Carbon Leadership Fourm

Kate Simonen AIA SE, Director CLF ksimonen@uw.edu www.carbonleadershipforum.org Advancing low carbon construction through research, education and outreach

CARBON LEADERSHIP FORUM



SILVER ADRIAN SMITH + GORDON GILL | ARKIN TILT | CARBON CURE |KATERRA | LUND OPSAHL | NATIONAL READY MIXED CONCRETE CO. | NRMCA | SELLEN | SHKS | SIEGEL & STRAIN ARCHITECTS
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WHY EMBODIED CARBON? ABOUT Y RESULTS Y NEWS GET INVOLVED DATA VISUALIZATION EMBODIED CARBON NETWORK Y





www.carbonleadershipforum.org/resources/

www.embodiedcarbonnetwork.org

Addressing Climate Change is a Time Critical Issue





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Net Zero = Zero Carbon?? Buildings: Total Lifetime Energy Use



LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT/ CARBON ACCOUNTING

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EXAMPLE LCA CHALLENGE: UK Steel Material FLOW





Standardized (ISO) method of tracking/reporting environmental impacts of a product (eg. flooring or building) over the life cycle.



EXTRACTIONS

- Raw materials
- Water
- Coal/Gas

EMISSIONS (soil, water, air)

- Fuel combustion
- Polluted water
- Agricultural run-off
- Chemical reactions

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EUTROPHICATION (well nourished)



ACIDIFICTION (Low pH)

NOT JUST CARBON:OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS



OZONE FORMATION (smog)

OZONE DEPLETION (o.g.o., b.o.)

Not covered by Type LCA

- Land use impacts
- Land use change
- Local impacts
- Habitat disruption
- Water use (developing)
- Human Health Impacts

MATERIAL to IMPACTS



Sum Total Impact

LCA Life Cycle Assessment

Standardized (ISO) method of tracking/reporting environmental impacts of a product (eg. flooring or building) over the life cycle.



Goal:

What is the object of study?

Why is this study being performed?

What is the desired outcome?

Who is the audience?

Scope:

What is included?

What is excluded?

What are the boundaries of study?

Where is the data coming from?

What impacts will be assessed?



Envelope

Interiors: Partitions/Doors/Finishes

Exterior site

Fittings/Appliances/Fixtures

MEP

Elevator/Equipment

Embodied Carbon Material Breakdown (initial construction)

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Embodied CO2e over 100 year life



BUILDING INDUSTRY DRIVERS



Points for use of products with EPDs -Manufacture specific (20 products/5 mfr) -Industry average (half credit) -No more than 30% from structure/enclosure Points for demonstrating whole building improvements



-Architecture 2030 Challenge for Products
-Push to deliver low carbon products by 2030
-Manufacturer specific
-Industry average

AEC Industry Pushing for Increasing Transparency -HBD: Health Product Declaration -Declare: Living Building Challenge Labeling -Responsible Sourcing Certification in LEED etc.





Total Carbon Emissions

The total emissions of CO2 equivalent for the project is made up of emissions due to the manufacture of materials, transport of materials, craftworker transit, fuel usage, and waste transport.





CLF RESEARCH: Embodied Carbon Benchmark

http://www.carbonleadershipforum.org/data-visualization/



Typically less than 1,000kgCO2e/m² and commonly between 200-500 kgCO2e/m².

CLF RESEARCH: Environmental Impact of Mass Timber Office Construction



Defining a Reference Building

CLF RESEARCH: Environmental Impact of Mass Timber Office Construction



Figure 8. Effect of number of intermediate beams on volume of beam + slab per SF

Highlighting impact of configuration

LCA Practice Guide: Published



Life Cycle Assessment of Buildings: A Practice Guide

- Introduction
- Implementation
 - Five Steps
- Online Resources:
 - Technical Guidance
 - Taxonomy
 - Links to tools etc.
 - Examples

Simonen, **Huang**, Rodriguez & advisory committee!

LCA Practice Guide: Introduction



Entry Level Concepts

- How do buildings impact the environment?
- What are emissions and why do they matter?
- How are emissions translated into environmental impacts?
- How is LCA used to evaluate buildings?



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