Straw Board



Wood Fiberboard



Hemp Board

SHEATHING / ENVELOPE WRAP

DURRA PANEL

Australia, 2002



EKOPANELY

The core of the Ekopanely board makes up 95% of the board. It is pressed from cereal straw under high pressure and at a high temperature without any additional binders or coatings.

Czech Republic, 1999



**rice
house**

Insulating panels
(RHSOI)



Italy, 2016

Originally Texas,
Currently Arkansas
2000



AgriboardTM
A Smarter Way To Build

STRAMIT
INTERNATIONAL
Original Strawboard Technology since 1945



SRL

Straw Resource Limited

Originally Sweden, 1933
Currently UK, 1945

ZERO CARBON
DESIGNS

Rwanda, 2016



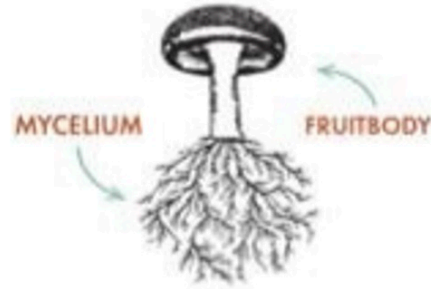
STRAWTEC[®]
BUILDING SOLUTIONS

Rwanda, 2015

SHEATHING / ENVELOPE WRAP

Straw Panel Products

Hy-Fi Pavilion by The Living, New York, 2014



Good **insulation** (low thermal conductivity)
High **acoustic** insulation
Fire resistant (forms a protective char)
Fully **biodegradable**



ecovative

New York, In Development
MycoBoard & MycoComposite
R-3 per inch

MykoFoam

UK, Pilot Phase
Insulation panel

BIOHM

UK, In Production
Insulation panel



Netherlands,
In Development
Insulation panel

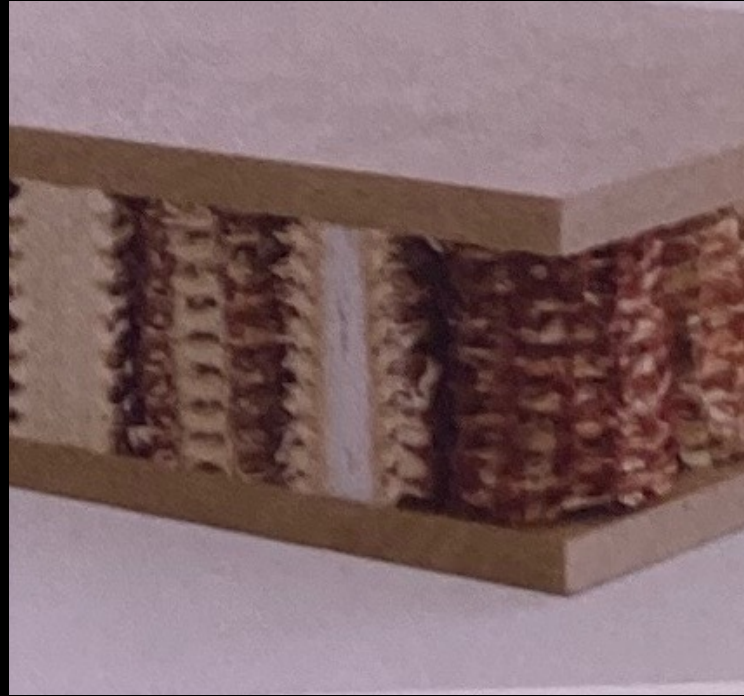


N22

OKOM Structural Mycelium Building Products



Root Mat



Corn Cob Board

EMERGING INSULATION & PRODUCTS

GRAMITHERM
Sustainable Grass Insulation

Belgium, 2020



Insulation batt

R-3.5 per inch

1.75" - 10" options

Cutting and harvesting of **"waste" grass**

3.6 tons of CO2 captured per acre = 7 family houses

2X more moisture resistance
than standard OSB panels



1.4x more strength
than standard OSB panels



Sheathing replacement for OSB

Made from fast-growing **perennial grass**

70% of carbon captured in the field is **retained** in the panel

Stores **8 tons of CO2** per house

plantad

North Carolina, 2021





Cork



Wood



Bark

EXTERIOR CLADDING / INTERIOR FINISHES & FURNISHINGS



Stak Blocks



Rice Straw MDF



Wood Chip ICF

OTHER PRODUCTS & SYSTEMS



A22

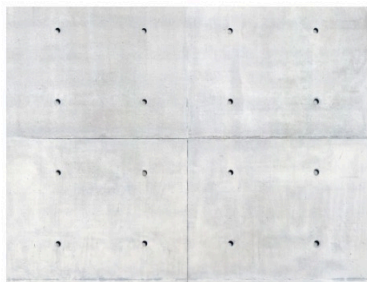
Farmworker Housing– Blue Dot Farm, Nicasio, CA



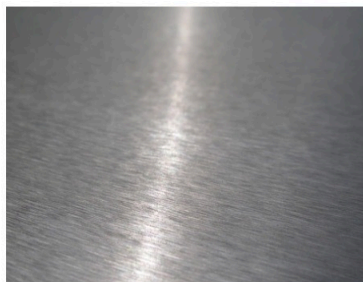
Eureka MDF Instead of Gypsum Board – Blue Dot Farm, Nicasio, CA

HIGH-IMPACT MATERIALS

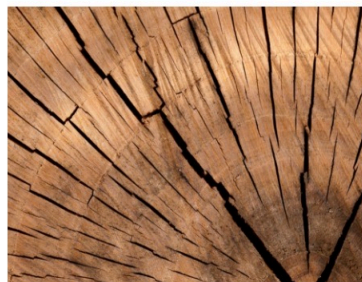
Predominant building materials with high-impact potential for emissions reductions



CONCRETE



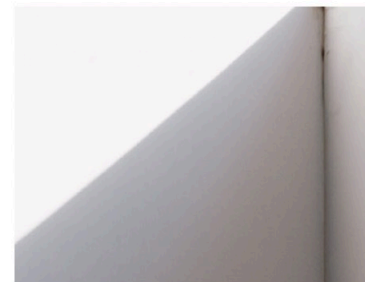
STEEL



WOOD

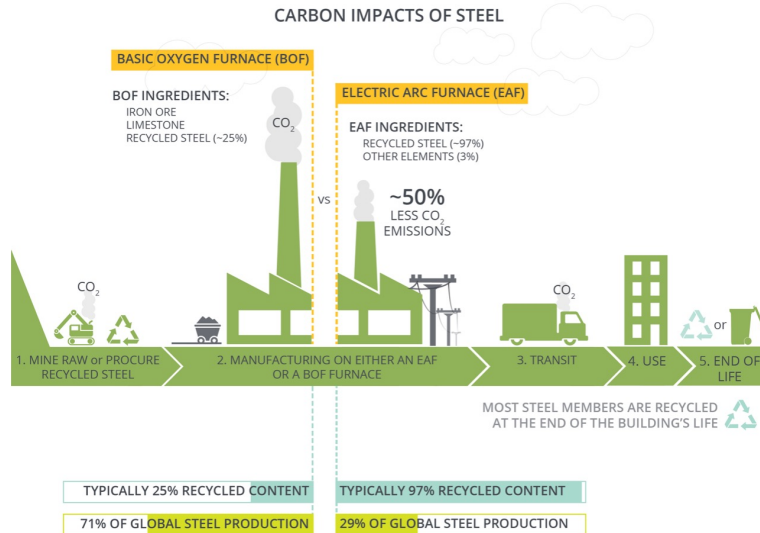


CARPET



GYPSUM BOARD

STEEL



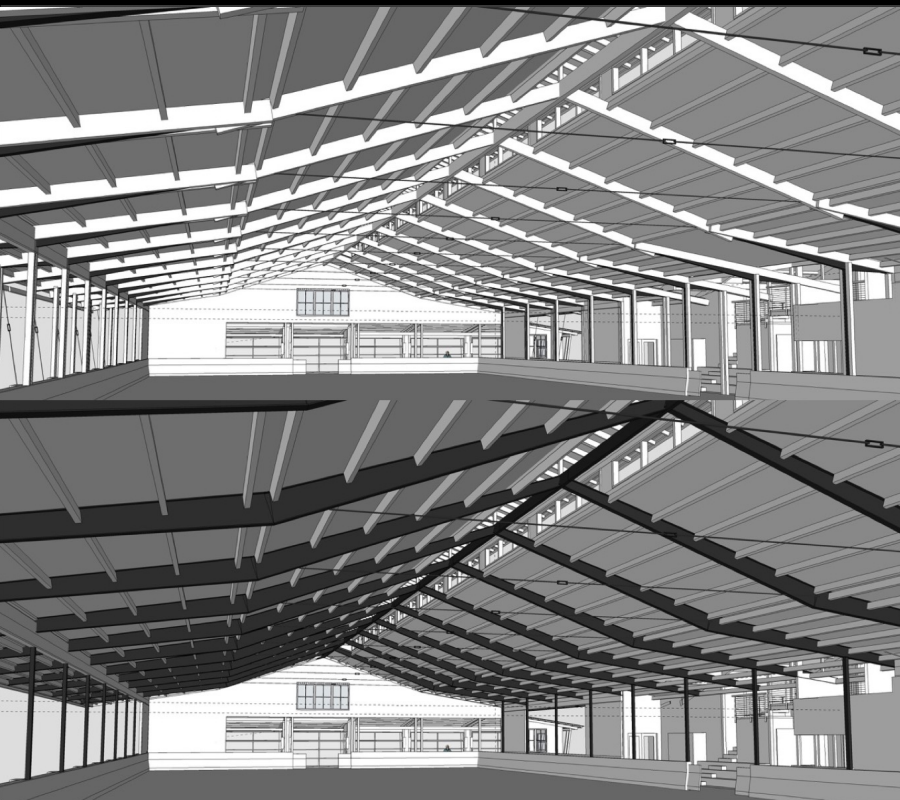
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CARBON IMPACTS OF STEEL

Steel is manufactured in two types of factories. Large steel mills typically use *basic oxygen furnaces* (BOFs), which burns coal or natural gas to melt iron-ore to extract the iron, and then mixes the iron with scraps of iron and steel to make new steel. Most of the inputs to a BOF are mined, raw materials, so the recycled content level for BOFs is typically between 25%-37%. Recycled content is important because virgin steel can have an embodied carbon footprint that is up to five times greater than high-recycled content steel¹.

Smaller factories normally use *electric arc furnaces* (EAFs) to melt scrap iron and steel into new steel. These factories don't have the ability to process raw iron ore. As a result, the steel manufactured on EAFs has high levels of recycled content, up to

www.materialspalette.org



Wood Hybrid Truss

44,430 BTU per truss
(primarily the steel)

Sequestered
Carbon: 1357.2 lbs.
(wood)

Long-Span Truss Carbon Comparison

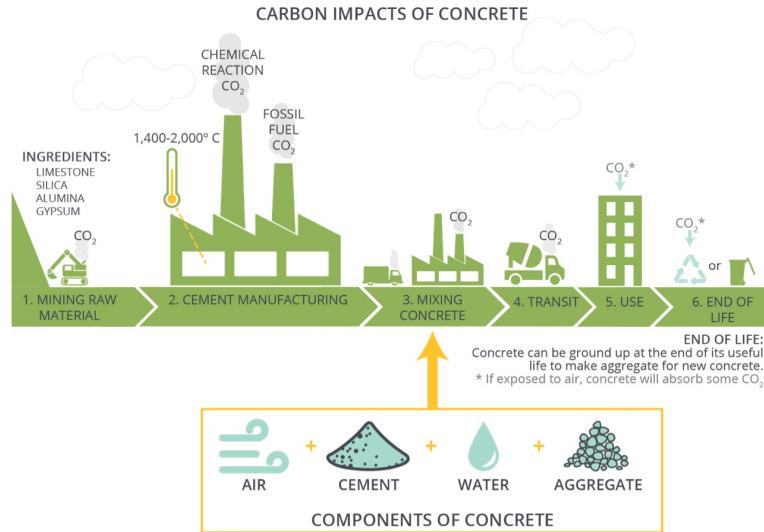
Steel I-Beam Truss

71,330 BTU per truss

(60% more carbon,
none sequestered)



CONCRETE



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CARBON IMPACT OF CONCRETE

Concrete is the most widely used construction material in the world, and is responsible for 6-10% of global anthropogenic carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions. Portland cement is the primary ingredient in concrete and is responsible for the majority of concrete's carbon emissions. CO_2 is released at two points during cement production: roughly 40% of the CO_2 generated is from the burning of fossil fuels in the manufacturing process, and the remaining 60% is from naturally occurring chemical reactions during processing. The proportion of ingredients in a concrete mixture can greatly influence its carbon impact.

Using less cement is the most effective way to reduce the carbon footprint of concrete.

www.materialspalette.org

A modern living room featuring rammed earth walls with a textured, layered appearance. Large multi-paned windows on the left offer a view of a wooded area. In the center, a fireplace with a dark metal surround contains a fire. To the right, a built-in stone fireplace holds logs. The room is furnished with two light-colored armchairs with red cushions, a green sofa with red and purple cushions, and a dark wood coffee table. Two small dogs are visible: one peeking from under the armchair and another sitting on the sofa. A balcony with a dark metal railing and cushions is visible on the upper level. The ceiling has exposed wooden beams, and the lighting is warm and ambient.

Rammed
Earth

N22



Earth
Masonry
Units



Low
Carbon
Footings



Clay
Floor
Slabs





farmhouse rebuild

Honor the past

The Amah Mutsun and indigenous wisdom:

Pie Ranch is on the unceded lands of the Quiroste Tribe of the Awaswas Nation. These lands are cared for today by the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band who are the direct descendants of the Indigenous peoples stolen away to Missions San Juan Bautista and Santa Cruz beginning in the late 18th century. Since 2013 we have been in an ongoing partnership with the Amah Mutsun Tribe and Land Trust working in a variety of ways to heal and reclaim.

For the house rebuild, ecological and Indigenous stewardship informs the building systems and material selection. Curved, communal patio spaces and heavy wood plank details pay homage to Quiroste round houses and Yurok plank houses.

The Steele Family Dairy:

The Steele Family was famous for their butter and cheese, their support of the Union Army during the Civil War, and their desire to see the land and buildings protected in perpetuity for public education. The size, form, and exterior of the house are largely unchanged, keeping the feel of the historic Steele house built in 1863.



Amah Mutsun Round House, illustration by Edward Willie



Yurok Plank House, Sumëg Village



Steele Farmhouse, built c. 1863



Farmhouse site after CZU fire

Project Team



Arkin Tilt Architects

artfully integrates design and ecology with extensive experience in sustainable and carbon conscious construction systems.



Verdant Structural Engineers

specializes in efficient use of conventional building materials as well as environmentally sensitive building materials and methods such as straw bale, rammed earth, cob, adobe and bamboo.



Beyond Efficiency - Energy & Mechanical

consultants with expertise in energy optimization, green building, training & coaching to empower people to create enduring human-centered buildings.



Sherwood Design Engineers

applies innovation and elegant design to the creation and implementation of sustainable infrastructure.



Cormorant Fine Craftsmen

a full service building company specializing in residential new construction. Our work is rooted in time honored, artisanal skill and state of the art efficiency techniques. Owner Benjamin Riordan has been a builder for twenty years.

Meet today's needs

Living Space:

Reorganizes the interior space within the footprint of the previous house to provide more effective living, bathing, dining, and gathering spaces, including spaces for education and display of history.

Accessibility:

Gathering spaces and a bathroom are accessible to people of all mobility levels

Comfort:

Efficient radiant heating systems, weather sealing, and insulation.

Fire Resistant

Protects against future fires with Class-A fire resistant exterior assemblies.

Model a sustainable future

Carbon sequestering & low carbon materials:

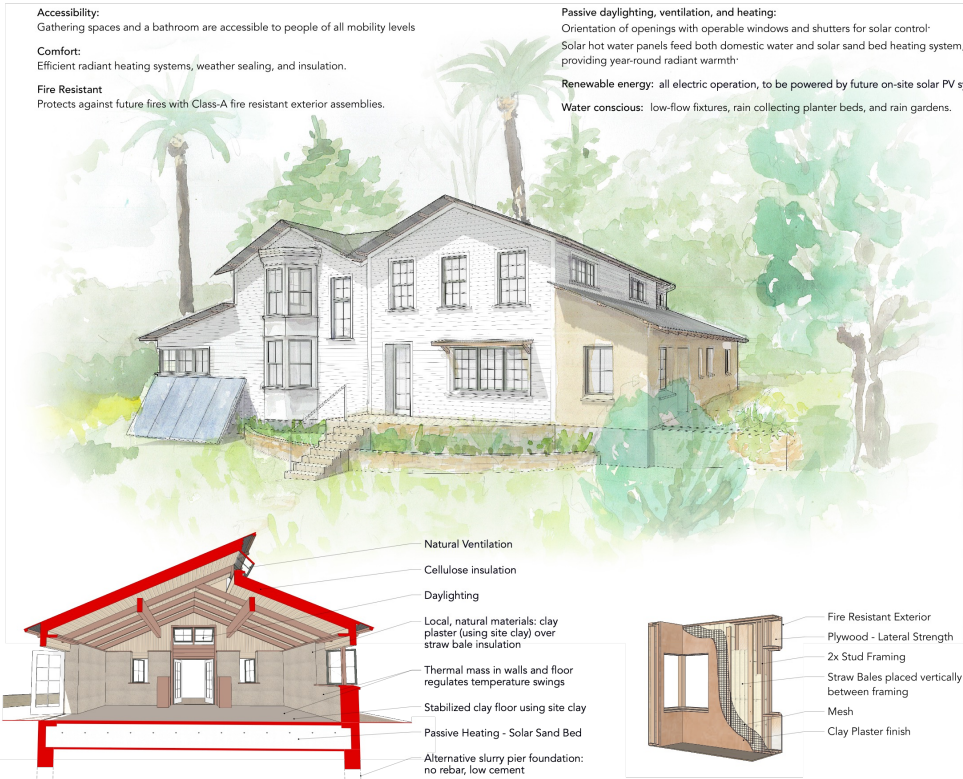
Local, low-impact and carbon storing materials: straw bale walls, clay slab floor, cellulose insulation, site lumber flooring, clay plaster, alternative slurry pier foundation (no rebar and low cement), earth masonry unit retaining walls, salvaged doors and trim.

Passive daylighting, ventilation, and heating:

Orientation of openings with operable windows and shutters for solar control- Solar hot water panels feed both domestic water and solar sand bed heating system, providing year-round radiant warmth:

Renewable energy: all electric operation, to be powered by future on-site solar PV system.

Water conscious: low-flow fixtures, rain collecting planter beds, and rain gardens.



Sustainability Strategies Diagram

Straw Bale Insulated Wall Diagram





















Sierra Valley Preserve Nature Center – Straw-Cel w/Lime Plaster



Sierra Valley Preserve Nature Center – ATA at West Entrance – Biological Trail

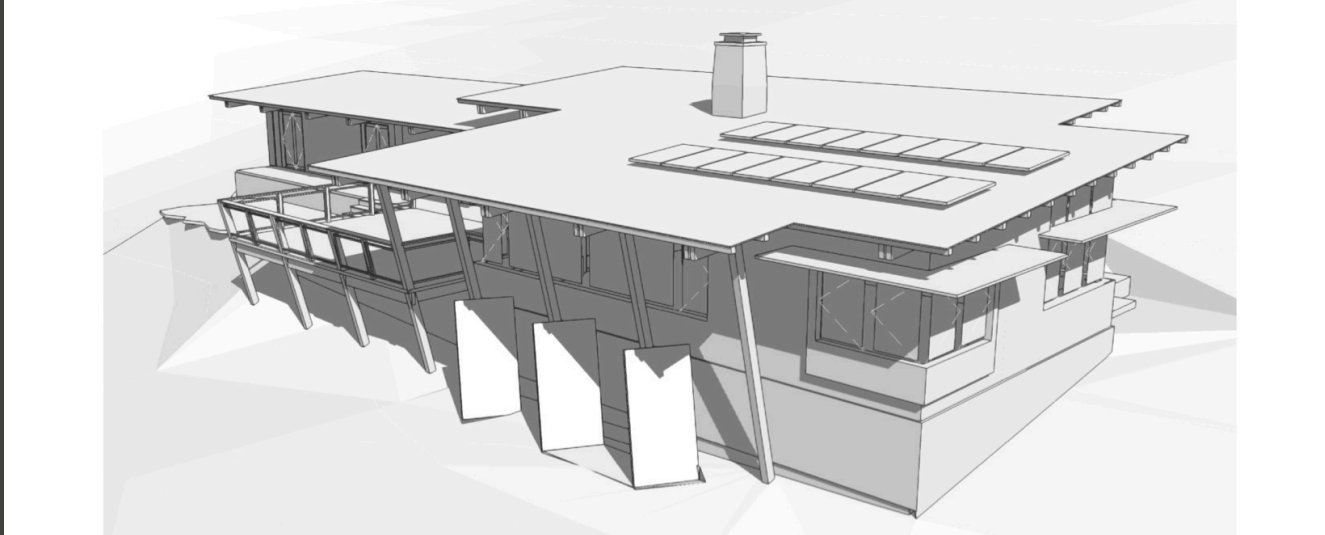
Rebuilding Story – Measures We'll be Taking

Fire Sprinkler
System for Eaves
and Decks

Photovoltaic Array with
Battery Backup for PSPSs
(may go off-grid, tbd)

Corrugated
Zincalume Roof,
Simple Slopes

Straw Bale Walls with
Natural Hydraulic Lime
Plaster inside and out



Patio at grade
adjacent walls
and below deck

Heavy Timber
Deck and Roof
Framing

High-Mass Solar Sand Bed
Heating – Panels shaded
Seasonally by Deck

Existing Foundation
wrapped with Stone Wool
and Watershed Block



Pythian Road Fire Rebuild, Santa Rosa, CA – Earth Block Making Demonstration



Pythian Road Fire Rebuild, Santa Rosa, CA – Site Harvested and Milled Lumber



Pythian Road Fire Rebuild, Santa Rosa, CA – Pumice Insulation and Solar Sand Bed



Pythian Road Fire Rebuild, Santa Rosa, CA – Exo-BOEBS – Bale Raising Day



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Pythian Road Fire Rebuild, Santa Rosa, CA – Deep Green Building & Remodeling



N22
Pythian Road Fire Rebuild, Santa Rosa, CA – Massey Burke / Clay Plaster



N22
Pythian Road Fire Rebuild, Santa Rosa, CA – Arkin Tilt Architects

BUILD SHELTER.

BUILD SHELTER.

NOT TOO BIG.

BUILD SHELTER.
NOT TOO BIG.
MOSTLY PLANTS.

[with thanks / apologies to Michael Pollan / 'Food Rules']

Resources

- architecture2030.org
- 2030Palette.org
- materialspalette.org
- carbonsmartbuilding.org
- embodiedcarbonnetwork.org
- strawbuilding.org
- ecobuildnetwork.org
- crownhillmaterials.com
- forestreecollective.com
- bamcore.com
- buildersforclimateaction.org
- carbonleadershipforum.org
- rmi.org
- strawbale.com
- ecococon.eu
- agile.property
- rammedearthworks.com
- okomwrks.co