



**Climate Heritage**  
N E T W O R K

Working Group 3

# **BUILDING REUSE IS CLIMATE ACTION!**

Why recycling buildings makes carbon sense, and rapid carbon reduction to net zero makes the case for building reuse.

October 8, 2021

DISMANTLING BARRIERS, SCALING UP CULTURE-BASED CLIMATE ACTION

# Building Reuse is Climate Action!

FRIDAY, 8 OCTOBER | 3:00 PM BST

In the run-up to COP26, Join our Climate Heritage Mobilisation @ Climate Fridays Webinar Series!



## FEATURED SPEAKERS:



**Mark Thompson Brandt**

MTBA Associates



**Lori Ferris**

Goody Clancy



**Nathan Lott**

Preservation Resource  
Center of New Orleans



**Stephanie Phillips**

City of San Antonio Office of  
Historic Preservation



**Shanon Miller**

City of San Antonio

THIS WEBINAR ORGANISED BY CLIMATE HERITAGE NETWORK WORKING GROUP WORKING GROUP 3.



Historic England



Climate Heritage  
NETWORK

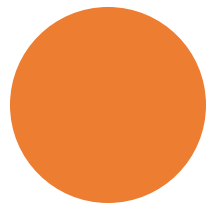
#ClimateHeritage

# INTRODUCTION - SPEAKERS

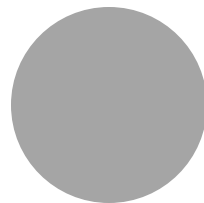
- **Mark Thompson Brandt**, OAA, RAIC, FAPT-RP, LEED AP, CAHP,  
Principal, Sr. Conservation Architect & Urbanist, **MTBA Associates Architects, Ottawa**
- **Lori Ferriss**, AIA, PE, LEED AP BD+C,  
Director of Sustainability and Climate Action, **Goody Clancy, Boston**
- **Stephanie Phillips**  
Senior Specialist, City of **San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation**
- **Nathan Lott**  
Head of public policy research and advocacy, **Preservation Resource Center of New Orleans**



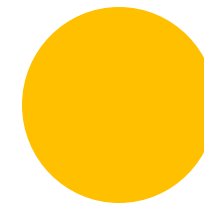
# AGENDA: Building Reuse is Climate Action



LEVERAGING  
TOOLS & DATA



LEARNING FROM  
CASE STUDIES



DEVELOPING  
POLICY CONTEXT

# INTRODUCTION: CONTEXT

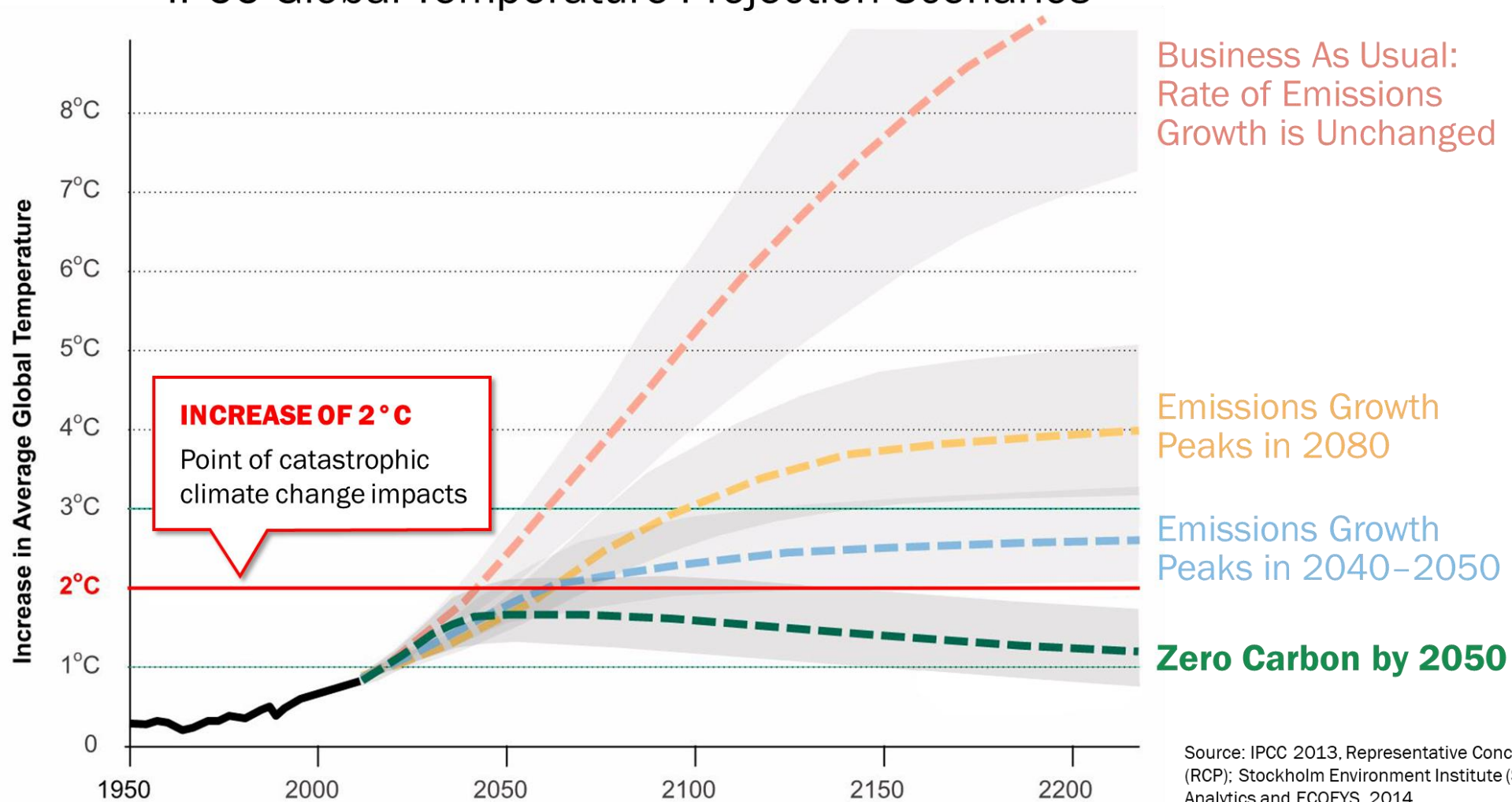
*Paris Agreement 2015 –  
commit to cap global  
temperature rise to 1.5° to  
2° C to avert catastrophic  
and irreversible impacts of  
climate change*

FOR THE PLANET



# Climate Heritage N E T W O R K

## IPCC Global Temperature Projection Scenarios



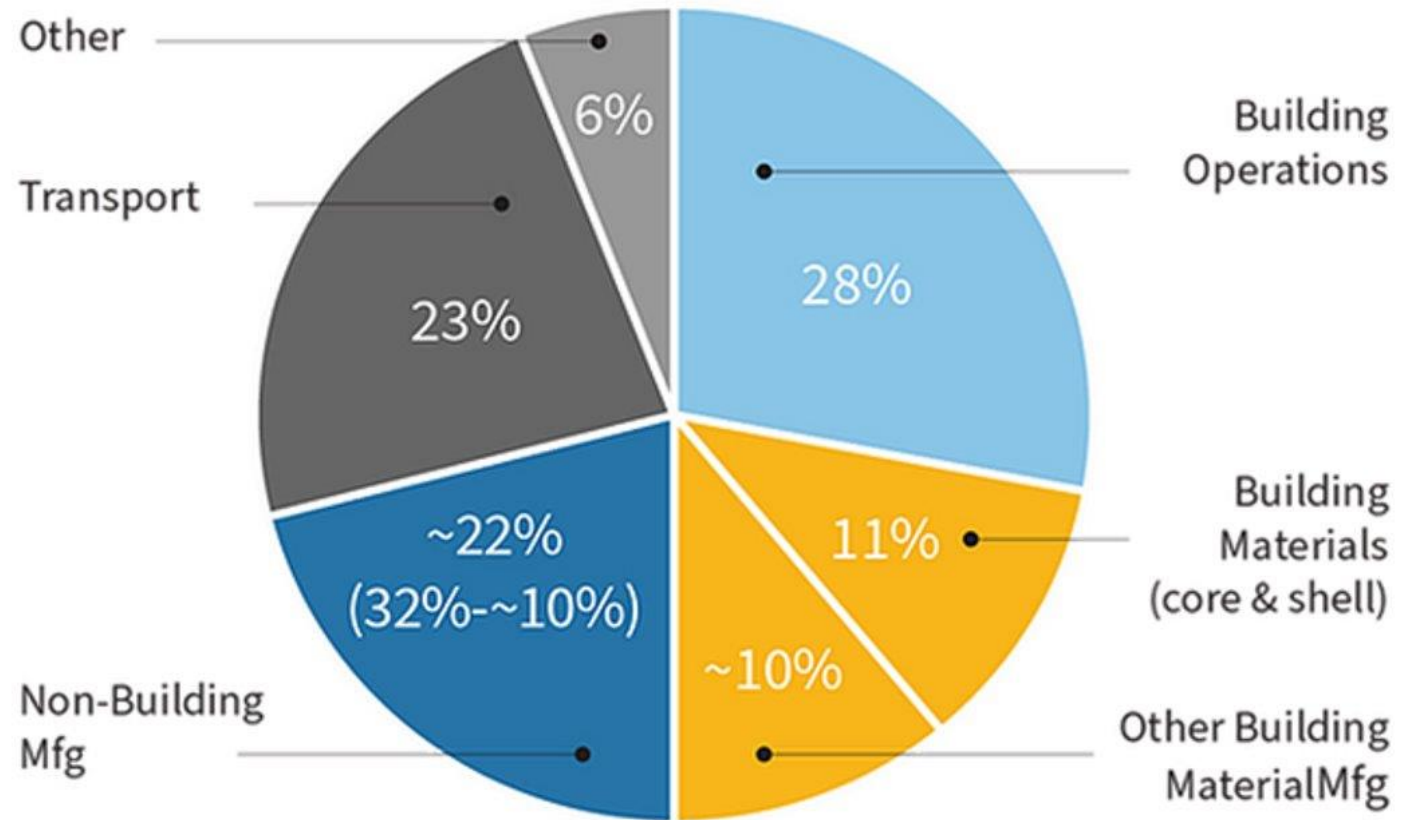
Source: IPCC 2013, Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP); Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), 2013; Climate Analytics and ECOFYS, 2014.

Note: Emissions peaks are for fossil fuel CO<sub>2</sub>-only emissions.



# Climate Heritage

## N E T W O R K



Adapted from 2019 Global Status Report, Global Alliance for Building and Construction (GABC) and Architecture 2030.



Climate Heritage  
N E T W O R K

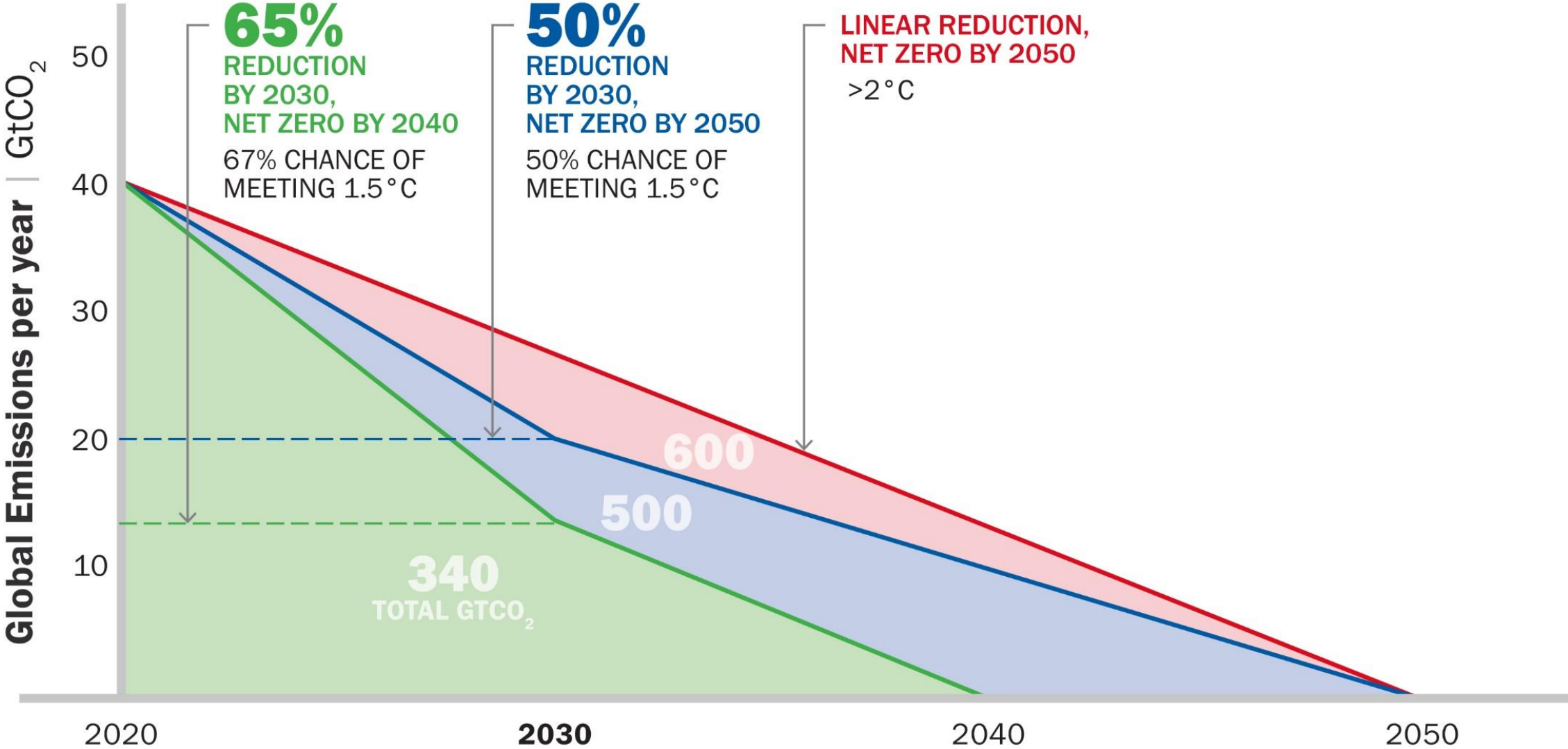
*Reusing and retrofitting an existing building can result in a 70%–85% reduction in embodied carbon emissions compared to new construction.*

— ZERO NET CARBON COLLABORATION FOR EXISTING & HISTORIC BUILDINGS, 2019



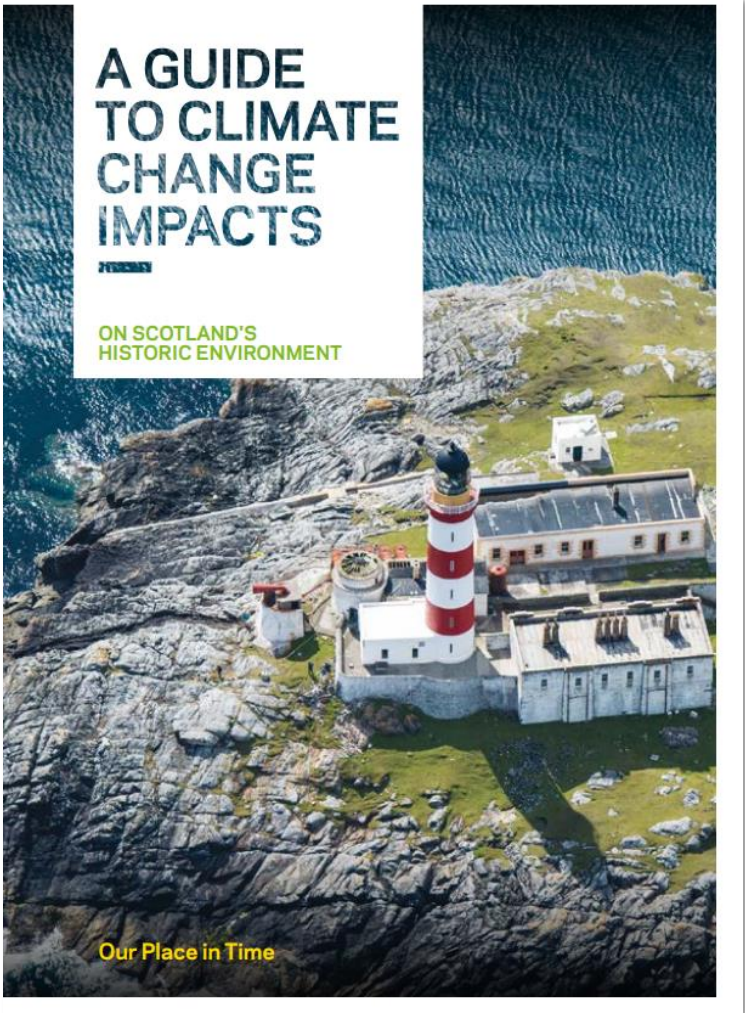
# Building Reuse is Climate Action: **Tools and Data**

# The Time Value of Carbon



© GOODY CLANCY  
DATA SOURCE: ARCHITECTURE 2030

# Loss of Cultural Heritage



**The First Official Climate Refugees in the U.S. Race Against Time**  
A Native American tribe struggles to hold on to their culture in a Louisiana bayou while their land slips into the Gulf of Mexico.



source: Isle de Jean Charles Resettlement Program

# The Reuse Imperative

We have a lot of buildings:

~ 235 billion m<sup>2</sup>

- they are not very efficient
- we can't afford to replace them all
- we can't afford to leave them alone

We build a lot of buildings:

~ 6 billion m<sup>2</sup>/yr

- more efficient to operate, but not to build
- we can't afford to keep building them all



# Definitions: Carbon

**Carbon  $\approx$  CO<sub>2</sub>e = Greenhouse Gases  $\approx$  CO<sub>2</sub>**

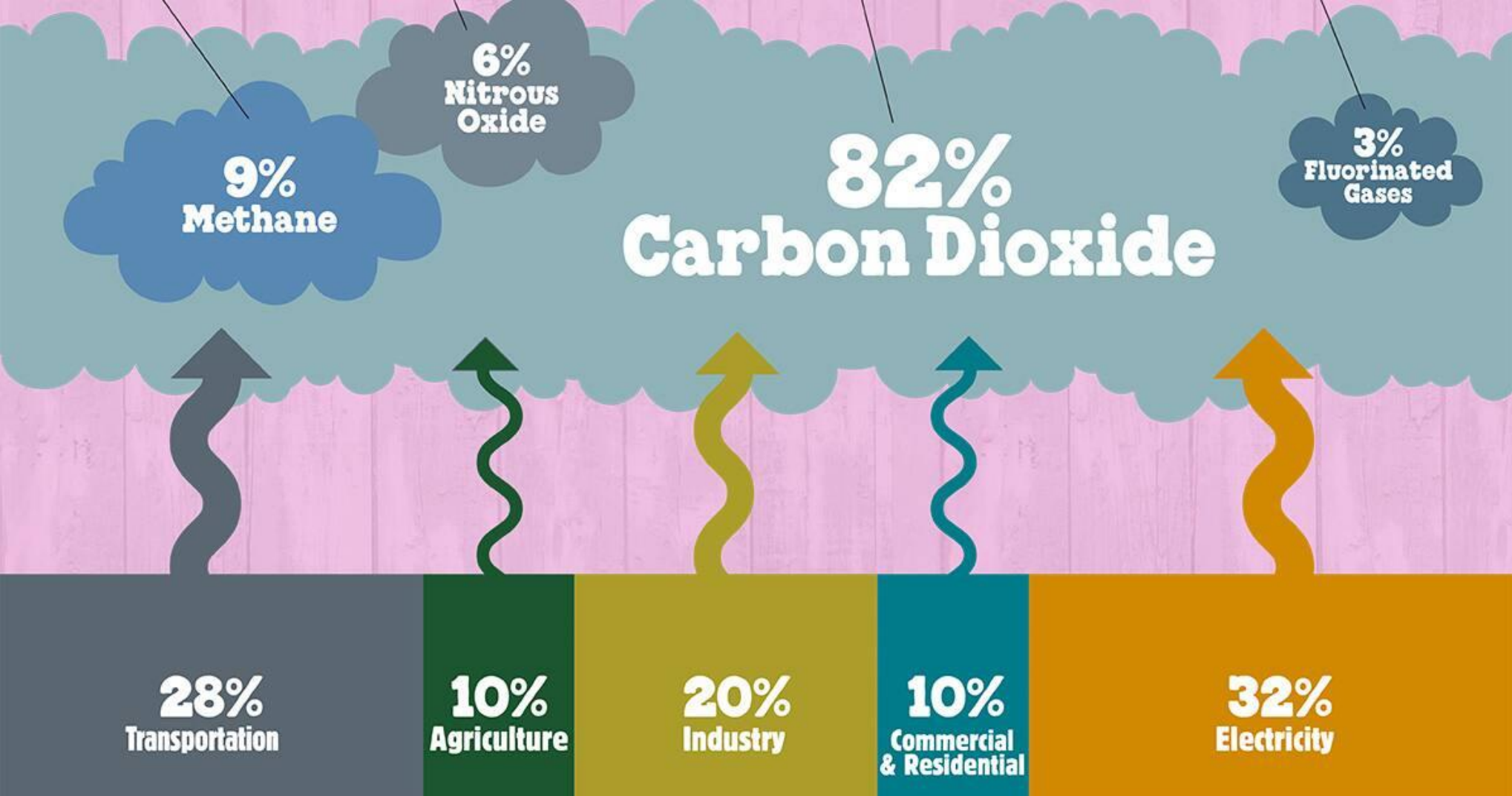


Image credit: Ben & Jerry's

# Definitions: Embodied Carbon

The **carbon footprint of a material**, greenhouse gas emissions from extraction, processing, transportation, fabrication, and assembly and end-of life of a material or product.



Image credit: Skanska

# Definitions: Operational Carbon

The greenhouse gas emissions resulting from energy used to heat, cool, light, power, and otherwise use a building.



Image credit: Skanska

# Definitions: Avoided Impacts

Environmental impacts avoided by making one choice over another (e.g. carbon emissions savings resulting from rehabilitation and upgrade of an existing building compared to demolition and construction of a new structure).





# Definitions: Life Cycle Assessment

*An analysis technique to assess environmental impacts associated with all the stages of a product's life, from raw material extraction through materials processing, manufacture, distribution, use, and end of life*



# Available Tools and Data – Life Cycle Assessment

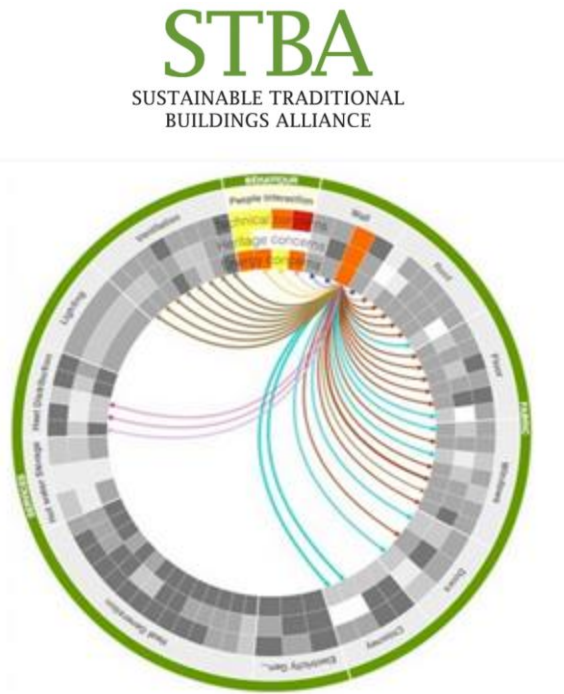


Software Tools



Data Sources

# Available Tools and Data – Tools for Heritage Structures





Carbon Avoided : Retrofit Estimator

## Compares:

- Embodied carbon
- Operational carbon
- Avoided carbon

## Existing, Reuse & New Scenarios

- Existing Baseline Building
- Reuse & Retrofit Existing
- Replace Existing w/New

Development team:

*Larry Strain, Siegel & Strain Architects, Erin McDade Architecture 2030, Lori Ferriss, Goody Clancy*

# C.A.R.E.



Carbon Avoided : Retrofit Estimator

## What it Does

Evaluates total carbon emissions of existing building reuse compared to new construction

## Who it's For

- Public officials
- Planners
- Preservation officers
- Building owners
- Real estate developers
- Building industry professionals

# C.A.R.E.

## Carbon Avoided : Retrofit Estimator

### BUILDING SITE & PROJECT USE TYPE

Click in the white cells to select from a dropdown menu or enter information about your building site and planned project use type.

State:

Zip Code:

Primary Use Type:

Existing Building Floor Area:

Operational Timeline:

key climate dates: 2030 & 2040

### ABOUT THE EXISTING BUILDING RETROFIT

Click in the white cells to select from a dropdown menu or enter information about retrofitting the existing building. Embodied emissions and operational energy values associated with each selection will automatically populate to the right.

Retrofit Building Floor Area:

EMBODIED PERFORMANCE: EFFICIENCY UPGRADES kg/m<sup>2</sup>

Mechanical & Electrical:  45

Envelope:  15

EMBODIED PERFORMANCE: CORE & SHELL RENOVATION kg/m<sup>2</sup>

Interior:  50

Cladding:  25

Structure:  50

**total embodied emissions / m<sup>2</sup>: 210**

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE kBtu/sf-yr

Baseline EUI:  85

Performance Target:  17

**total operational emissions / m<sup>2</sup>: 204**

### ABOUT THE NEW BUILDING

Click in the white cells to select from a dropdown menu or enter information about building a new building. Embodied emissions and operational energy values associated with each selection will automatically populate to the right.

New Building Floor Area:

EMBODIED PERFORMANCE kg/m<sup>2</sup>

Building Type & Structure:  500

**total embodied emissions: 525**

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE kBtu/sf-yr

Baseline EUI:  43

Performance Target:  9

**total operational emissions: 102**

### Total Added Embodied & Operational Emissions Over 15 Years

Scenario	Embodied Added	Operational Added	Total
Do Nothing to Existing Building	0	1,705	1,705
Retrofit Existing Building	351	0	351
Build New Replacement Building	878	0	878

### Cumulative Emissions Over Time

Years	Do Nothing to Existing Building	Retrofit Existing Building	Build New Replacement Building
0	0	351	878
10	1,136	578	992
20	2,273	806	1,105

	EMBODIED EMISSIONS (CO <sub>2</sub> e, cradle to gate)			OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS (CO <sub>2</sub> e, 15 years)			TOTAL EMISSIONS (CO <sub>2</sub> e, 15 years)
	Added kg/m <sup>2</sup>	Added Tons	Total Tons	EUI (kBtu/sf-yr)	Added Tons	Total Tons	
Do Nothing	0	0	0	85	1,705	1,705	1,705
Retrofit Existing	210	351	351	17	341	341	692
Build New Replacement	525	878	878	9	170	170	1,048

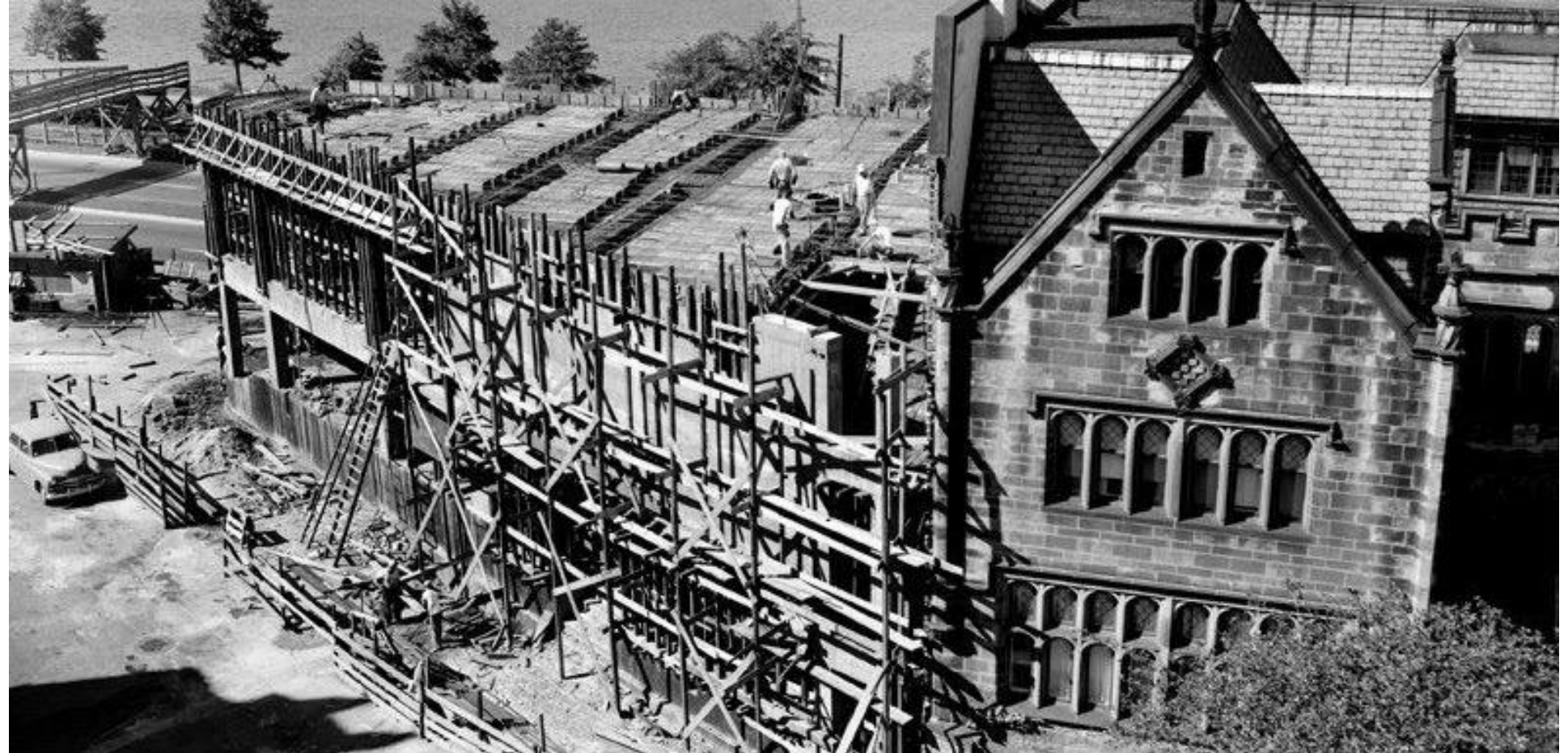
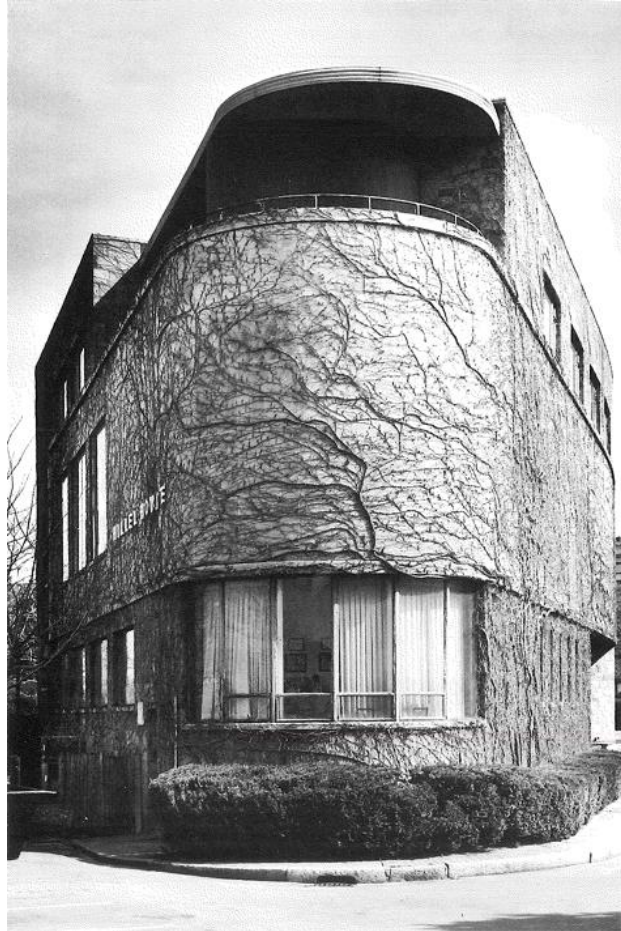
## User Interface:

- Excel dashboard with drop down menus
- A menu of renovation and upgrade options
- Four new building options
- Options for operational efficiency
- Embodied carbon modifiers



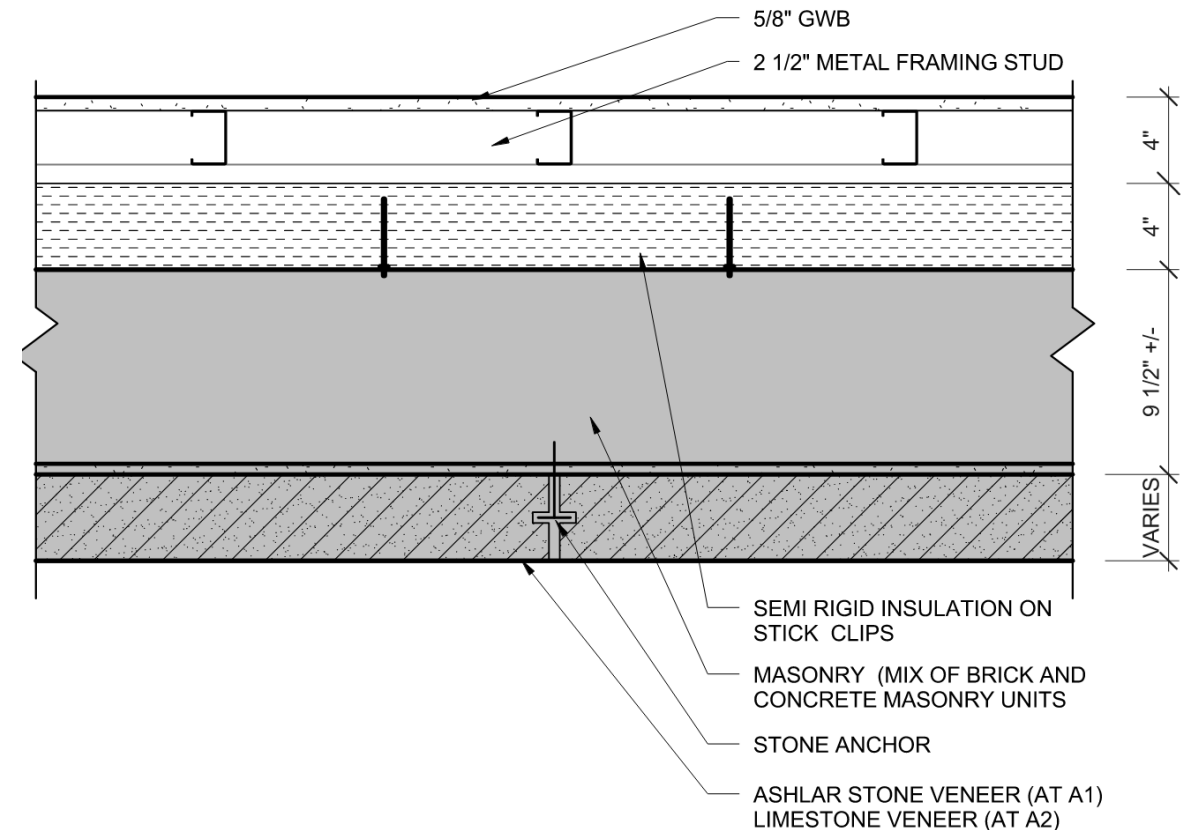
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

ALAN & SHERRY LEVENTHAL CENTER





- Scope of renovation included:
  - *New windows with high-performance glazing*
  - *Insulating interior face of exterior walls*
  - *Roof insulation*
  - *New VRF units and high-efficiency condensing boilers*
- Preserved 86% of structure and enclosure
- Reduced operational energy use by 70%



NOTE: EXISTING MASONRY GROUTED SOLID; VIF PRIOR TO UNDERTAKING REPAIRS. COORDINATE WITH PARTITION TYPE 91

WALL TYPE A1 & A2 - PARTITION TYPE 91 ON EXISTING MASONRY WALL

### BUILDING SITE & PROJECT USE TYPE

Click in the white cells to select from a dropdown menu or enter information about your building site and planned project use type.

State	Massachusetts
Zip Code	2115
Primary Use Type	Education
Existing Building Floor Area	18,000 sf
Operational Timeline	15 years

*key climate dates: 2030 & 2040*

Climate Zone Mapping

Database Use Type

Total Carbon Emissions

## Carbon Avoided : Retrofit Estimator

**ABOUT THE EXISTING BUILDING RETROFIT**  
Click in the white cells to select from a dropdown menu or enter information about retrofitting the existing building. Embodied emissions and operational energy values associated with each selection will automatically populate to the right.

**Retrofit Building Floor Area** 18,000 sf

---

**EMBODIED PERFORMANCE: EFFICIENCY UPGRADES** kg/m<sup>2</sup>

Mechanical & Electrical	All New	45
Envelope	Major Upgrade w/ Curtain Wall	15

---

**EMBODIED PERFORMANCE: CORE & SHELL RENOVATION** kg/m<sup>2</sup>

Interior	All New: 0% Retained	50
Cladding	Major: 50% retained	40
Structure	Minor: Heavy Structure, concrete / steel	50

*total embodied emissions / m<sup>2</sup>* **225**

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**OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE** kBtu/sf-yr

Baseline EUI	Defaults to CBECS 2003, or enter own EUI	85
Performance Target	80% Better than Baseline	17

*total operational emissions / m<sup>2</sup>* **204**

**Size of Renovated Building for Total Emissions**

**Embodied Carbon of Renovation**

**Drop down menu**

- No Upgrade
- Minor: Finishes Only
- Minor: 75% Retained
- Major: 50% Retained
- All New: 0% Retained**

**Operational Energy of Renovation to Convert to Operational Emissions**

## Carbon Avoided : Retrofit Estimator

### ABOUT THE NEW BUILDING

Click in the white cells to select from a dropdown menu or enter information about building a new building. Embodied emissions and operational energy values associated with each selection will automatically populate to the right.

<b>New Building Floor Area</b>	23,450 sf
<b>EMBODIED PERFORMANCE</b> <span style="float: right;">kg/m<sup>2</sup></span>	
<b>Building Type &amp; Structure</b> <small>i</small>	500
<b>total embodied emissions</b> <small>i</small> <span style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">550</span>	
<b>OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE</b> <span style="float: right;">kBtu/sf-yr</span>	
<b>Baseline EUI</b> <small>i</small> <i>Defaults to Code Average, or enter own EUI</i>	18
<b>Performance Target</b> <small>i</small>	0
<b>total operational emissions</b> <span style="float: right;">kg/m<sup>2</sup></span> <span style="background-color: #333; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">0</span>	

**Size of New Building for Total Emissions**

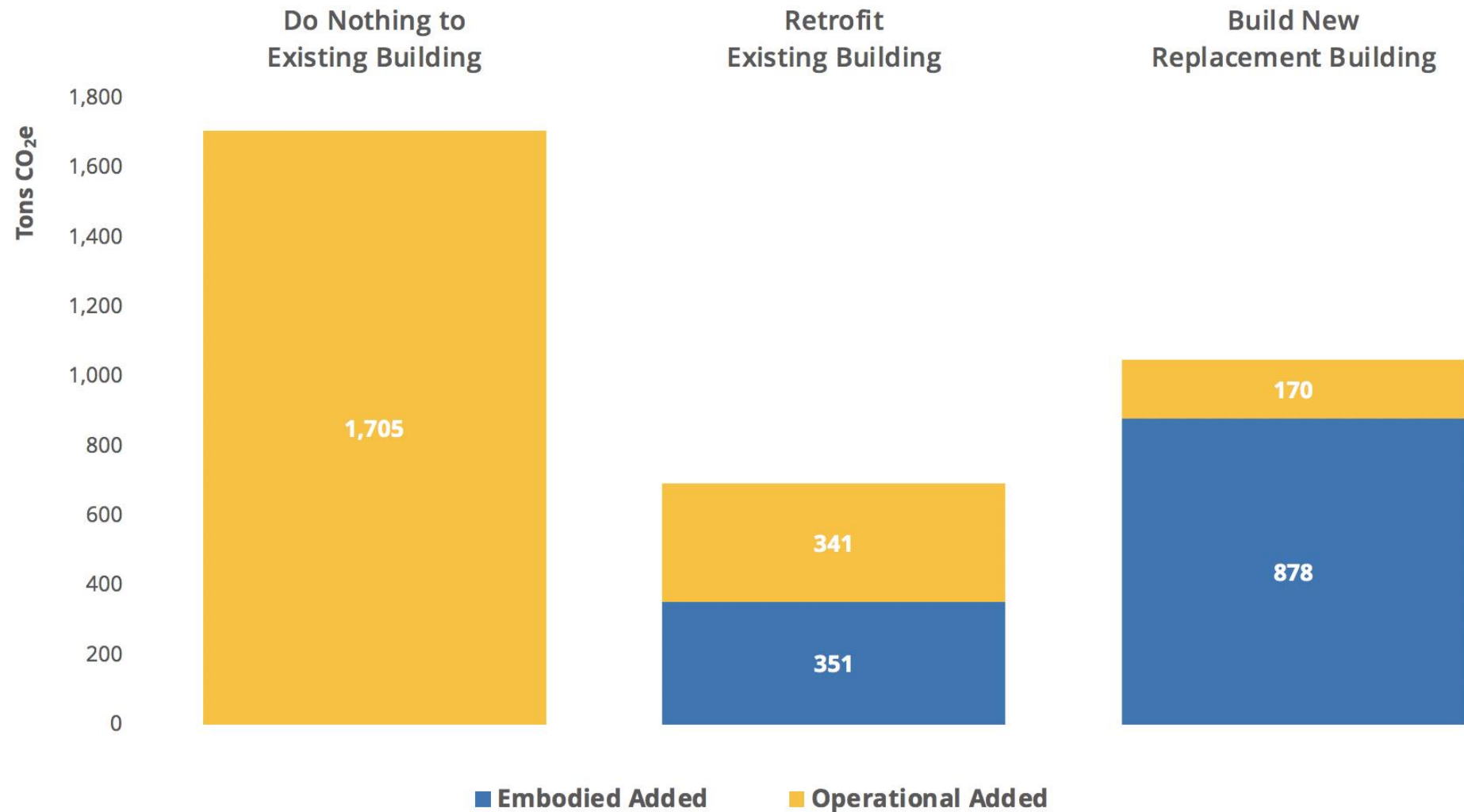
**Embodied Carbon of New Building**

Light  
Mixed  
**Mid Rise**  
High Carbon

**Drop down menu**

**Operational Energy of New Building to Convert to Operational Emissions**

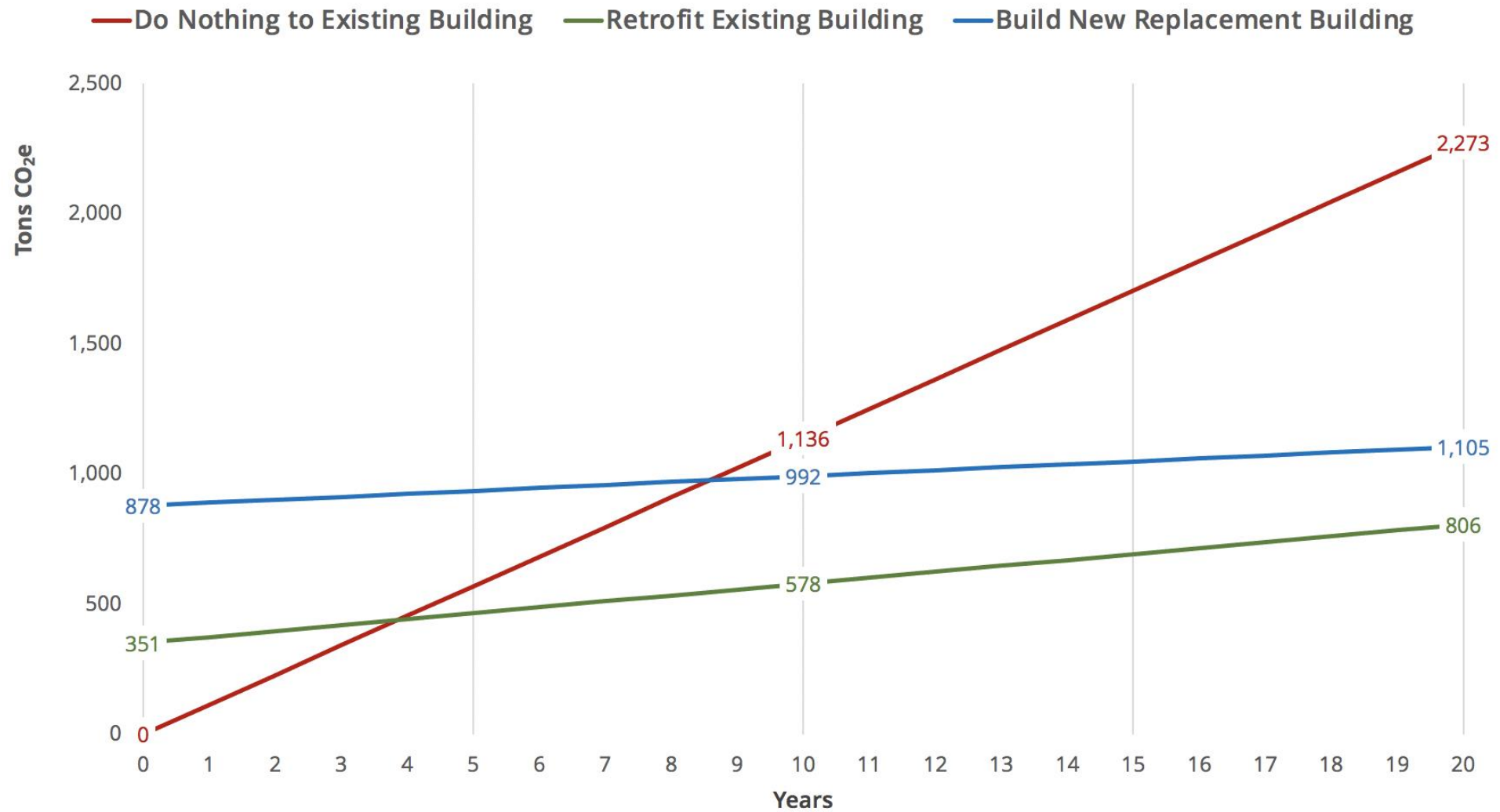
## Total Added Embodied & Operational Emissions Over 15 Years





## Carbon Avoided : Retrofit Estimator

### Cumulative Emissions Over Time



# Next Steps

- Web application development
- Expansion to additional geographic regions
  - Energy use data
  - Typical retrofit actions
  - Building typologies
- Ongoing data collection

Visit [znccollaboration.org](https://znccollaboration.org) to sign up for updates!

# Building Reuse is Climate Action: **Case Studies**





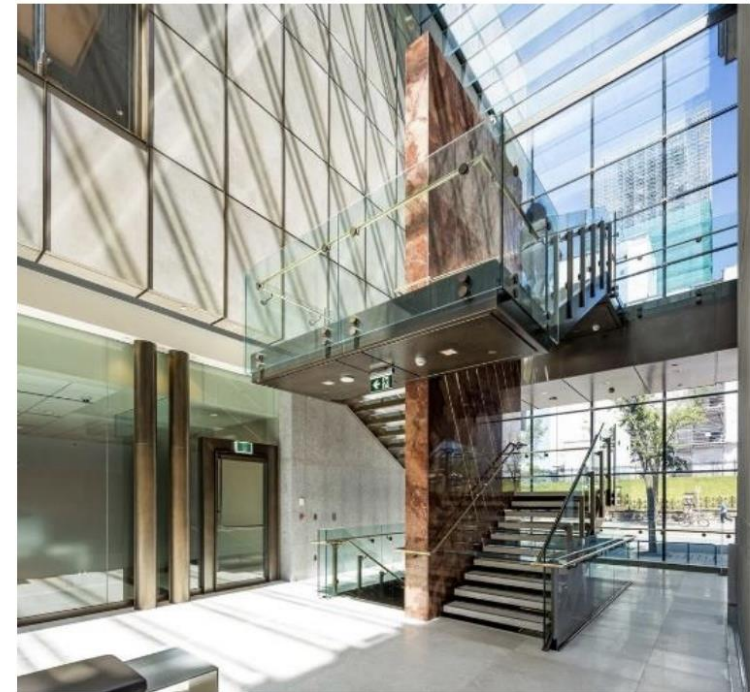
# Case Study: Sir John A. MacDonald Building

*Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*



## Inherently Sustainable Features:

- Thermal mass from triple wythe masonry walls
- Durable, robust, reusable materials
- Daylighting and passive resilience
- Embodied energy of building elements
- Prime downtown location, close to public transit





# Case Study: Sir John A. MacDonald Building

*Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*



## Key Strategies for Sustainable Rehabilitation:

- Reducing landfill via extremely high percentage of retained materials
- Augmenting building envelope effectiveness
- Rehabilitating large bronze and steel windows
- Retaining durable, natural exterior and interior materials
- Customizing a hybrid energy efficient mechanical and electrical systems specifically for this building/use
- Installing automated building control systems
- Installing water conserving fixtures
- Installing radiant floor system
- Using high albedo roofing material
- Leveraging inherently sustainable existing features



# Case Study: Sir John A. MacDonald Building

*Ottawa, Ontario, Canada*



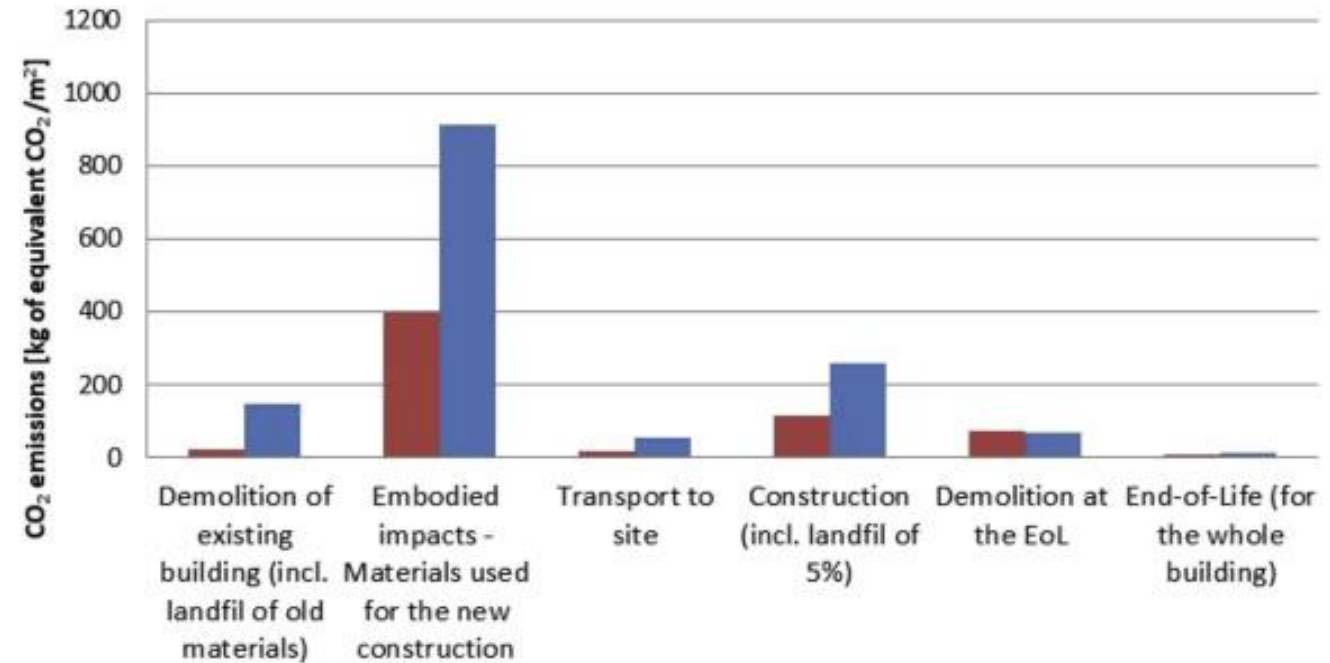
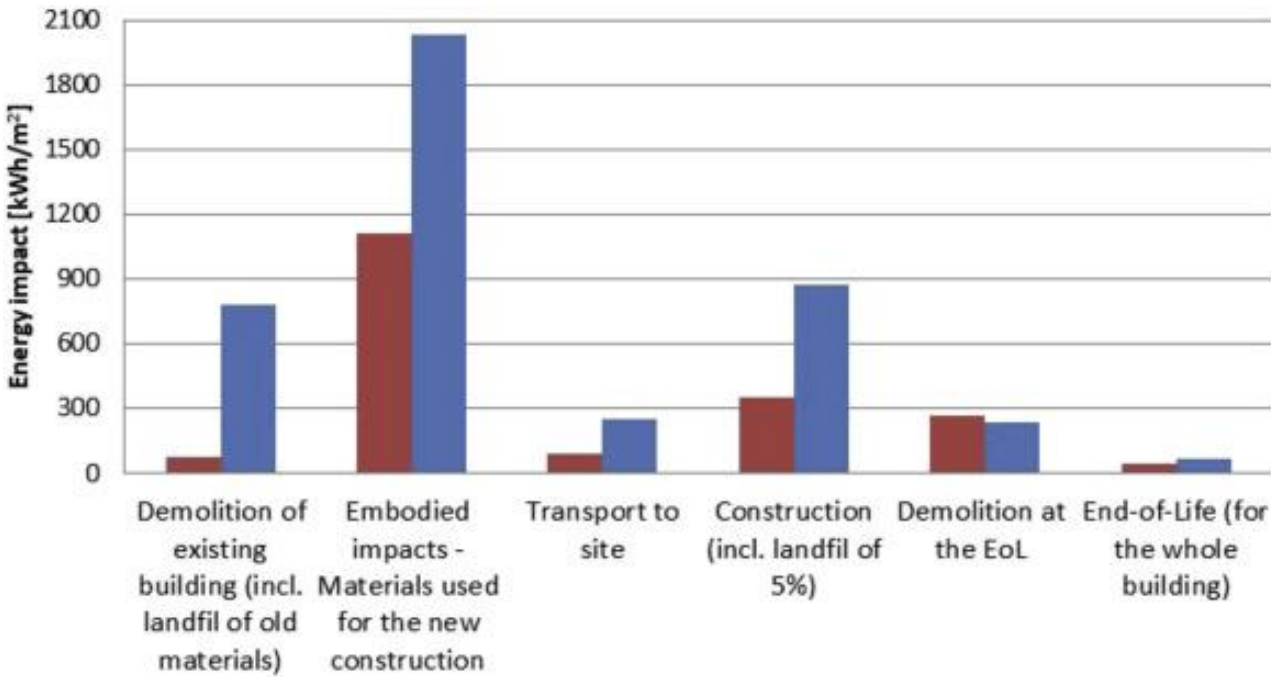
# Case Study: 1934 Office Building

*Brussels, Belgium*



# Case Study: 1934 Office Building

*Brussels, Belgium*





# Case Study: Maydestone Apartments

*Sacramento, California, USA*





# Case Study: Maydestone Apartments

Sacramento, California, USA

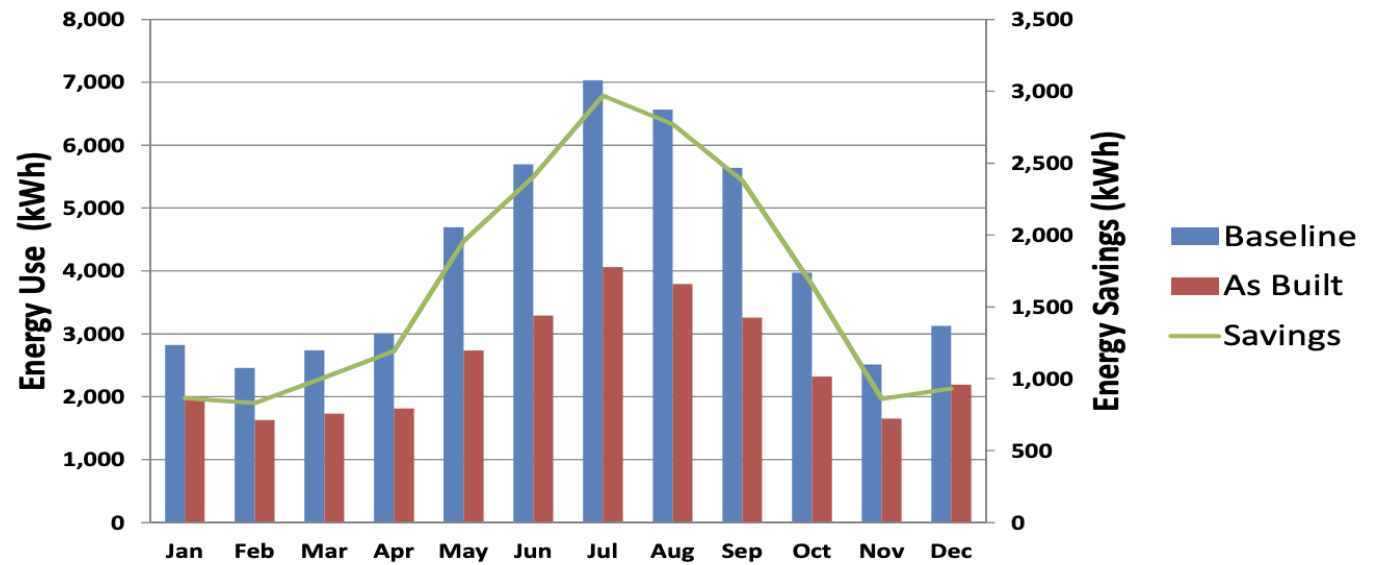
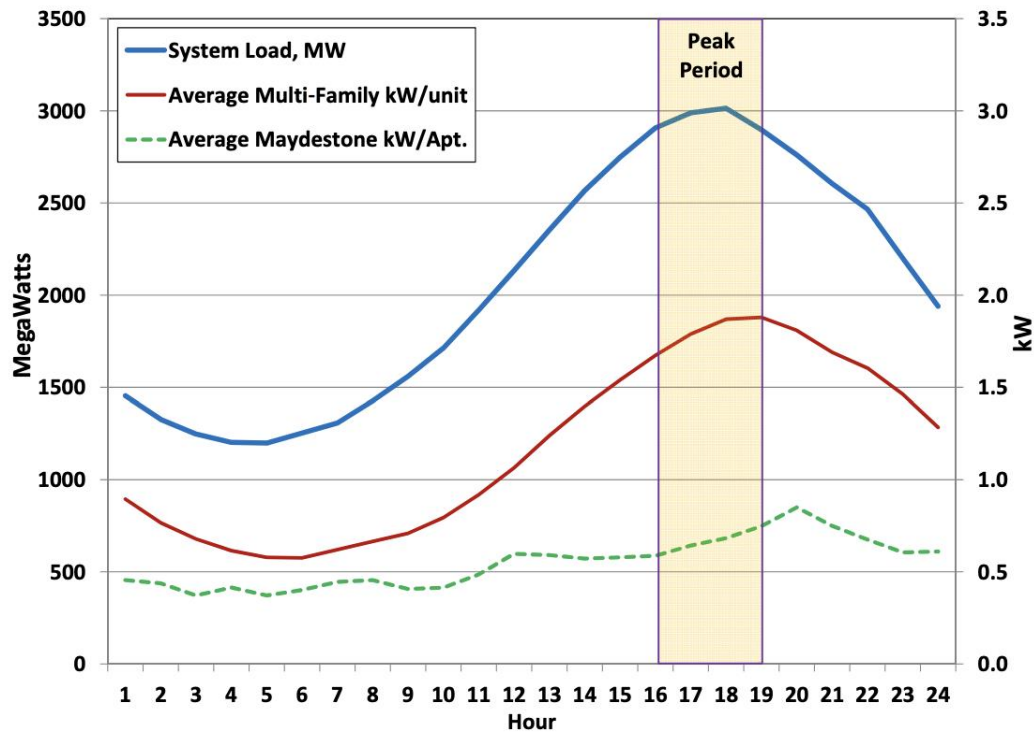


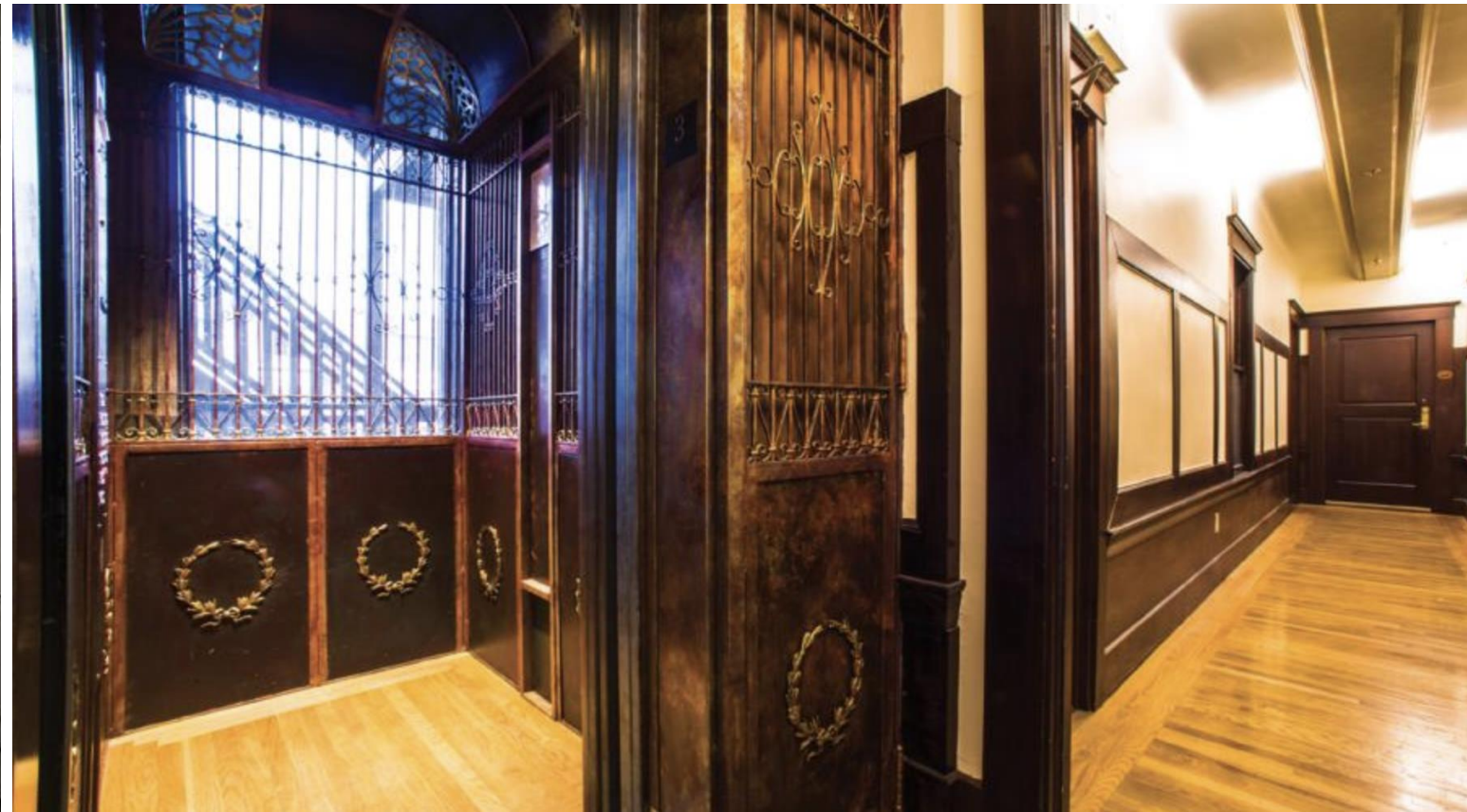
Figure 4-7 Comparison of Pre and Post Estimated Energy Use for High Efficiency Heat Pumps

Figure 3-2 Peak Day Demand Profile Comparisons of System, Multi-Family, and Maydestone



# Case Study: Maydestone Apartments

*Sacramento, California, USA*





# Case Study: The Segsa House

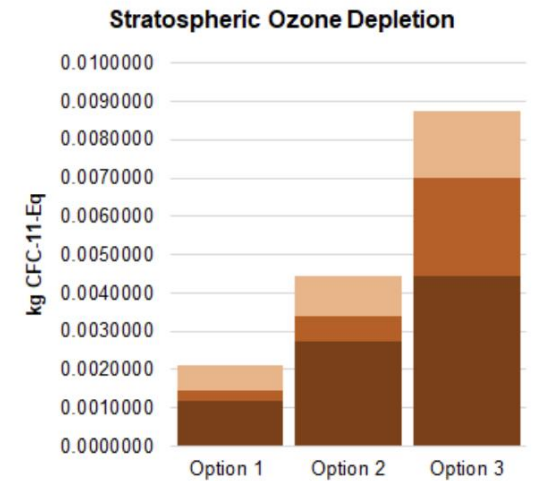
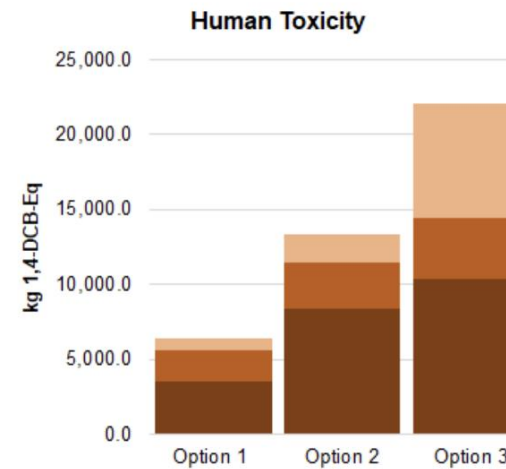
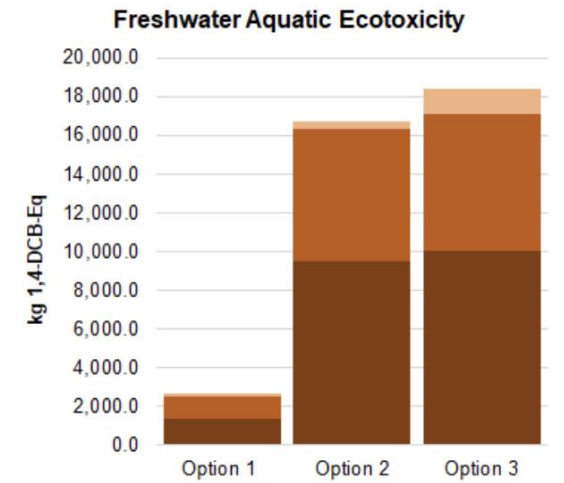
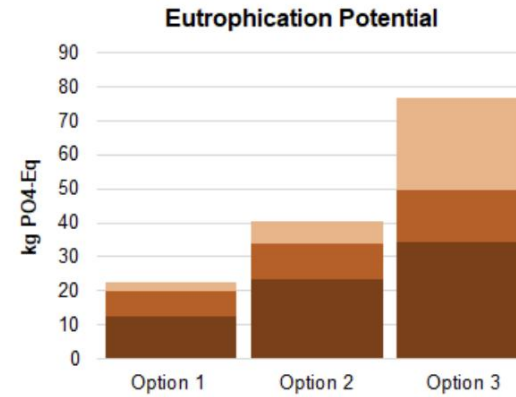
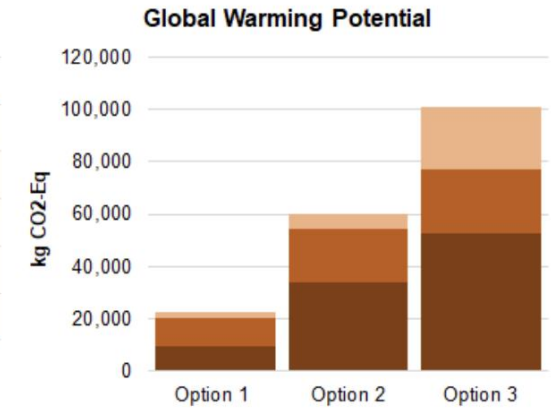
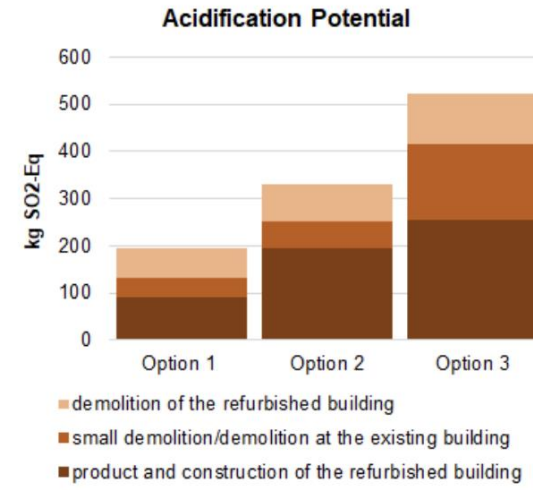
*Valencia, Spain*





# Case Study: The Segsa House

Valencia, Spain





# Case Study: The Segsa House

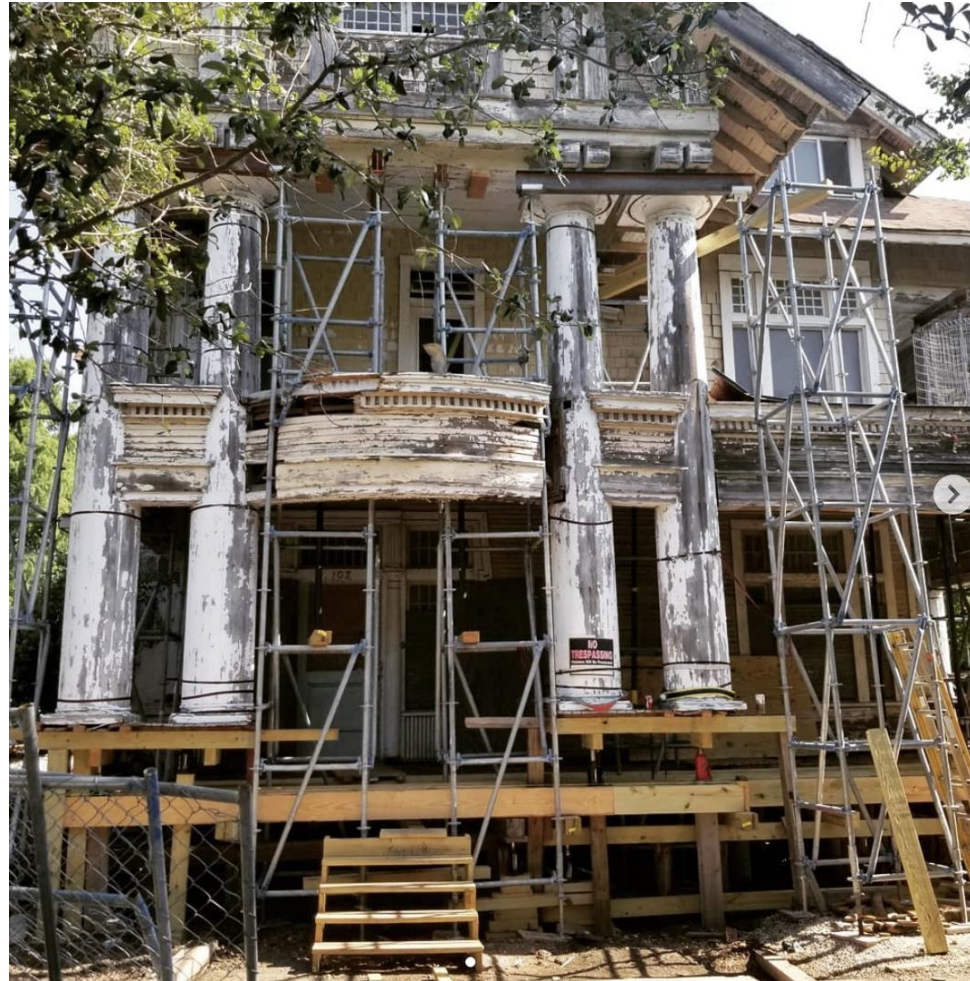
*Valencia, Spain*





# Case Study: Kelso House Climate Heritage Learning Lab (*in progress*)

*San Antonio, Texas, USA*



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION



LAKE | FLATO  
ARCHITECTS





# Case Study: Kelso House Climate Heritage Learning Lab (*in progress*)

*San Antonio, Texas, USA*





# Case Study: Kelso House Climate Heritage Learning Lab (*in progress*)

*San Antonio, Texas, USA*



# Building Reuse is Climate Action: **Developing Policy Context**

# Policy – Actors and Actions

## GOVERNMENT

- Multilateral Commitments
- National Governments
- Provinces / U.S. States
- Cities / Counties
- Agencies

## INSTITUTIONS

- Corporations
- Religious Entities
- Universities
- Museums / Sites

- Grants / Tax Credits / Rebates
- Tools / Technical Assistance
- Education / Training
- Leading by Example

## INVESTMENT & INCENTIVES

- Building Codes
- Restrictions on Products
- Taxes on Property
- Pollution Taxes or Limits
- Carbon Offsets
- Divestment

## REGULATION & COSTS



# Policy – Examples of Good Practice

## WHAT?

- ✓ The Heritage Energy Counter: specialized energy consultants for immovable heritage
- ✓ Government sponsor: Flanders (Belgium)
- ✓ ErfgoedEnergieoket

## GOAL?

- ✓ Training and supporting restoration architects in the energy optimizations of heritage buildings

## WHY GOOD PRACTICE?

- ✓ Holistic approach: heritage values, energetic efficiency and building physics mutually influence each other
- ✓ Education



# Policy – Examples of Good Practice

## WHAT?

- ✓ Heritage Energy Efficiency Tool (HEET)
- ✓ Government Lead: Oxford City Council
- ✓ Heritage Energy Efficiency Tool (HEET) | Oxford City Council



## GOAL?

- ✓ Helping to assess energy efficiency improvements for historic buildings
- ✓ Target audience: owners of buildings in the city of Oxford

## WHY GOOD PRACTICE?

- ✓ The tool acknowledges that historic buildings need to be incorporated in the goal to reduce carbon emissions by 2050, across all sectors by 80%
- ✓ “Historic buildings play their part in a national built environment with less carbon emissions.”



# Policy – Examples of Good Practice

## WHAT?

- ✓ “Mosquées et bâtiments verts”
- ✓ Political partner: The Moroccan Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable development
- ✓ [1909-Factsheet-Mosquées-Bâtiments-Verts-FR.pdf \(giz.de\)](#)

## GOAL?

- ✓ Reducing the energy bill of mosques
- ✓ Promoting renewable energies, increasing energy efficiency, creating jobs

## WHY GOOD PRACTICE?

- ✓ Assoun mosque in Rabat: interventions lowered the energy bill by 60%
- ✓ Exemplary in the way it deals with sacred heritage and energy efficiency
- ✓ Social and economic factors are incorporated: creating jobs + education + sensibilisation



# CONCLUSIONS

**\* Heritage conservation professionals have the skills to design interventions into existing buildings while retaining value; hence they would make good leaders to help scale up deep green retrofit, rehab and reuse of the massive inventory of existing buildings**

**\*\*L.C.A. tools, C.A.R.E. and Versus methodology allow holistic building fleet management for higher impact investments with fewer unintended negative consequences**

**\*\*Heritage buildings can be laboratories for innovation at a time when society needs to scale-up building performance retrofits**

**\*\*Heritage buildings and actors can also help educate the public and increase understanding and support for building reuse as climate action**

# THANK YOU!

## Working Group 3 Members:

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Aase Hofeldt-Eskevik

Daniel Herrera

Jean Carroon

Mohammad Safi Ul Alam

Adala Leeson

Dima Cook

Joe Jack Williams

Morwenna Slade

Alice Tofts

Douglas Phillips

Jordi Mallarach

Natalie Feinberg Lopez

Allison Arlotta

Elodie Héberlé

Julianne Polanco

Nathan Lott

Andrea Carmen

Emily Guy

Kara Kempfski

Nigel Griffiths

Andrés Litvak

Euan Leitch

Kate Sector

Paula Seidel

Andrew Potts

Ewan Hyslop

Katherine Carter

Peter Cox

Aneta Nerguti

Ewelina Pekala

Keolu Fox

Piet Geleyns

Anna Donarelli

Fernando Vegas Lopez-Manzanares

Lori Ferriss

Sara Crofts

Carl Elefante

Franziska Haas

Margaret Woodruff

Shanon Miller

Caroline Engel Purcell

Geoff Rich

Mark Thompson Brandt

Stéphane L. Pressault

Catherine Ross

Hannah Fluck

Mark Huck

Stephanie Phillips

Chris Warden

Heather Holdridge

Marte Boro

Susan Ross

Chris Weibe

Ibrahim Tchan

Mauro García Santa Cruz

Tessa De Marie

Christophe Rivet

Inge Appermont

Melissa Morancy

Michael Netter



# WG3 “WORKING” SLIDES

Full print size is U.S. legal, landscape orientation

# Website/Library/Resources/Outreach

Resource/Article	Description	Link	Category	Media	Proposed by
Building Resilience Guidelines	Six examples of Project Case Studies	<a href="#">Building Resilience</a>			Susan Ross
HES Inform Guides		<a href="#">Inform Guides</a>			Katherine Carter
HES Sort Guides		<a href="#">Short Guides</a>			Katherine Carter
HES Technical Papers		<a href="#">Technical Papers</a>			Katherine Carter
HES Refurbishment Case Studies		<a href="#">Refurbishment Case Studies</a>			Katherine Carter
HES Planning Guidelines	Planning Guidelines	<a href="#">Historic Environment Policy Statement</a>			Katherine Carter
HES Planning Guidelines	Planning Guidelines	<a href="#">Managing Change in the Historic Environment: Use and Adaptation of Listed Buildings</a>			Katherine Carter
<b>Elliot Jones:</b> article	<i>"5 Ways to Reduce Embodied Carbon on Your Next Building Project"</i>				
<b>Larry Strain, FAIA:</b> article	<i><a href="#">"10 Steps to reducing embodied carbon"</a></i>				