a baa 2025 building enclosure conference

Air Barrier Embodied Carbon: A Critical Review

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AIA Continuing Education Provider



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Air Barrier Embodied Carbon: A Critical Review

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President and Building Science Specialist at Building Enclosure Labs Inc. (BELi) in London, Ontario. He has conducted embodied carbon analysis for building envelopes and whole buildings for architects and certification along with systems and products for contractors and manufacturers.

Adam Broderick

Research and Development Scientist with 10 years experience applying material science principles and building science fundamentals to drive towards innovative building envelope products and applications (plus another couple of years as a lab coat polymer chemist / material scientist).

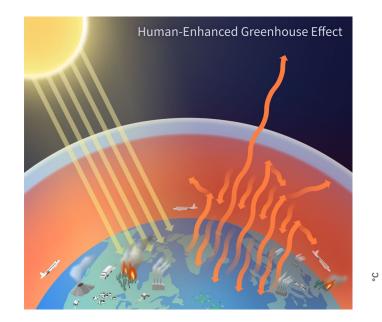


Learning Objectives

- Identify the embodied carbon impact stages for air barrier.
- 1. Determine Clear Field vs Linear Impacts.
- Illustrate the impact of air barrier on the embodied carbon of building envelope assemblies.
- Identify the impacts of common air barrier strategy selections.

What's the Data on Global Warming?

The world is heating up because carbon dioxide (CO_2) and other GHGs are accumulating in the atmosphere, meaning less heat can escape to space



Refs: https://www.climate.gov/media/16408 https://wmo.int/sites/default/files/2025-03/WMO-1368-2024_en.pdf

- A few of the many factoids:
- Global CO₂ levels now at their highest in the last 800,000+ years
- 2024 was the warmest year on record
- Oceans are hottest on record

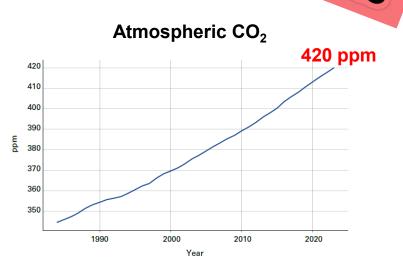
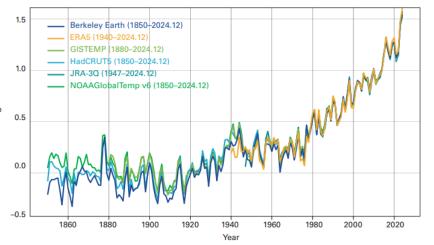


Figure 1. Annual mean globally averaged atmospheric mole fraction of carbon dioxide from 1984 to 2023 in parts per million (ppm) Source: Data are from the World Data Centre for Greenhouse Gases (WDCGG). See Datasets and methods.



Global Mean Surface Temperature

Figure 3. Annual global ocean heat content down to 2000 m depth for the period 1960–2024, in zettajoules (10²¹ J). The shaded area indicates the 2-sigma uncertainty range on each estimate. For details see Datasets and methods.

2020

Figure 2. Annual global mean temperature anomalies relative to a pre-industrial (1850–1900) baseline shown from 1850 to 2024 Source: Data are from the six datasets indicated in the legend. For details see Datasets and methods.

Ocean Heat Content

----- Cheng et al., 2024

R _50

어 -100

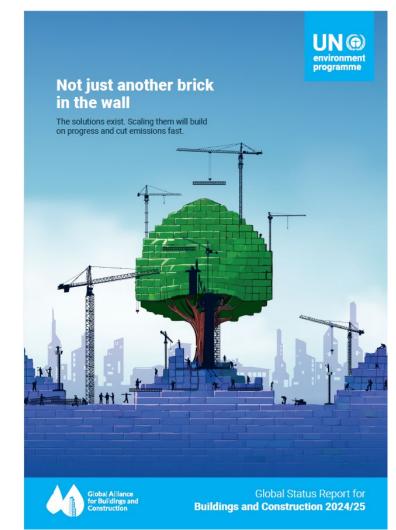
-150 -200

-250

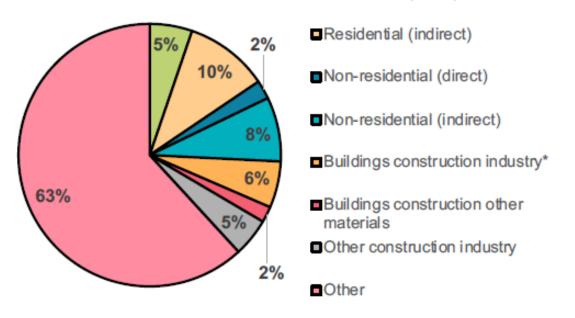
-300

Miniere et al., 20

Buildings account for roughly 34% of global GHG emissions



Share of Buildings in Global Energy and Process Emissions in 2023

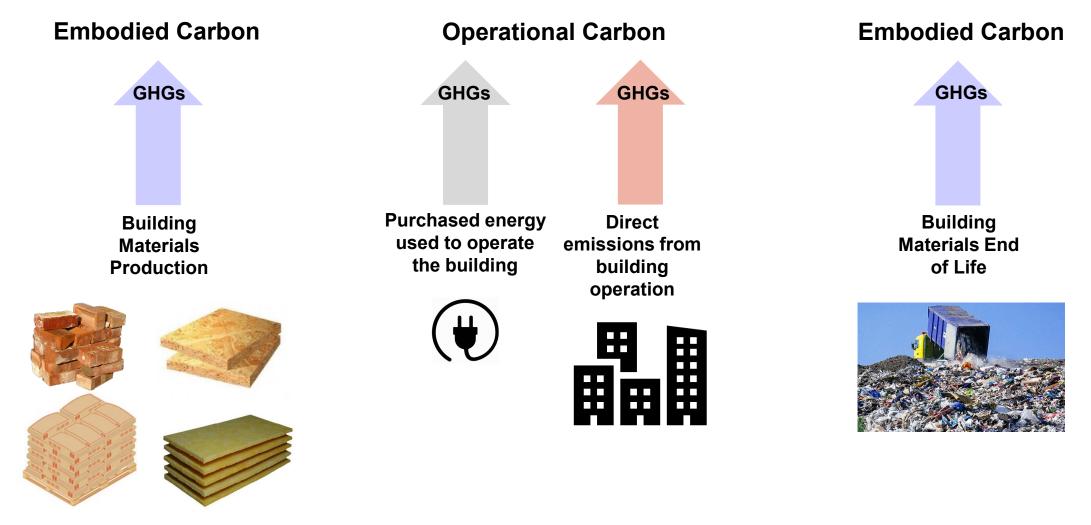


Residential (direct)

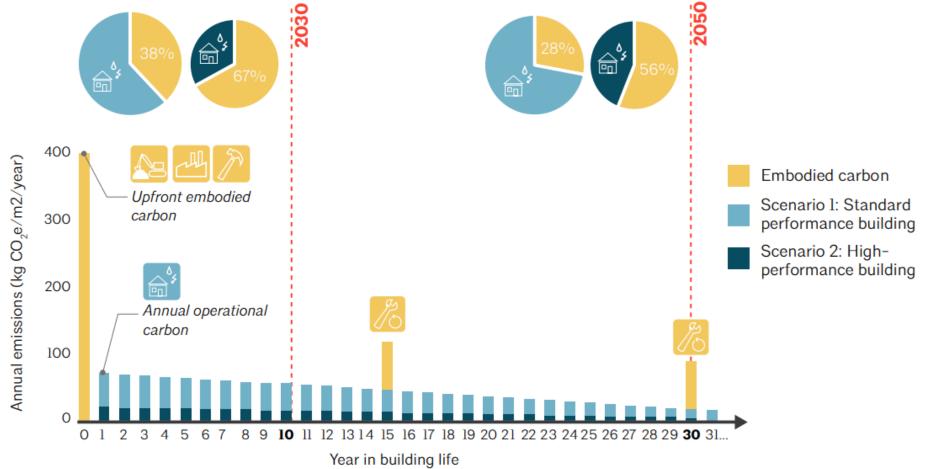
Notes: "Buildings construction industry" and "Other construction industry" refers to concrete, steel and aluminum for buildings and infrastructure construction. The boundaries of the emissions (energy and process) account for construction materials including from raw materials preparation and processing and the different steps to produce the materials. For example, for cement this includes the entire manufacturing process, from obtaining raw materials and preparing the fuel through to grinding and milling.

The numbers in the pie chart are rounded values and therefore do not necessarily sum to the total value for a given sector.

Life cycle thinking for Buildings and associated GHG emissions: defining Embodied and Operational Carbon



A Building Life Cycle Look at Embodied and Operational Carbon



Embodied Carbon Lifetime Emissions

Reference: AIA-CLF Embodied Carbon Toolkit for Architects

Data Sources: Embodied Carbon Benchmark Study and Commercial Buildings Energy Consumption Survey (CBECS), assuming a medium-sized commercial office building. Assumes gradual grid decarbonization to zero by 2050.

Life Cycle Analysis (LCA)

- LCA is the calculation and evaluation of the potential environmental impacts associated with all the stages of the life cycle of a commercial product, process, or service.
- Goal & Scope Definition

What is the goal of the study? What is the functional unit? What are the product system boundaries?

Inventory analysis

Life Cycle Inventory (LCI): What are the flows from and to nature (ecosphere) for a product system? Environmental inputs and outputs refer to the demand for natural resources and to the emissions and solid waste.

• Impact Assesment

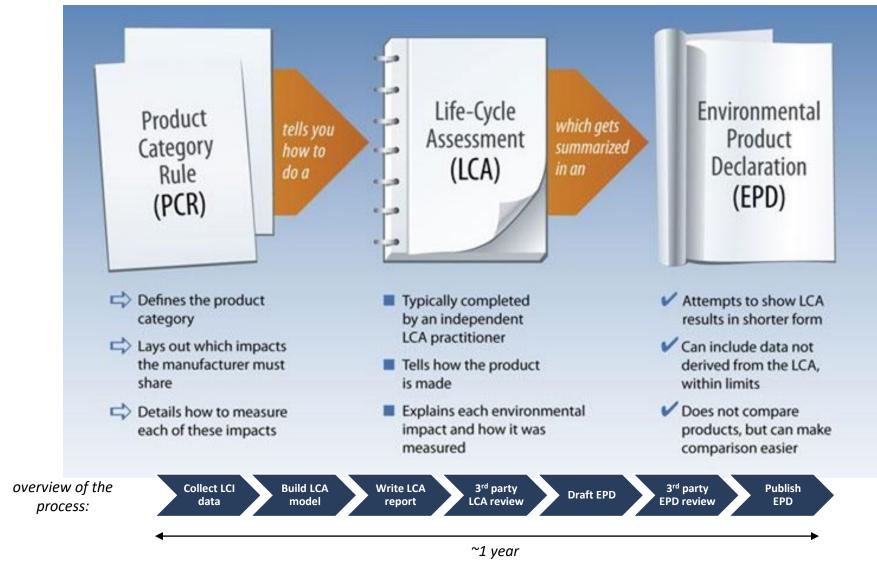
What are the potential environmental and human health impacts resulting from the flows determined in the LCI?

• Interpretation

What significant issues are identified from the study? How complete, sensitive, and consistent is the study? Conclusions, limitations, and recommendations are stated.



Welcome to the wonderful world of EPDs!



a reasonably good representation of PCR, LCA, and EPD from Building Green:

Embodied Carbon and life cycle stages

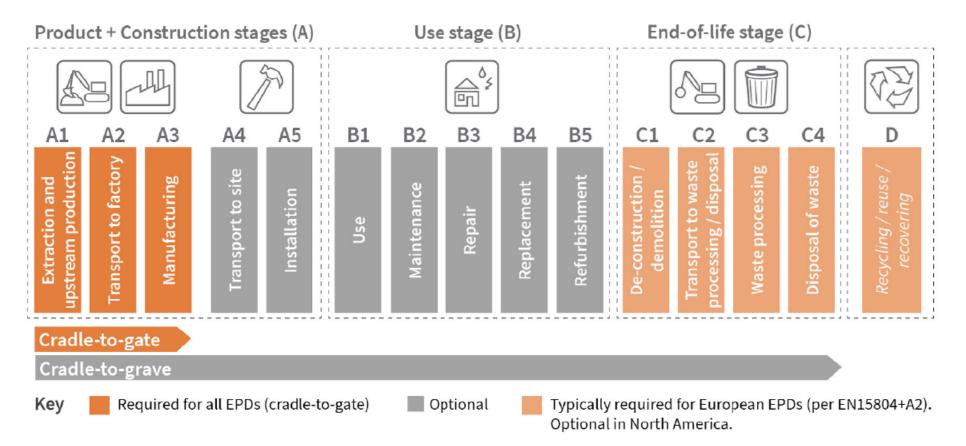


Figure 1. Life cycle stages typically included in North American EPDs. Module names are in accordance with <u>ISO 21930</u>. Product category rules (PCRs) dictate which life cycle stages are required, excluded, or optional.

Taken from Carbon Leadership Forum 2 - EPD 101: Embodied Carbon Accounting for Materials - Carbon Leadership Forum

What it looks like: the numbers and where to find them

Cr

Styrofoam EPD published in 2021



4. Life Cycle Assessment Results

Table 10: Description of the system boundary modules

	PRODUCT STAGE			ION PI	TRUCT ROCESS AGE				USE S	TAGE			END OF LIFE STAGE				BENEFITS AND LOADS BEYOND THE SYSTEM BOUNDARY
	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	В3	B4	В5	B6	B 7	C1	C2	C3	C4	D
	Raw material supply	Transport	Manufacturing	Transport from gate to site	Assembly/Install	Use	Maintenance	Repair	Replacement	Refurbishment	Building Operational Energy Use During Product Use	Building Operational Water Use During Product Use	Deconstruction	Transport	Waste processing	Disposal	Reuse, Recovery, Recycling Potential
EPD Type tradle to Grave	Х	х	х	x	х	x	Х	Х	x	Х	х	Х	х	Х	х	Х	MND

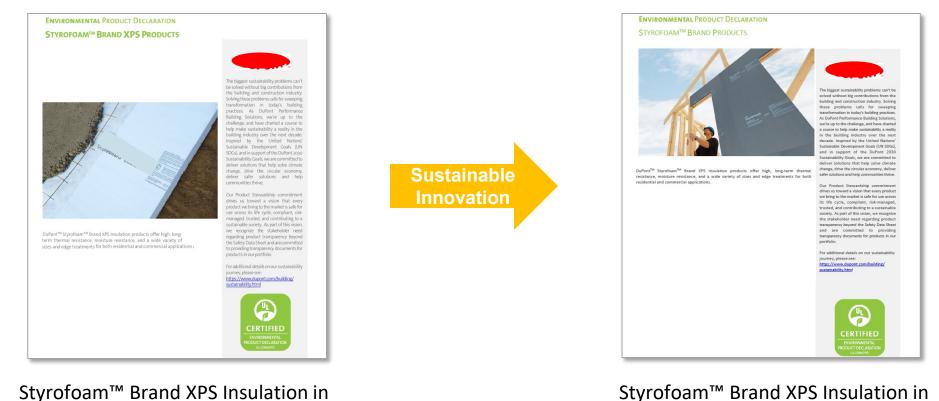
4.1. Life Cycle Impact Assessment Results

All results are given per functional unit, which is 1 m^2 of insulation material with a thickness that gives an average thermal resistance RSI = 1 m^2 K/W over 75 years.

Table 11: North American Impact Assessment Results

TRACI v2.1	A1-A3	A4	A5	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	C1	C2	C3	C4
GWP 100 [kg CO2 eq]	3.51E+00	6.95E-02	5.50E-02	1.16E+00	0.00E+00	7.58E-03	0.00E+00	1.44E+00						

EPDs can (should!) change over time



Styrofoam[™] Brand XPS Insulation in 2020

Embodied Carbon* = **100** kg CO₂eq/(m²K/W)

94% reduction in Embodied Carbon Embodied Carbon* =

2023

6.2 kg CO₂eq/(m²K/W)

*Sum of A1-C4 as reported in the EPD

A few tips for comparing EPDs!

Make sure that the EPDs are actually comparable

- Need to follow the same PCR
- Ensure the products deliver the same function
- Should use the same software/background datasets

Make sure you are looking at the most recent EPD

- Current EPDs must be accessible from the 3rd-party Program Operator (e.g. UL, ASTM, NSF, SCS)
- When in doubt reach out to the product manufacturer

If you have comparable EPDs, follow a good LCA rule of thumb: embodied carbon differences of < 5-10% may not be meaningful

Keep in mind we're not actually measuring anything, we're attempting to model a very complex concept

If understanding the impact of your product choices on carbon is really important, seek professional LCA help

- LCA expertise is available to help you draw sound conclusions when comparing product options
- Best option: avoid comparing product EPDs, instead conduct a buildinglevel LCA

DISCLAIMER

Required language* that must be stated in EPDs:

"EPDs regularly rely on estimations of impacts; the level of accuracy in estimation of effect differs for any particular product line and reported impact.

EPDs from different programs may not be comparable.

Full conformance with a PCR allows EPD comparability only when all stages of a life cycle have been considered.

However, variations and deviations are possible.

Example of variations: Different LCA software and background LCI datasets may lead to different results"

*Required by UL Part A Product Category Rules for Building Products

Early Embodied Carbon

Harvey, L. D. (2007). Net climatic impact of solid foam insulation produced with halocarbon and non-halocarbon blowing agents. *Building and Environment*, *42*(8), 2860-2879

- Estimated payback for insulation energy savings to offset GHG from blowing agents
- Found that high insulation thicknesses do not pay off in terms of direct energy saving

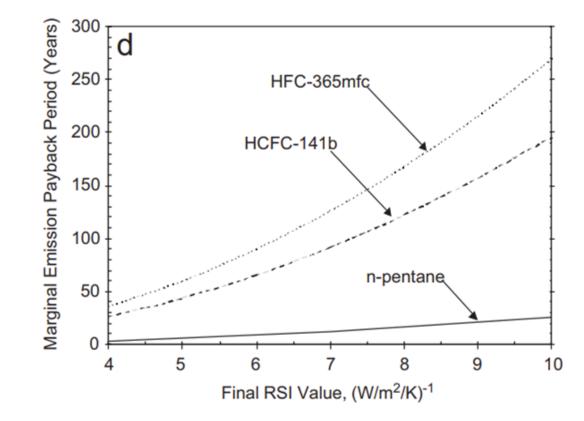


Fig. 5. (d)Variation in the marginal emission payback time when the RSI-value is increased by 1.0 to the indicated final value. Emission payback times are for polyurethane insulation using either HCFC-141b, HFC-365mfc, or *n*-pentane as blowing agents, for a climate with 4000 HDD, for a heating system efficiency of 0.9, 8% leakage at the time of manufacture, 0.5%/year leakage during use, and no release of the blowing agent remaining at the time of disposal



Embodied Carbon comes to LEED v4

LEED BD+C: New Construction • v4 - LEED v4

Building product disclosure and optimization - environmental product declarations

Materials and Resources

Possible 2 Points

- Option 1. Environmental product declaration (EPD)
- Option 2. Multi-attribute optimization

LEED BD+C: New Construction • v4 - LEED v4



Building life-cycle impact reduction

Materials and Resources Possible 5 Points

- Option 1. historic building reuse (5 points)
- Option 2. renovation of abandoned or blighted building (5 points)
- Option 3. building and material reuse (2–4 points)
- Option 4. whole-building life-cycle assessment (3 points)



CaGBC Zero Carbon Standard v4

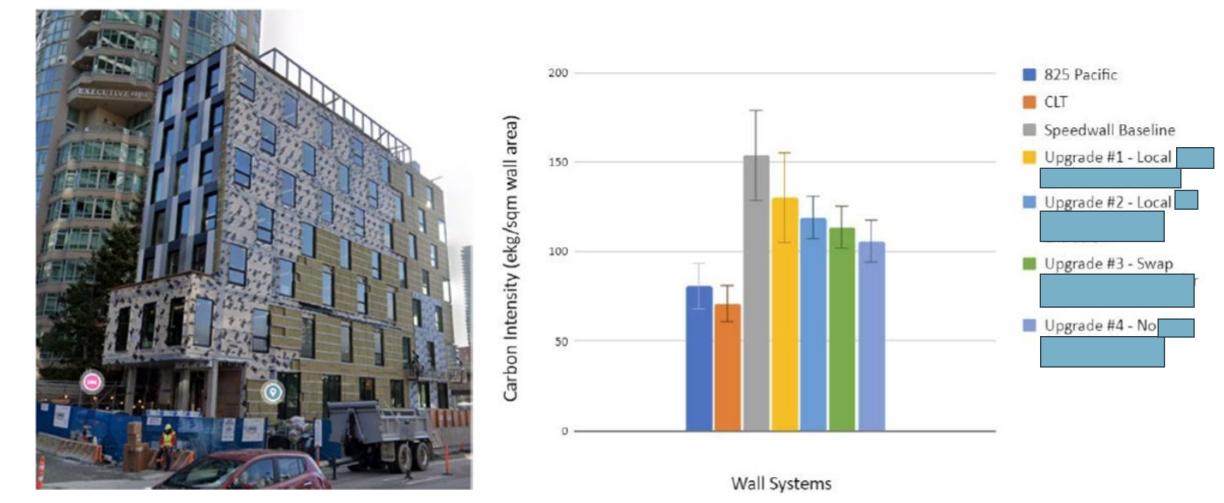
- Embodied Carbon Path 1 (for most buildings): max 450 kg C0₂e/m²
- Embodied Carbon Path 2: 10% less than a baseline







Façade Contractor Support





BC Housing Study

Objectives:

- 1. The optimal strategies to capture maximum energy efficiency gains and overall carbon emission reductions during manufacturing, construction, operation, and deconstruction,
- 2. How to reduce embodied carbon of the building envelope, and
- 3. How to accurately determine building embodied carbon in an efficient and consistent manner.

Low Carbon Solutions for Multi-Unit Residential Buildings





www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Low-Carbon-Solutions-for-Multi-Unit-Residential-Buildings.pdf



Product	Construction process	Use	End of life
Raw material supply Transport Manufacturing	Transport Construction - installation process	Use Maintenance Repair Replacement Refurbishment Operational energy-use	Operational water use De-construction/demolition Transport Waste processing Waste processing Disposal Disposal Benefits and loads beyond the system boundary (Reuse recovery, recycling)
A1 A2 A3	A4 A5	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6	B7 C1 C2 C3 C4 D
Cradle-to-gate	Gate-to-site		



A1-A3 Raw Materials, Transport, Manufacturing

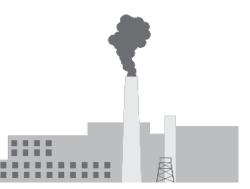
- Plant specific data typically not available
- Too many comparisons of functionally different materials
- Industry averages vs product data

Recommendations

- BC Support plant specific EPD for regional manufacturers
- Encourage projects to consider suitable materials and specific products with low GWP









A4 Transportation to Site

- Burdensome and inconsistent calculations within tools
- Significant impact for many materials in BC projects



Recommendations

• Offer default regional source per kg assumptions (Below fo BC based on UK approach)

Location	Distance Travelled by Road (km)	Distance Travelled by Sea (km)	GWP Intensity (kg eCO ₂ /kg)
Local	100		0.005
BC, Alberta, Washington	1000	N/A	0.053
Eastern North America, Mexico	5000		0.267
Overseas direct to Vancouver	1000	10,000	0.429
Overseas through East Coast ports	5000	10,000	0.643



A5c Installation Emissions

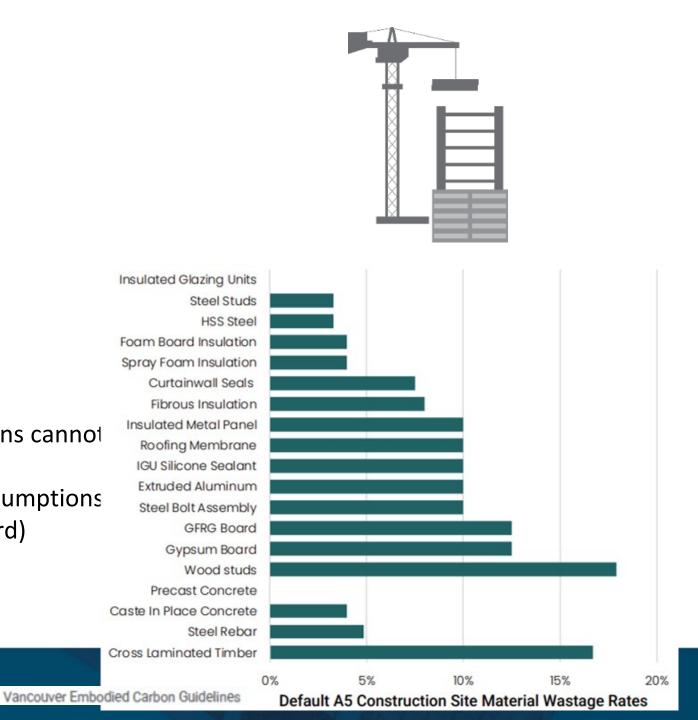
- Big impact for heat/flame applied roofing
- Impact for off gassing products

A5w Construction Waste

- Inconsistent assumptions used in industry
- Big impact for most materials

Recommendations

- Provide list of materials where A5c emissions cannot be ignored
- Provide standard industry wastage rate assumptions (now available in City of Vancouver standard)



B1, B2, & B3 – Use, Maintaince, & Repair

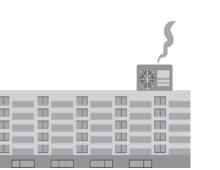
- Inconsistent assumptions used in industry
- Small impacts

B4 & B5 – Refurbishment and Replacements

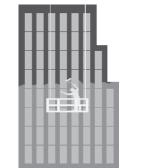
• Limited users service live knowledge

Recommendations

- Provide simple per kg assumption for B1-B3
- Provide default component service life values
- Provide incentive and analysis method for more durable design, construction, and maintenance

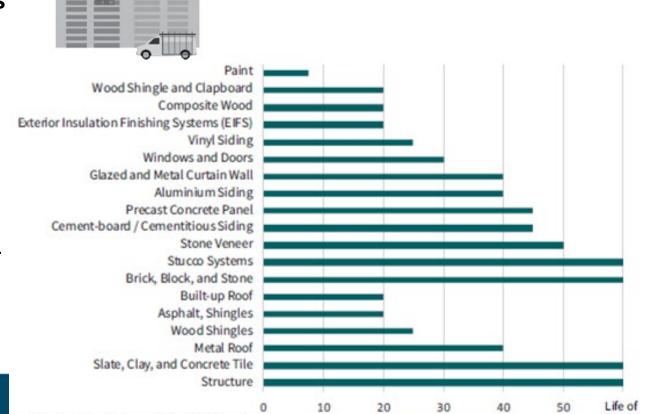


Vancouver Embodied Carbon Guidelines





Building



Service Life (Years)

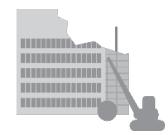


C1-C4 Demolition, Transportation, Waste Processing, & Landfill

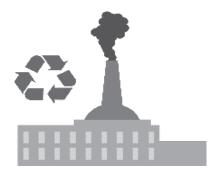
- Complicate and inconsistent assumptions used in industry
- Small impacts = limited incentives

Recommendations

- Provide simple default per kg assumptions
- Conduct baseline and best practice studies to understand impacts and incentivize improvements











Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs)

Randy's EPD Gripes:

- 1. Provide current EPDs
- 2. Don't make users register with some third party to download an EPD
- 3. Keep expired EPDs available as users often need them to supplement missing data points
- 4. Provide adequate product details more product variations the better within an EPD
- Provide the kg weight for product with per m³, per m² and per RSI m² reporting



HIGH PERFORMANCE SCENARIO

TRACI 2.1		
Parameter	Unit	A1-A3
GWP	[kg CO ₂ eq]	9.43E-01

DuPont Protection Solution

strategic business unit of DuPon

bringing dynamic science to the

discovery and development of innovative products and services for

construction, DuPont Protection

Solutions is committed to increasing the performance of building systems and creating energy efficient and durable structures. DuPont is the only manufacturer to offer both Mechanically Fastened and mechanically fastened building wrap air and water barrier systems. DuPont™ Tyvek[®] commercial air and water barrier systems help effectively seal the building envelope. When you choose DuPont products for your next project, you get products that meet the highest performance standards and are backed by industry-leading building science and unrivaled industry support provided by the DuPont™ Tyvek® Specialists Network and the DuPont[™] Building

commercial and residential

Knowledge Center.

UL

CERTIFIED

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION MECHANICALLY FASTENED AIR AND WATER DARRIER SYSTEM



Mechanically Fastened Air and Water Barrier Systems offer outstanding protection for gypsum, CMU, and many common sheathing substrat

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

MECHANICALLY FASTENED WEATHER BARRIER SYSTEMS

AIR BARRIER FOR COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

This declaration is an environmental product declaration (EPD) in accordance with ISO 14025. EPDs reon Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) to provide information on a number of environmental impacts of products over their life cycle. <u>Exclusions</u>: EPDs do not indicate that any environmental or social performance benchmarks are met, and there may be impacts that they do not encompass. LCAs do not typically address the site-specific environmental impacts of raw material extraction, nor are they meant to assess hum. I health toxicity. EPDs can complement but cannot replace tools and certifications that are designed to address these in pacts and/or set performance thresholds – e.g. Type 1 certifications, health assessments and declarations, environmental impact assessments, etc. <u>Accuracy of Resultis</u>: EPDs regularly rely on estimations of impacts, and the level of accuracy in stimation of effect differs for any particular product line and reported impact. <u>Comparability</u>: EPDs are not comparative assertions and are either not comparable or have limited comparability when they cover different life cycle stages, are based on different product category rules or are missing relevant environmental impacts. EPDs from different programs may not be comparable.

PROGRAM OPERATOR	UL Ervironment						
DECLARATION HOLDER							
DECLARATION NUMBER	4787059050.1021						
DECLARED PRODUCT	Tyvek® Mechanically Fac	ened Air and Water Barrier Systems					
REFERENCE PCR	IBU Part B: Plastic and elastom	er roofing _ d sealing sheet systems. With UL part A and part B addendur					
DATE OF ISSUE	June 21, 2017						
PERIOD OF VALIDITY	5 Years						
CONTENTS OF THE DECLARATION The PCR review was condu	Product definition and info Information about pasic m Description of the product Indication of produit proce Information about the in-u Life cycle assessment res Testing results and verific cted by:	aterial and 's manufac essing se conditio ults	the material's origin ture				
14025 by Underwriters Labo	⊠ EXTERN/L	e with ISO	Wade Stout, UL Environment				
This life cycle assessment w accordance with ISO 14044			24000 Seci- Thomas P. Gloria, Industrial Ecology Consultants				
	4 0047						
June 21, 2017							
5 Years	5						

LOW RISE SCENARIO

According to ISO 14025

 TRACI 2.1
 Here

 Parameter
 Unit
 A1-A3

 GWP
 [kg CO₂ eq]
 4.97E-01

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION

MECHANICALLY FASTENED AIR AND WATER BARRIER SYSTEM AIR AND WATER BARRIER FOR COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

According to ISO 14025

Page 10

Life Cycle Assessment Results

Results for 1 m² of installed Tyvek[®] Mechanically Fastened Air and Water Parrier Systems are presented below.

	ENVIRONME	NTAL IMPACTS	: LOW RISE S	CENARIO				
1	CML 2001 (Apr	2013)						
;	Parameter	Unit	A1-A3	A4		C2	C4	D
	GWP	[kg CO ₂ eq.]	4.97E-01	7.02E-03	2 JE-02	2.68E-04	4.93E-03	-3.44E-04
	ODP	[kg CFC-11 eq.]	1.18E-06	5.78E-14	J.88E-08	2.20E-15	9.43E-14	-1.04E-13
	AP	[kg SO ₂ eq.]	1.32E-03	2.60E-05	7.91E-05	9.91E-07	2.13E-05	-9.29E-07
	EP	[kg PO ₄ ³ eq.]	1.25E-04	6.71E-06	9.78E-06	2.56E-07	2.72E-06	-5.62E-08
	POCP	[kg C ₂ H ₄ eq.]	2.68E-04	3.10E-06	1.68E-05	1.18E-07	2.16E-06	-6.02E-08
	APE	[kg Sb eq.]	2.48E-07	1.05E-7 J	1.26E-08	4.00E-11	1.89E-09	-7.85E-11
۲ .	ADVE	04.0	1 105+01	9.87′02	5.60E-01	3.76E-03	7.45E-02	-4.18E-03
	TRACI 21							
_ \	Paramete	Unit	A1-A3	A4	A5	C2	C4	D
	GWP	[kg CO ₂ eq]	4.97E-01	7.02E-03	2.90E-02	2.68E-04	4.93E-03	-3.44E-04
-	ODP	[kg CFC-11 eq]	1.17E-06	6.15E-14	5.88E-08	2.34E-15	1.00E-13	-1.11E-13
-	AP	[kg SO ₂ eq]	1.31E-03	3.41E-05	8.31E-05	1.30E-06	2.30E-05	-8.83E-07
_	EP	N eq]	6.32E-05	3.17E-06	5.37E-06	1.21E-07	1.28E-06	-3.75E-08
	SFP	[kg eq]	1.83E-02	1.08E-03	1.04E-03	4.13E-05	4.47E-04	-8.46E-06

	ENVIRONME	NTAL IMPACTS	: HIGH PERFO	RMANCE SC	ENARIO			
um	CML 2001 (Apr	2013)						
-	Parameter	Unit	A1-A3	A4	A5	C2	C4	D
	GWP	[kg CO ₂ eq.]	9.42E-01	1.39E-02	5.41E-02	5.35E-04	9.86E-03	-5.70E-04
- 1	ODP	[kg CFC-11 eq.]	3.54E-06	1.15E-13	1.77E-07	4.41E-15	1.89E-13	-1.72E-13
	AP	[kg SO ₂ eq.]	2. 4E-03	5.16E-05	1.49E-04	1.98E-06	4.27E-05	-1.54E-06
- 1	EP	[kg PO ₄ ³ eq.]	2.47 -04	1.33E-05	1.84E-05	5.11E-07	5.45E-06	-9.30E-08
- 1	POCP	[kg C ₂ H ₄ eq.]	6.36E1	6.15E-06	3.76E-05	2.36E-07	4.33E-06	-9.97E-08
- 1	ADPE	[kg Sb eq.]	1.72E-06	2.08E-09	8.64E-08	8.00E-11	3.78E-09	-1.30E-10
- 1	ADPE	04.0	2 11E+01	1.96E-01	1.07E+00	7.52E-03	1.49E-01	-6.93E-03
- 1	TRACI 2.1							
	Parameter	Unit	A1-A3	A4	A5	C2	C4	D
	GWP	[kg CO ₂ eq]	9.43E-01	1.39E-02	5.41E-02	5.35E-04	9.86E-03	-5.70E-04
- [ODP	[kg CFC-11 eq]	3.00E-00	1.22E-13	1.77E-07	4.69E-15	2.01E-13	-1.83E-13
- 1	AP	[kg SO ₂ eq]	2.51E-03	6.77E-05	1.56E-04	2.60E-06	4.60E-05	-1.46E-06
\neg	EP	[kg N eq]	1.22E-04	6.29E-06	9.92E-06	2.42E-07	2.56E-06	-6.21E-08
	SFP	[kg O ₃ eq]	3.61E-02	2.15E-03	2.03E-03	8.26E-05	8.94E-04	-1.40E-05
		ning potential; ODP = Dep						
_	Formation potential	of tropospheric ozone pho	tochemical oxidants; Al	DPE = Abiotic depletic	n potential for non-foss	il resources; ADPF = Al	biolic depletion potentia	for fossil resources;

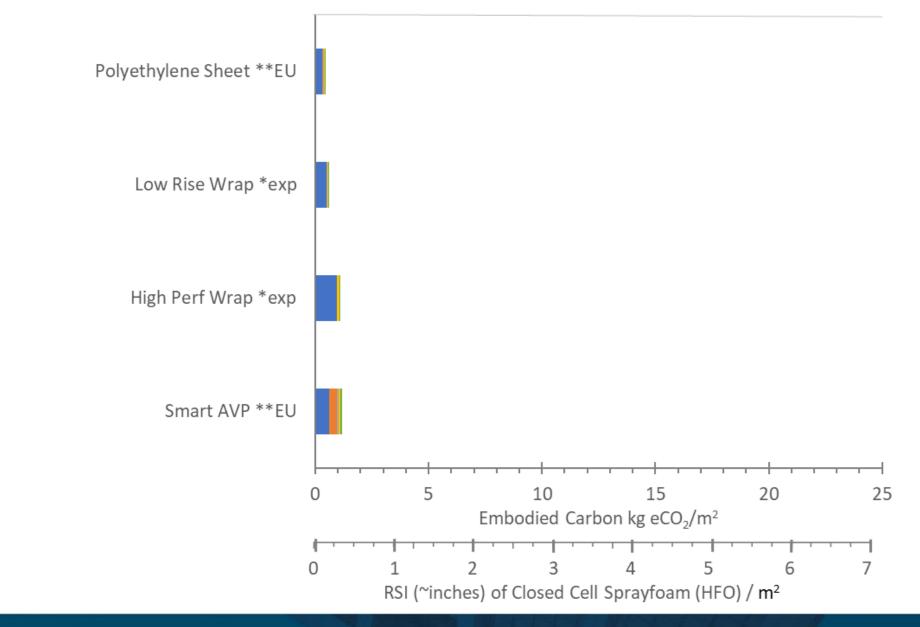
SPT = Stock Halling Dominal, CCF = Peneton potential or in statiophenic out in significant potential for non-losal resources; ADPF = Abidic depietion potential for fossil resources SFP = Smog formation potential

	RESOURCE	USE: LOW RIS	E SCENARIO					
	Parameter	Unit	A1-A3	A4	A5	C2	C4	D
	PERE	[MJ]	1.76E-01	1.64E-03	9.16E-03	6.25E-05	4.84E-03	-4.47E-04
	PERM	[MJ]	8.26E-02	-	4.13E-03	-	-	-
	PERT	[MJ]	2.59E-01	1.64E-03	1.33E-02	6.25E-05	4.84E-03	-4.47E-04
	PENRE	[MJ]	7.20E+00	9.92E-02	3.69E-01	3.78E-03	7.65E-02	-5.11E-03
ultants	PENRM	[MJ]	4.44E+00	-	2.22E-01	-	-	-
antanto	PENRT	[MJ]	1.16E+01	9.92E-02	5.91E-01	3.78E-03	7.65E-02	-5.11E-03
	SM	[kg]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	RSF	[MJ]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	NRSF	[MJ]	-	-	-	-	-	-
	FW	[m ³]	1.75E-03	2.01E-05	9.00E-05	7.66E-07	1.18E-05	-1.62E-06

Environment



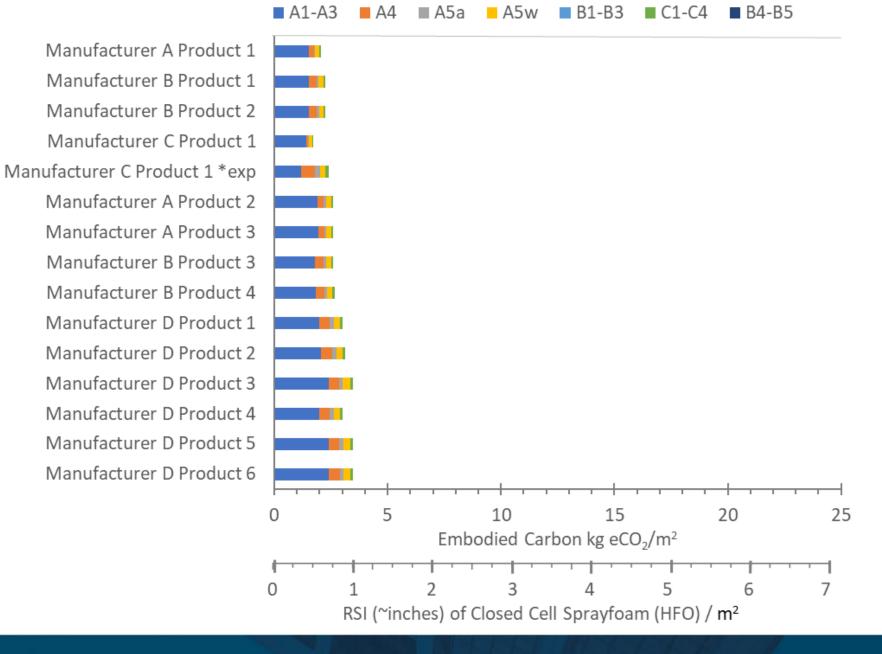
■ A1-A3 ■ A4 ■ A5a ■ A5w ■ B1-B3 ■ C1-C4 ■ B4-B5



Loose Sheet Air Barriers

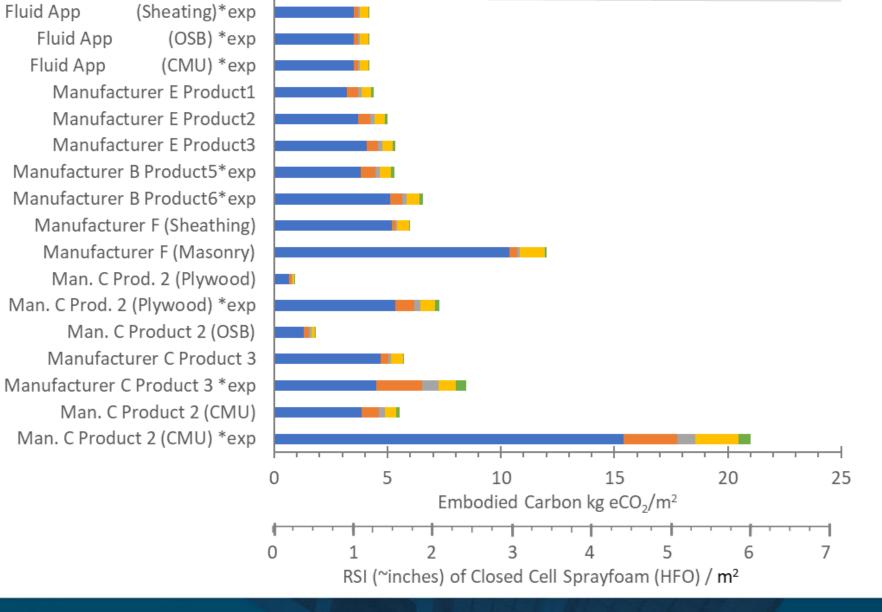


Fully Adhered Air Barriers

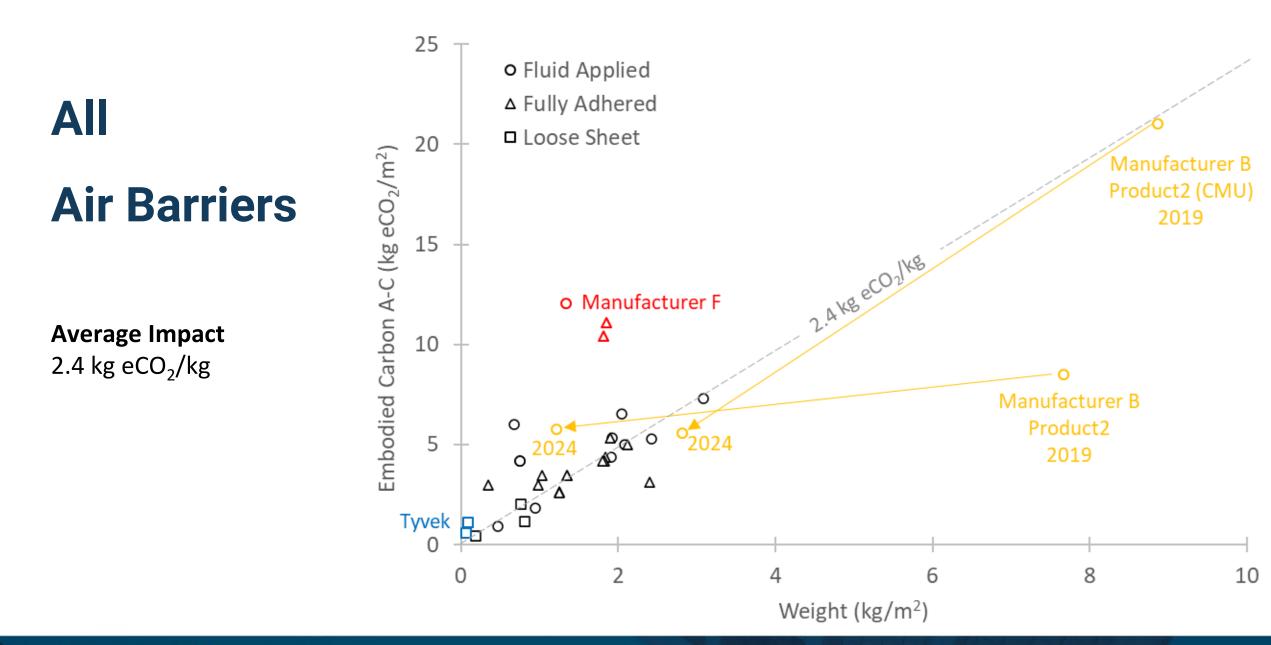




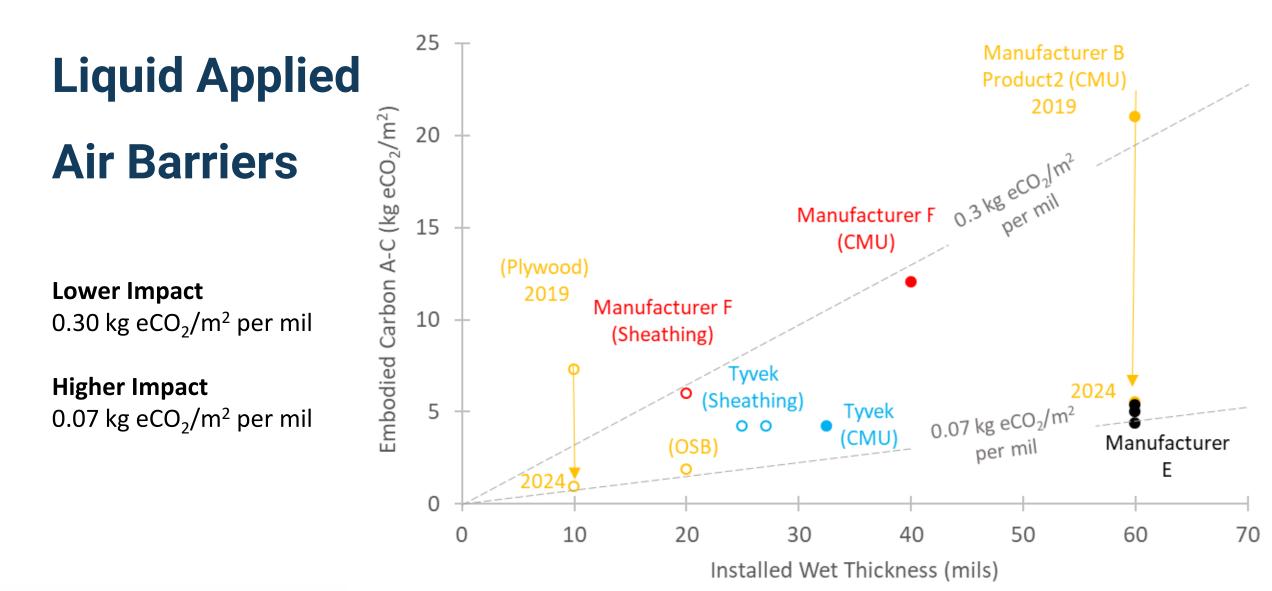
Liquid Applied Air Barriers













Clear Field (Wall) Analysis

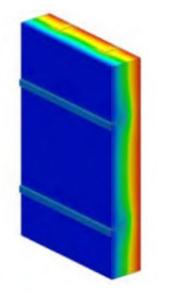
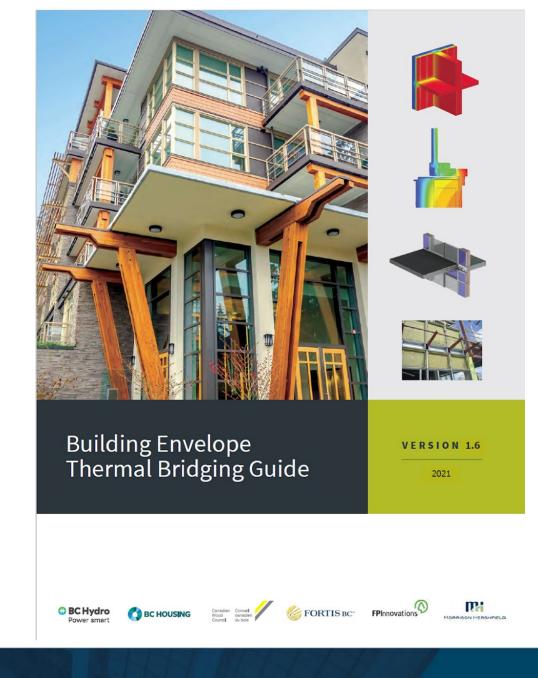


Figure 6: Example clear field assembly





The "Average Wall" for Zone 5 (London Ontario)

		WIDTH	R-VALUE	DENSITY	CARBON
ASSEMBLY	ASSEMBLY COMPONENTS	mm	h°F ft ² /Btu	kg/m ²	kg eCO ₂ /m ²
	Outdoor Air Film (Ventilated 0	Cladding)	0.7		
	Cladding: Galvanized Steel (1/3 replaced)	1	0.0	7.8	28.8
	Ventilated Cavity w metal tracks	12	0.0	2.3	6.5
	Heavy density Mineral Board	100	16.5	10.0	25.8
	Screws		-4.1	1.3	3.6
	AWB Membrane	1	0.0	1.4	2.5
	Glas-Mat Reinforced Gypsum Board	13	0.5	10.2	6.4
	Mineral Wool Batt Insulation	150	22	5.7	9.4
	Steel Studs 6" deep 16" OC		-14.5	4.3	11.1
	6 mil poly	0	0	0.2	0.4
	Gypsum Board	13	0	10.4	4.5
	Paint and Primer	0	0	0.6	0.6
	Indoor Air Fil	m (Wall)	0.7		
	CLEAR FIELD R-VALUE		22.5		
	EMBODIED CARBON (kg eCO2/m ²)	290		54.1	100

Guidelines

Embodied Carbon Guidelines

Version 1.0 Approved by Chief Building Official on October, 2023 Last amended October 18, 2023



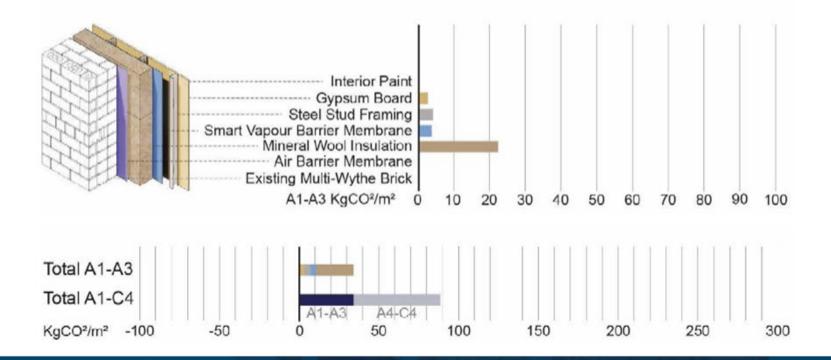
Clear Field (Wall) Analysis Example

ETAF 🔜 RDH

Metrics	Results					
Description	Existing Masonry with Interior Mineral Wool Insulation					
Effective R-value	RSI-4.2 m ² K/W R-24.0 ft ² .ºF·h/BTU					
Embodied Carbon per m ² of Enclosure (A1-A3)	33.7 kgCO ₂ /m ²					
Biogenic Carbon per m ² of Enclosure	0 kgCO ₂ /m ²					

New Design Resources for Embodied Carbon Targets

2024 Comparative Study Conducted by RDH Building Science + Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU) and sponsored by The Atmospheric Fund (TAF)





Clear Wall Heavy Masonry Interior Retrofit (A-C)

	Option 1a: Spray foam (wood studs)						
	ASSEMBLY	ASSEMBLY COMPONENTS	WIDTH	R-VALUE	REF	DENSITY	CARBON
	ASSEMIDET	ASSEMBLT COMPONENTS	mm	h° F ft²/Btu	R	kg/m ²	kg eCO ₂ /m ²
		Outdoor Air Film (M	oving Air)	0.2	4		
		2 to 4 wythe brick masonry	400	2.8	14		-
		Spray polyurethane foam insulation	75	16.1	19	2.4	9.9
		3 1/2" Rockwool Comforbatt insulation	88.9	14.0	18	3.2	3.9
		wood studs	25%	-5.2	3	10.2	2.4
		1/2" drywall	13	0.5	4	9.9	3.6
		Paint and Primer	1	0.0		1.5	5.5
		indoor Air F	ilm (Wall)	0.7	4		
X	30000000000000000000000000000000000000	CLEAR FIELD R-VALUE	578	29.1		27.2	
1		EMBODIED CARBON (kg eCO2/m ²)	576			21.2	25.2



Clear Wall Heavy Masonry Interior Retrofit (A-C)

Option 2a: Mineral Wool (wood studs)						
		WIDTH	R-VALUE	REF	DENSITY	CARBON
ASSEMBLY	ASSEMBLY COMPONENTS	mm	h°F ft²/Btu		kg/m²	kg eCO ₂ /m ²
	Outdoor Air Film (Moving		0.2	4		
	2 to 4 wythe brick masonry	400	2.8	14		-
	liquid applied AWB	1	0.0		0.7	5.9
	Rockwool CavityRock	76	12.8	18	4.4	2.4
	⁻ 3 1/2" Rockwool Comforbatt insulation	88.9	14.0	18	3.2	3.9
	wood studs	25%	-5.2	3	10.2	2.4
	Smart vapour barrier	1	0.0		0.8	2.0
~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	1/2" drywall	13	0.5	4	9.9	3.6
XISSSSSSIXISSSSSSSXXSSSSSSXX	Paint and Primer	1	0.0		1.5	5.5
	Indoor Air Film (Wall)		0.7	4		
	CLEAR FIELD R-VALUE	504	25.8		20.0	
	EMBODIED CARBON (kg eCO2/m ² )	581			- 30.6	25.6



### **Clear Field (Wall) Analysis**

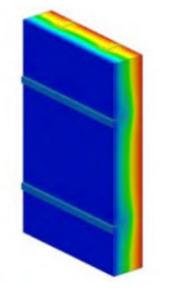


Figure 6: Example clear field

assembly

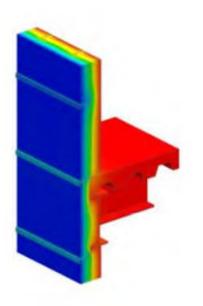
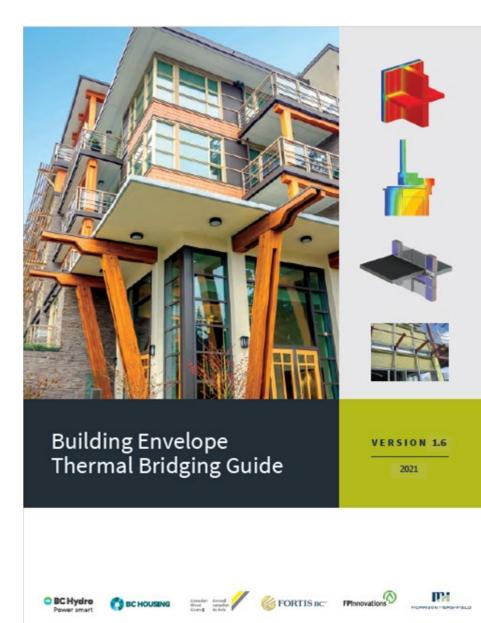
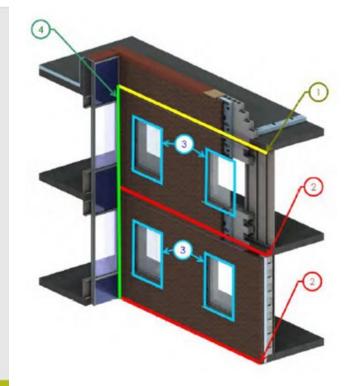


Figure 7: Example linear



abaabuilding





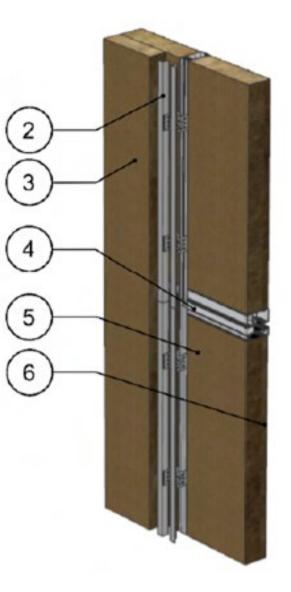
- Parapet Length 1.
- 2. Slab Lengths
- Wall to Window Transition Lengths 3.

Corner Length 4. 5.

Opaque Brick Wall Area Glazing Area 6.

Figure 9: Example building length and area takeoffs

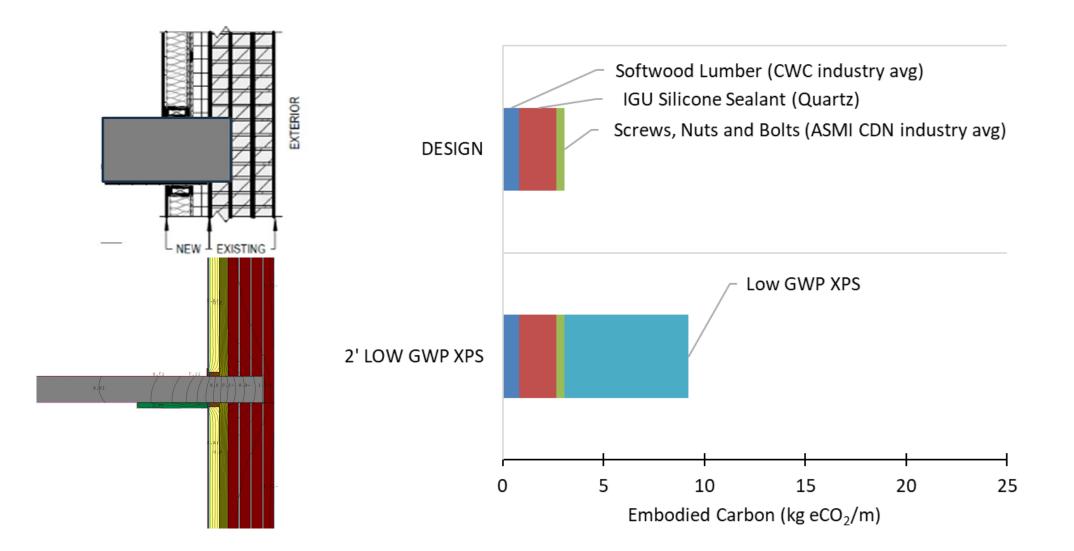




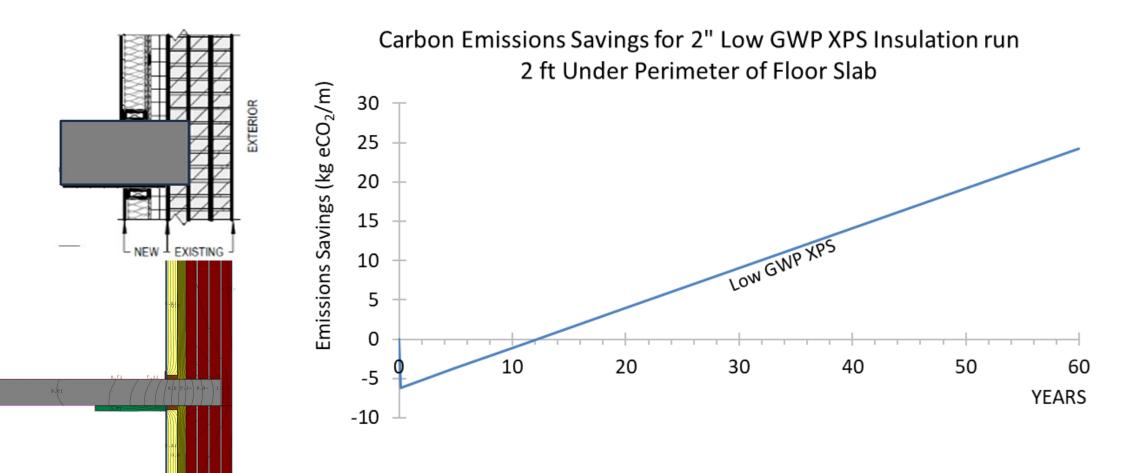
	Exterior Insulation	Emissions - 30% Glazing			Emissions - 50% Glazing			
Wall System		Using Clear Field Quantities	Using Detailed Quantity Take-off	Increase	Using Detailed Quantity Take-off	Emissions using Clear Field Quantities	Increase	
Steel-framed walls with vertical clip system and aluminum framed windows	4" (102 mm)	67	72		79	85		
	6" (152 mm)	70	75	5	81	87		
	8" (203 mm)	73	77		83	89	6	
	10" (254 mm)	76	80		86	91		
Exterior Insulated Unitized Curtain-Wall with clip system	4" (102 mm)	124	223		138	193	54	
	6" (152 mm)	127	226		141	195		
	8" (203 mm)	129	229	99	144	198		
	10" (254 mm)	132	232		146	200		

www.bchousing.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/Low-Carbon-Solutions-for-Multi-Unit-Residential-Buildings.pdf









* London, Ontario in building with 90% efficient NG heating



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**Presenter Name 2**