

A METHODOLOGY FOR
CALCULATING THE
CARBON FOOTPRINT
OF A BUILDING

KAITLYN KANE

THESIS PRESENTATION

PROFESSOR MAHALINGAM

SPRING 2023



WHAT DROVE MY THESIS TOPIC?

- HOW CAN I PERSONALLY MAKE AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT THROUGH MY DESIGNS?
- ENVIRONMENTALISM
 - UNTOUCHED EXISTING ENVIRONMENT
 - FUTURE FOR OUR WORLD
- CLIMATE CHANGE
 - CO2 EMISSIONS
 - MAKING CHANGES
 - WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

HIKING AT GLACIER
NATIONAL PARK
AUGUST 2021

WHAT IS MY GOAL?

MY GOAL IS TO FIND A
WAY THAT COULD
DIRECTLY IMPACT MY
RESPONSIBILITY FOR
CLIMATE CHANGE.



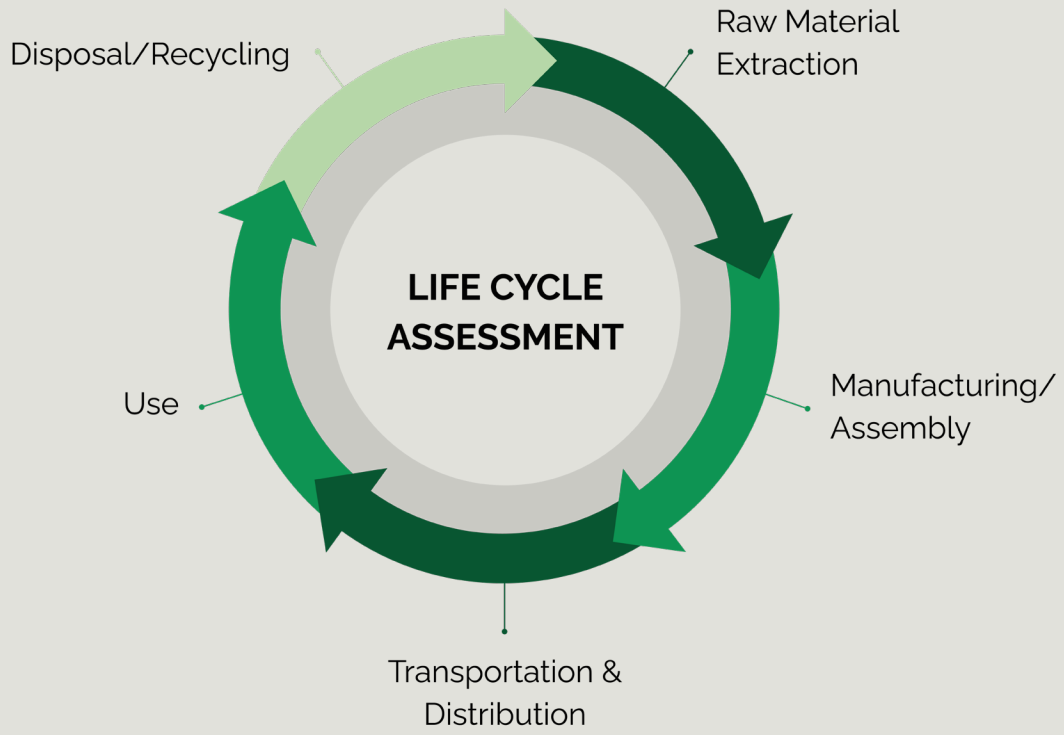
ABOUT CARBON EMISSIONS

WHAT IS EMBODIED CARBON?

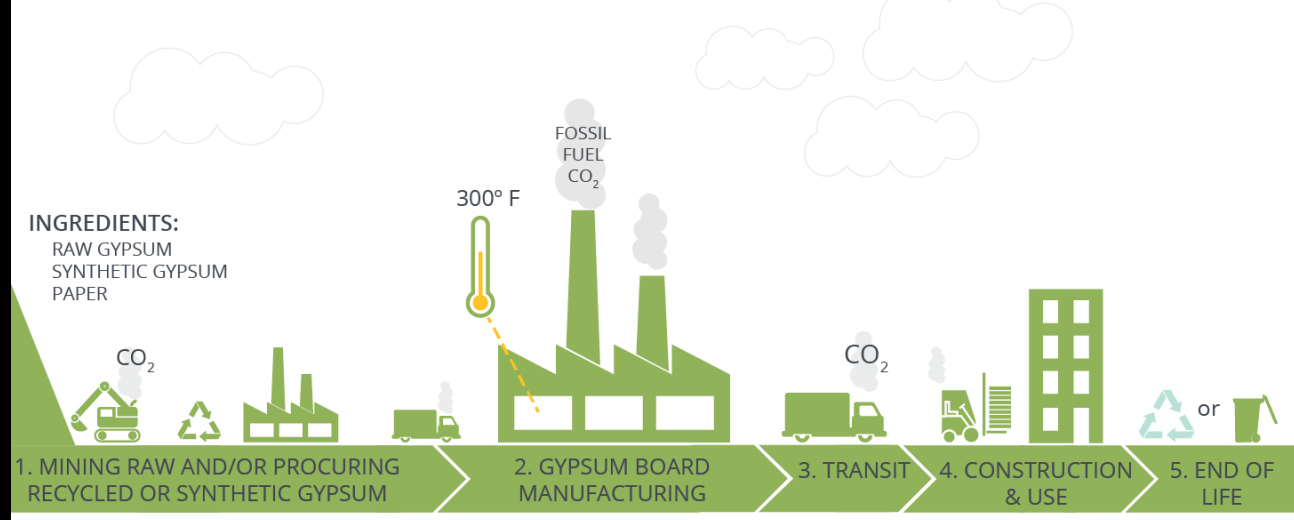
- EMBODIED CARBON REPRESENTS THE CARBON EMISSIONS THAT GO WITH MAKING BUILDING PRODUCTS AND CONSTRUCTION
- RAW MATERIAL EXTRACTION TO MANUFACTURING, TRANSPORTATION, AND END OF LIFE DISPOSAL OR RECYCLING.
- EMBODIED CARBON PLAYS A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF IMPACT OF THE ANNUAL GLOBAL CARBON EMISSIONS.
- MATERIAL SELECTION AND SPECIFICATION THROUGH DESIGN ALLOWS MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CARBON REDUCTION.

EMBODIED CARBON GLOBAL IMPACT

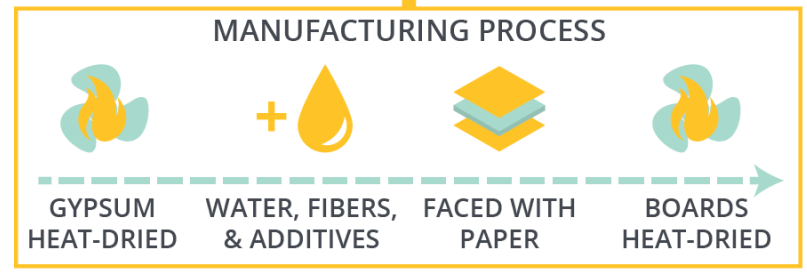
- "ANNUALLY, EMBODIED CARBON IS RESPONSIBLE FOR 11% OF GLOBAL GHG EMISSIONS AND 28% OF GLOBAL BUILDING SECTOR EMISSIONS."
- "IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT EMBODIED CARBON WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR 72% OF THE CARBON EMISSIONS ASSOCIATED WITH GLOBAL NEW CONSTRUCTION BETWEEN NOW AND 2030."



CARBON IMPACTS OF GYPSUM BOARD



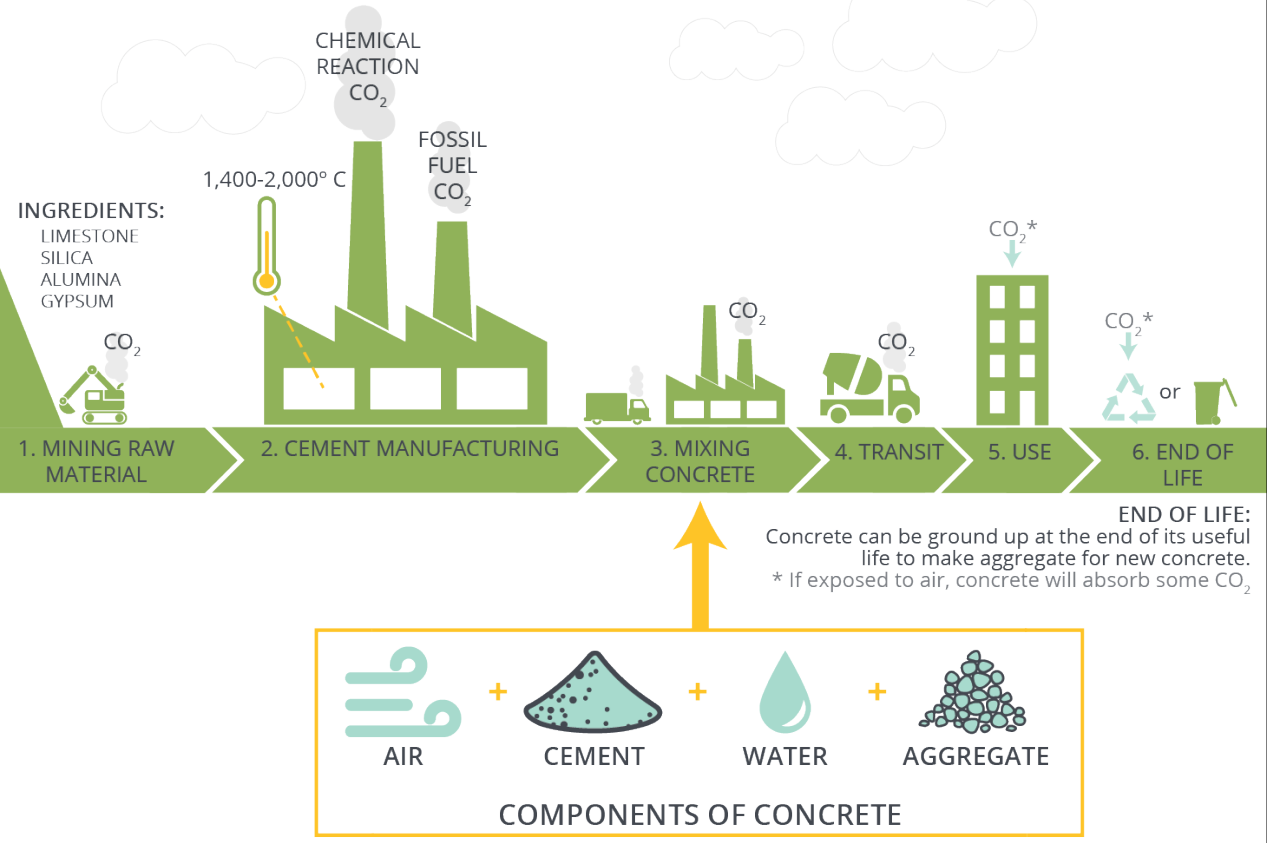
END OF LIFE:
Gypsum board can be recycled at its end of life to be used in new gypsum board products



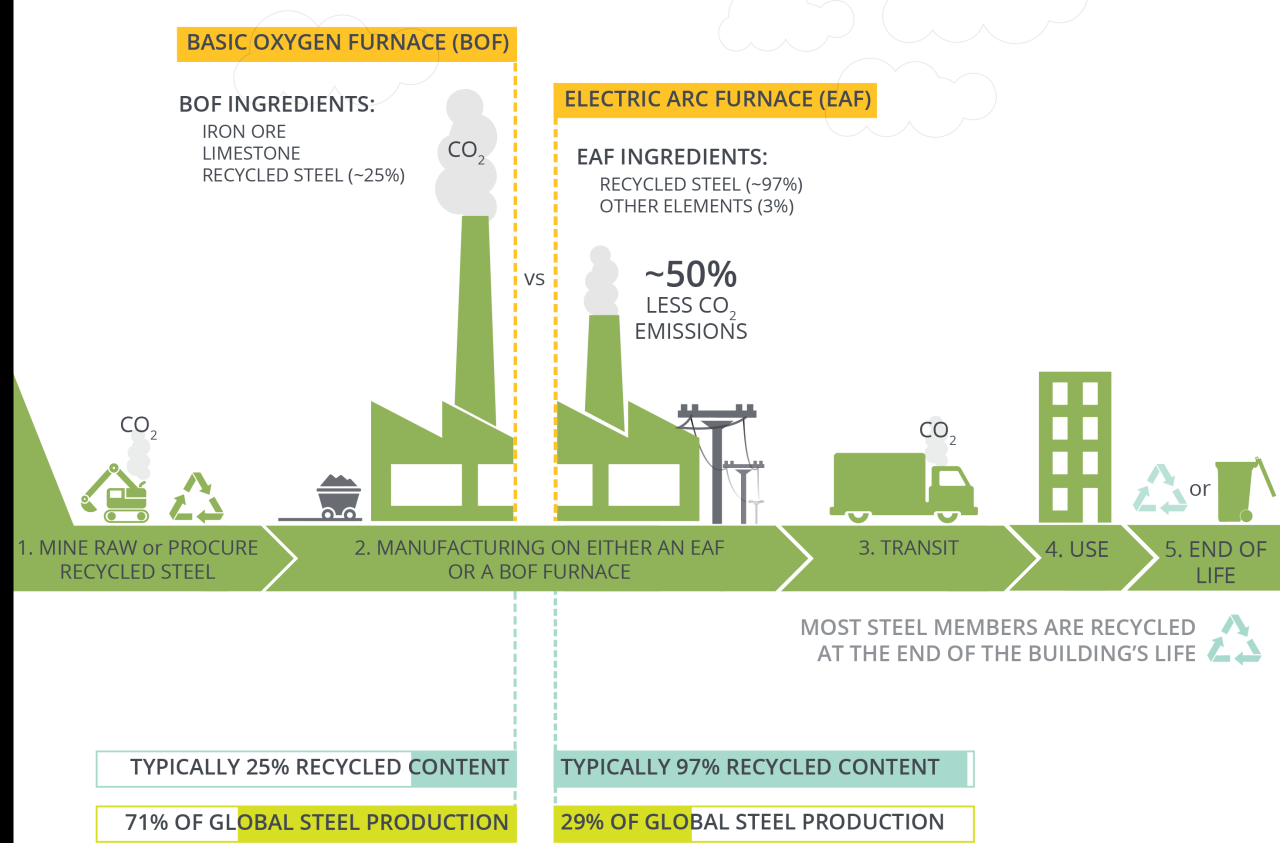
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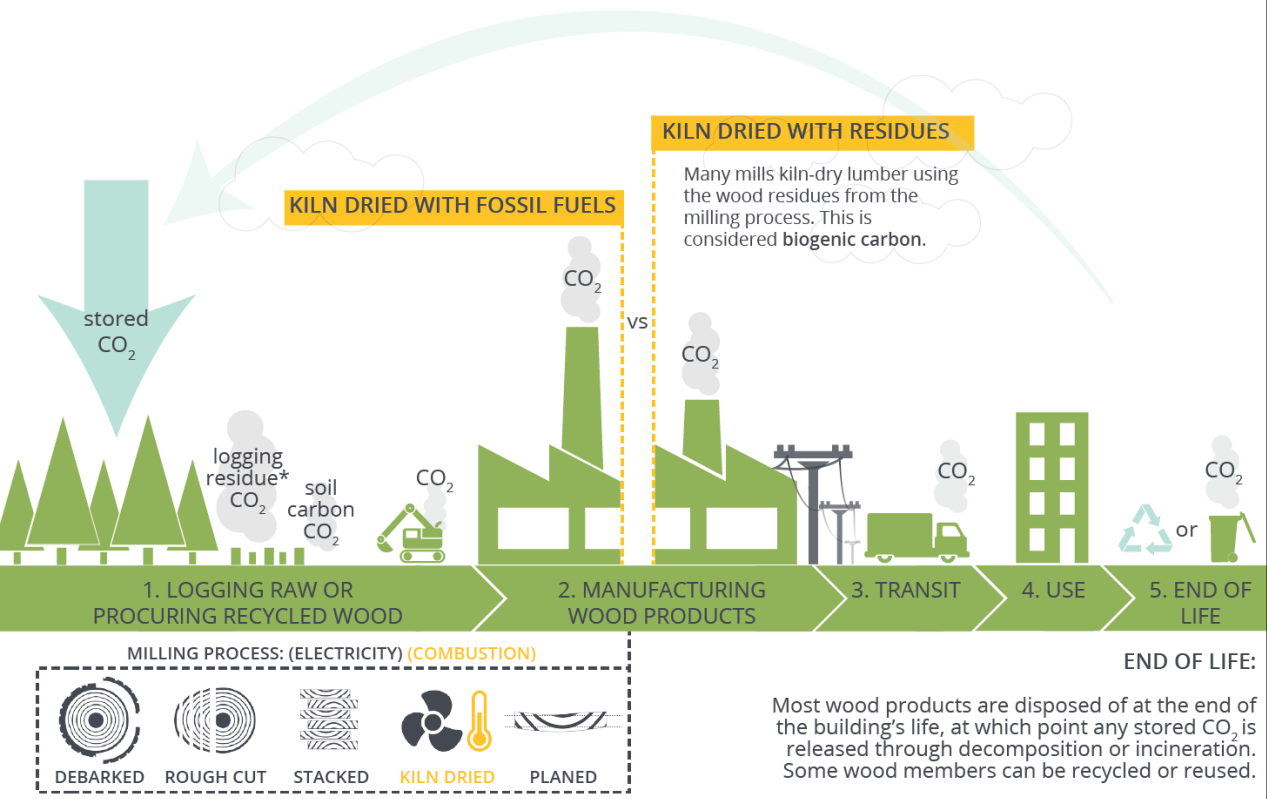
CARBON IMPACTS OF CONCRETE



CARBON IMPACTS OF STEEL



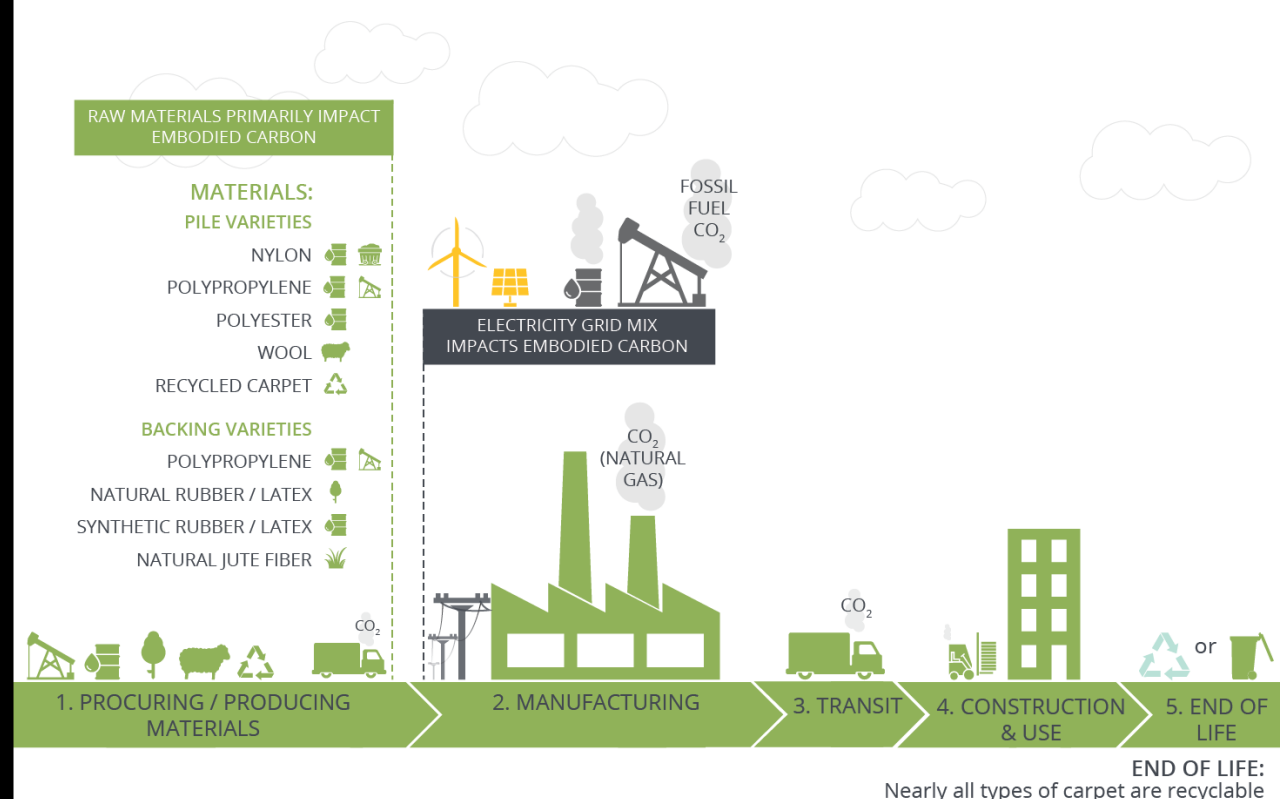
CARBON IMPACTS OF WOOD PRODUCTS



* logging residue = branches, stumps that get left behind, releasing CO₂ or CH₄
 * mill residue = Wood and bark residues produced in processing logs into lumber and plywood, releasing CO₂ or CH₄



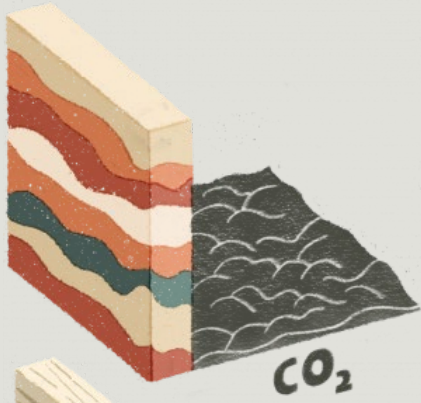
CARBON IMPACTS OF CARPET



AVERAGE EMBODIED CARBON PER CUBIC METER

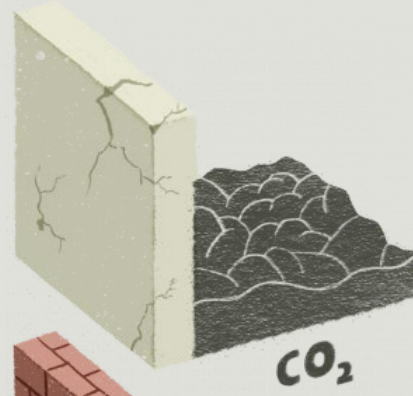
RAMMED EARTH

48 KG



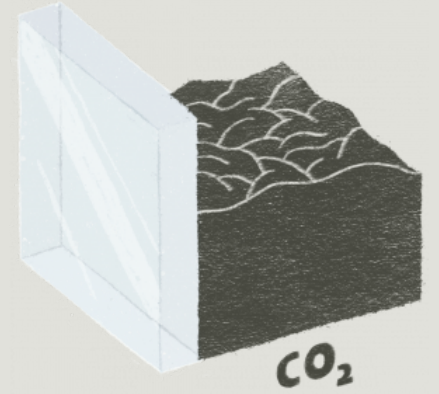
STONE

237 KG



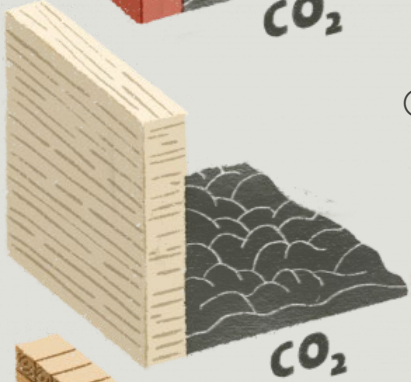
GLASS

3,600 KG



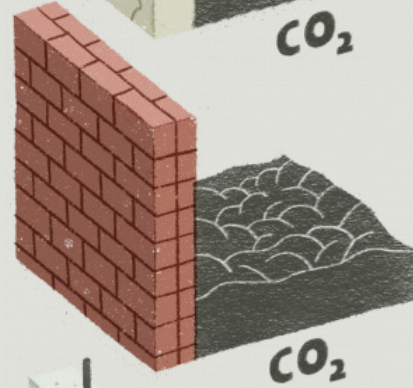
SOFTWOOD TIMBER

110 KG



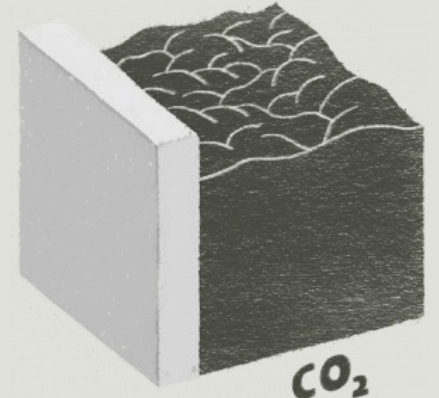
CLAY BRICK WALL

345 KG



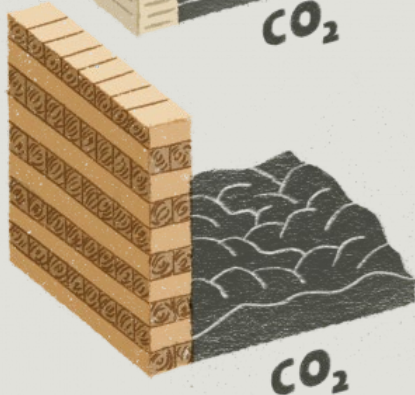
STEEL SECTION

12,090 KG



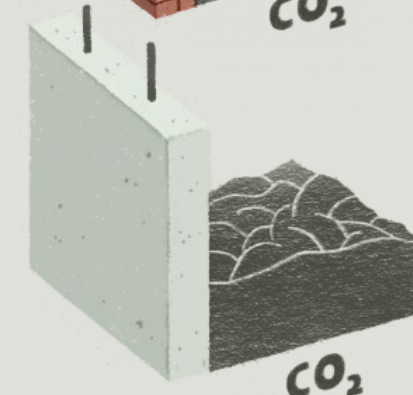
CROSS LAMINATED
TIMBER

219 KG



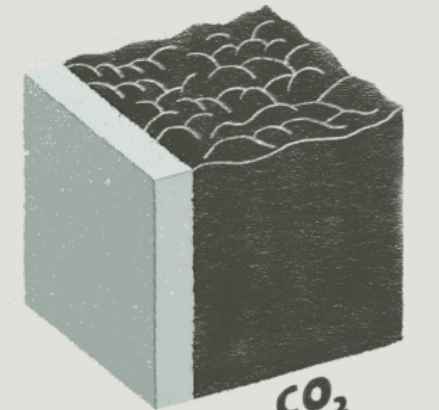
REINFORCED
CONCRETE

635 KG



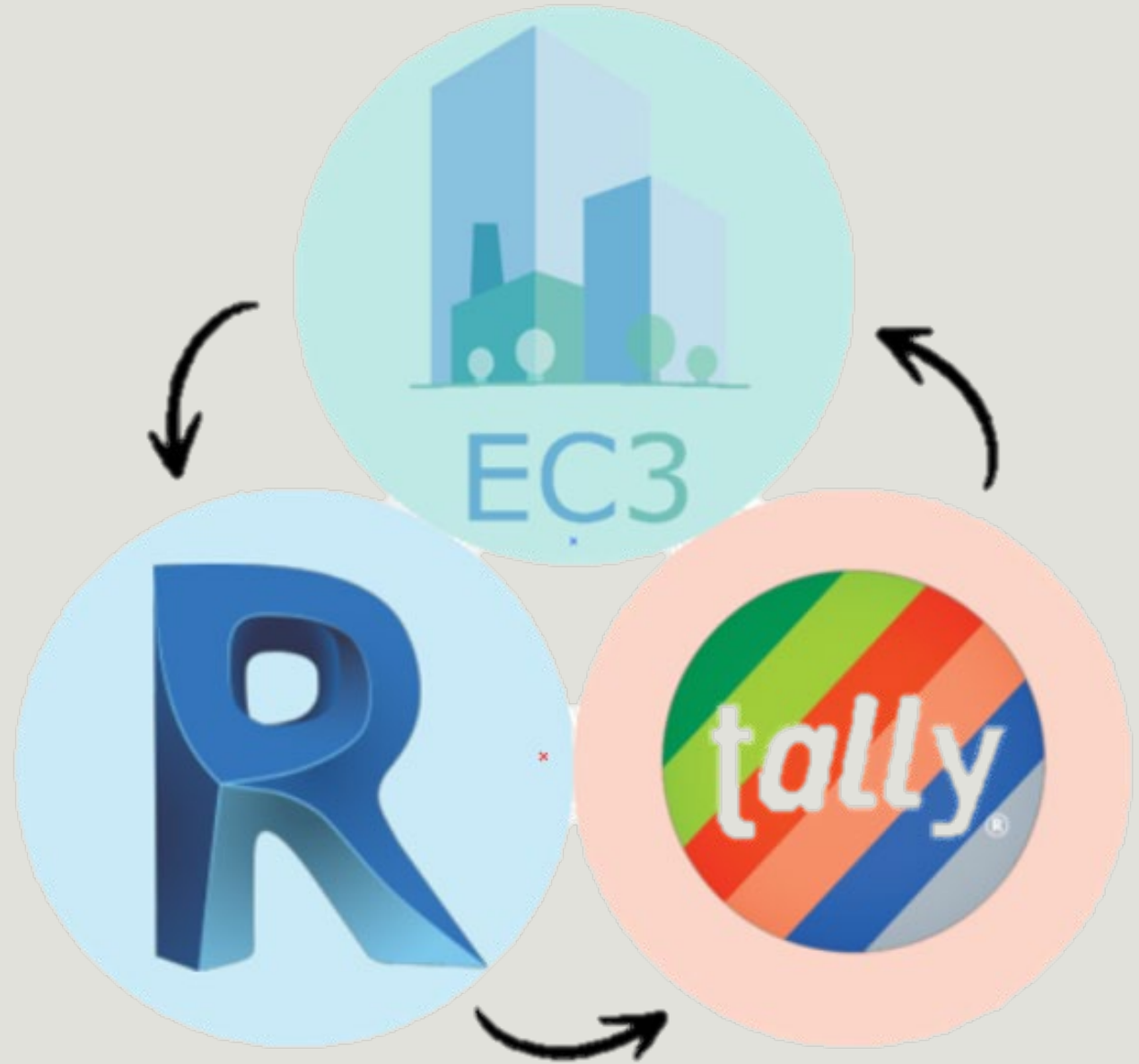
ALUMINUM

18,009 KG



INITIAL PROCESS

- REVIT
- TALLY
EXTENSION
- EC3



1

TALLY EXTENSION

DOWNLOAD
TALLY
EXTENSION
FOR REVIT

2

REVIT MODEL

OPEN EXISTING
OR CREATE A
NEW MODEL
THAT WILL BE
ANALYZED

3

TALLY MATERIAL IDENTITY

IDENTIFY ALL
MATERIALS USED
WITHIN THE
REVIT MODEL
FOR TALLY TO
EXPORT

4

EXPORT TO EC3

EXPORT
MATERIAL
IDENTITIES TO
BUILDING
TRANSPARENCY'S
EC3 TOOL

5

EC3 ANALYSIS

ANALYZE
IMPORTED
DATA TO
REVIEW AND
LEARN FROM

METHODOLOGY

IN MY THESIS PROCESS, I CHOSE TO CREATE MY OWN YOUTUBE VIDEO THAT WALKS THROUGH THE PROCESS OF USING THE THREE SOFTWARE TOGETHER. I WANTED TO SHARE WHAT I HAD LEARNED WITH OTHERS WHO MAY BENEFIT FROM MY RESEARCH.





EXISTING DESIGN

THE EXISTING DESIGN THAT I CHOSE TO USE AS A RESEARCH MODEL IS MY PARENTS' CABIN. I CHOSE THIS DESIGN BECAUSE I AM FAMILIAR WITH THE DESIGN AND LAYOUT. ANOTHER REASON WHY I CHOSE THIS IS BECAUSE I WAS ABLE TO FOCUS ON A SMALLER DESIGN THAT DID NOT COMPLICATE THE MATERIAL IMPORTING SO THAT I COULD SEE RESULTS IN A FOCUSED WAY.

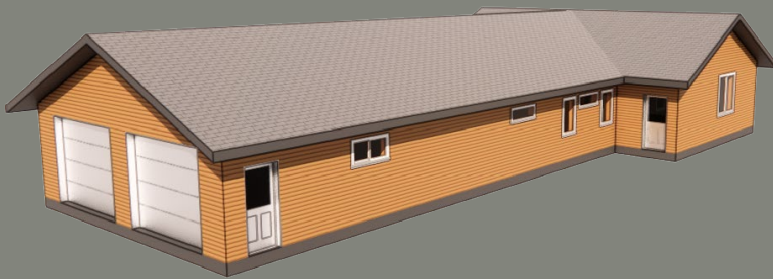
- FAMILIAR WITH THE DESIGN
- SMALLER SCALE TO SHAPE FOCUS



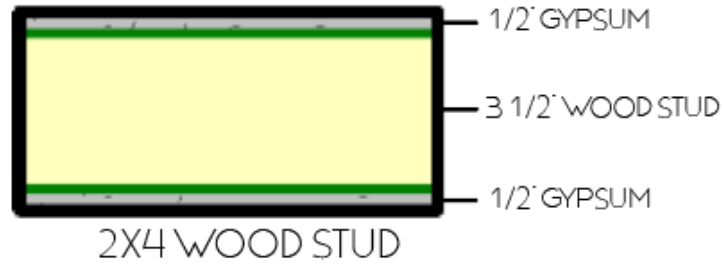


REVIT

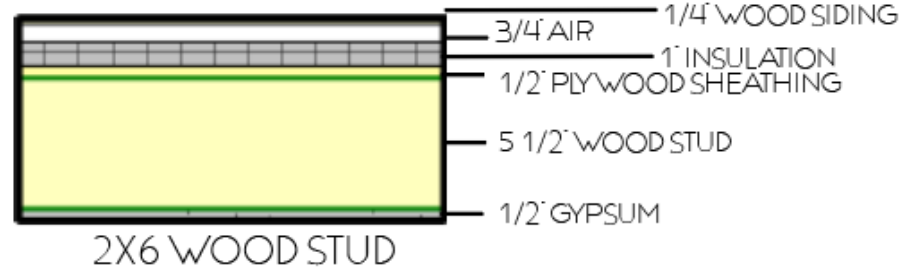
- FAMILIAR WITH THE SOFTWARE
- EXISTING MODEL TO WORK FROM



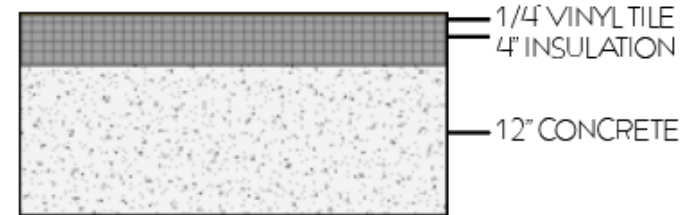
INTERIOR WALL



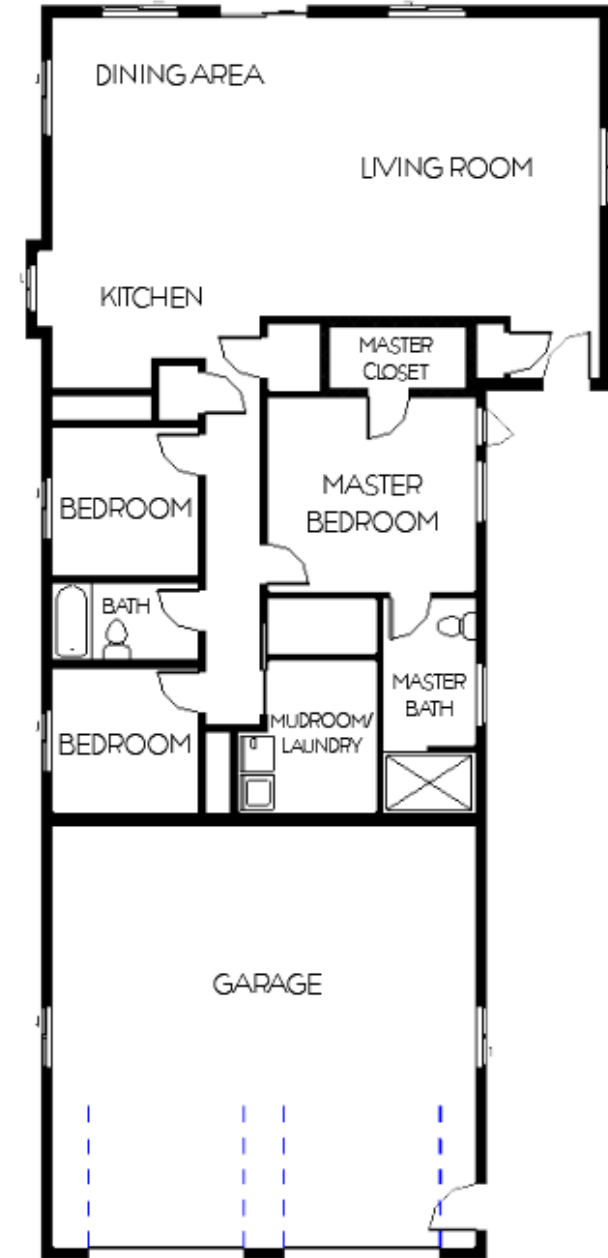
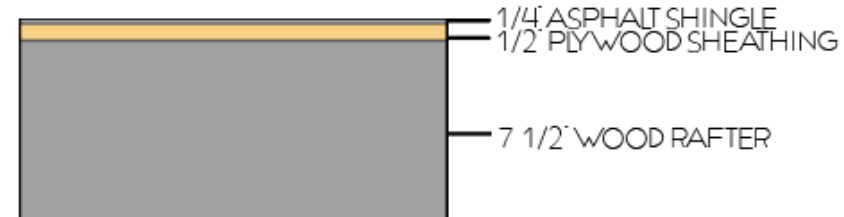
EXTERIOR WALL



FLOOR SECTION



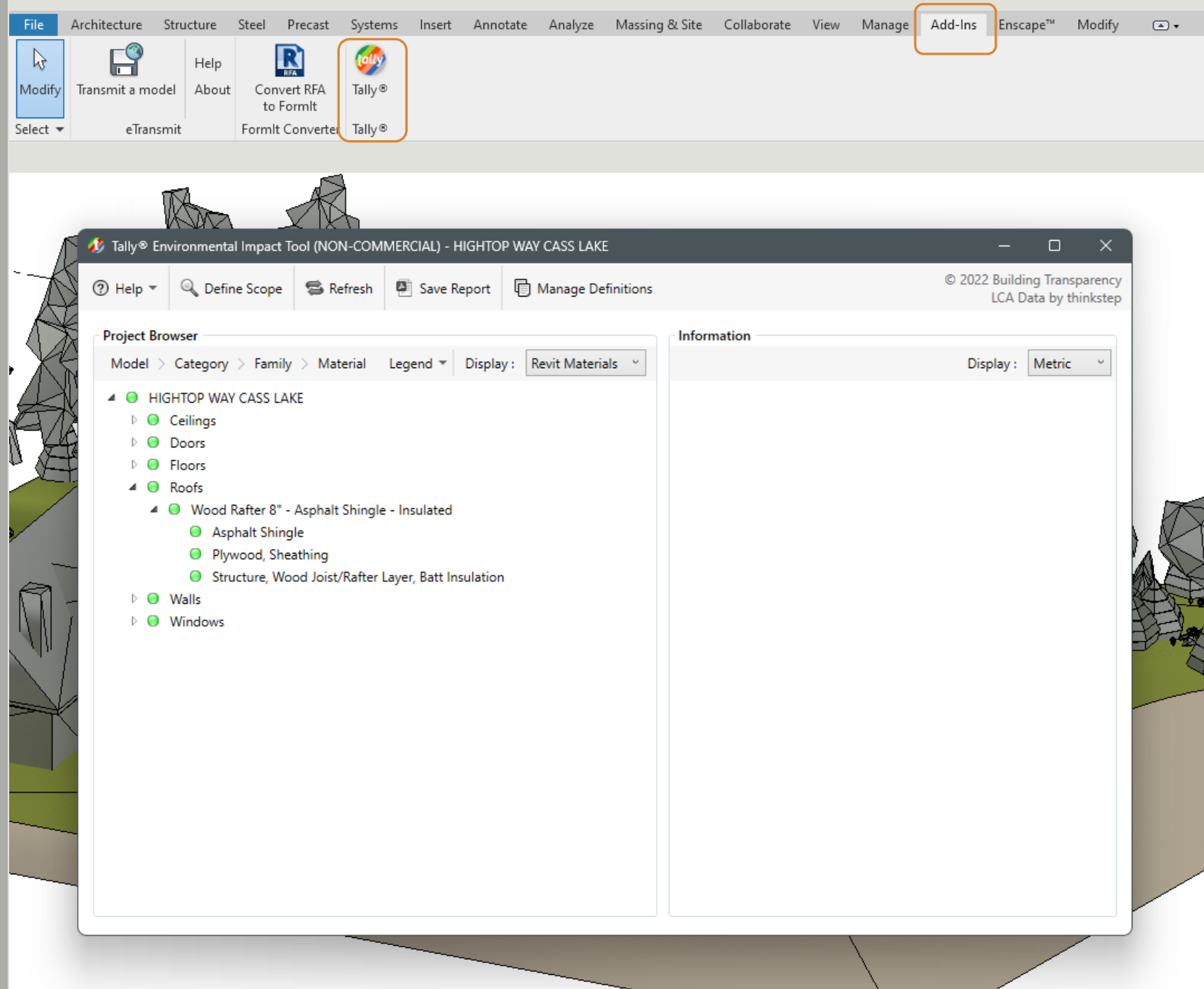
ROOF SECTION

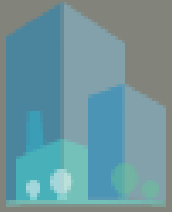




TALLY

- REVIT EXTENSION
- DEFINE MATERIALS
- USE WITH WORKING MODEL
- EXPORTS TO EC3





Building Transparency

EC3 TOOL

- CREATED BY BUILDING TRANSPARENCY
 - "OUR CORE MISSION IS TO PROVIDE THE OPEN ACCESS DATA AND TOOLS NECESSARY TO ENABLE BROAD AND SWIFT ACTION ACROSS THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IN ADDRESSING EMBODIED CARBON'S ROLE IN CLIMATE CHANGE."
- ANALYZE AND COMPARE PROJECTS
- VIEW MATERIAL CARBON IMPACTS

EC3 Building Projects (My Buildings) + Super Folder + Folder + Building Project + Import From Autodesk

Name	Address	Last Updated	Details
<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERNATE DESIGN 2 tallyLCA PRIVATE	16622 Hightop Way NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633, USA	about 1 month ago	
<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERNATE DESIGN 1 tallyLCA PRIVATE	16622 Hightop Way NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633, USA	about 2 months ago	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXISTING BUILDING tallyLCA PRIVATE	16622 Hightop Way NW, Cass Lake, MN 56633, USA	about 2 months ago	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRACTICE PRIVATE + Building Project		about 2 months ago	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sample House tallyLCA PRIVATE	Stone Lake, WI 54876, USA	7 months ago	

+ IMPORT FROM AUTODESK + BUILDING PROJECT + FOLDER + SUPER FOLDER

ALTERNATE DESIGN 1

EC Building Total	Achievable	Realized	Conservative
	19.5k kgCO2e	36k kgCO2e	36k kgCO2e

EXISTING DESIGN

EC Building Total	Achievable	Realized	Conservative
	39.7k kgCO2e	71.7k kgCO2e	71.7k kgCO2e

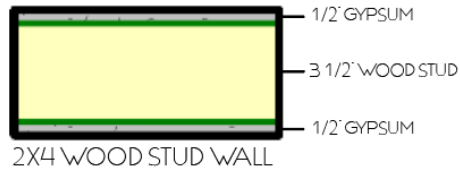
ALTERNATE DESIGN 2

EC Building Total	Achievable	Realized	Conservative
	69.5k kgCO2e	115k kgCO2e	115k kgCO2e

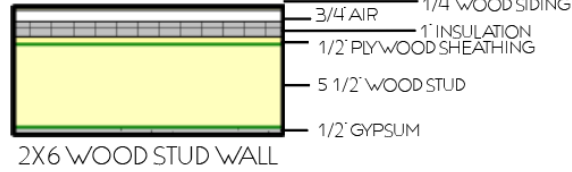
NAME	QUANTITY	UNIT	Collection	Selected (0/20) *	Realized
> 03 00 00 Concrete					42.8k kgCO2e
> 04 20 00 Unit Masonry					1.2k kgCO2e
> 06 00 00 Wood, Plastics & Composites					5.87k kgCO2e
> 07 00 00 Thermal and Moisture					3.53k kgCO2e
> 08 00 00 Openings					4.41k kgCO2e
> 09 00 00 Finishes					5.47k kgCO2e
> Not mapped yet					

EXISTING DESIGN

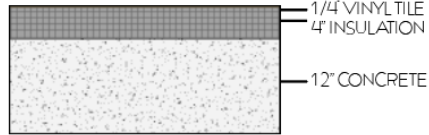
INTERIOR WALL SECTION



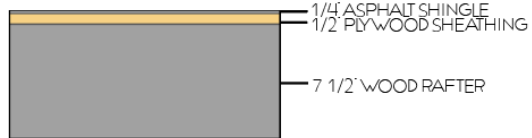
EXTERIOR WALL SECTION



FLOOR SECTION

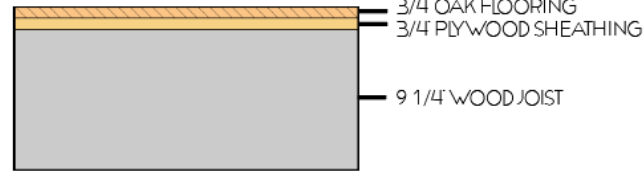


ROOF SECTION

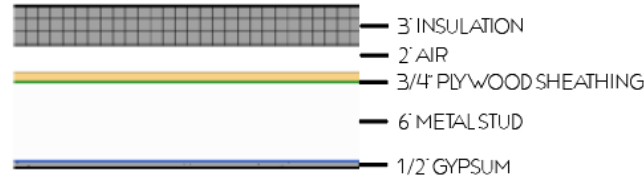


ALTERNATE DESIGN 1

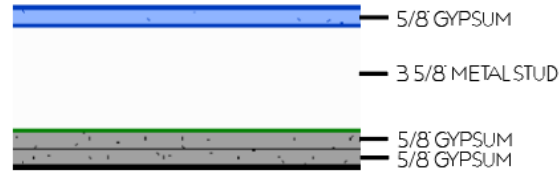
FLOOR SECTION



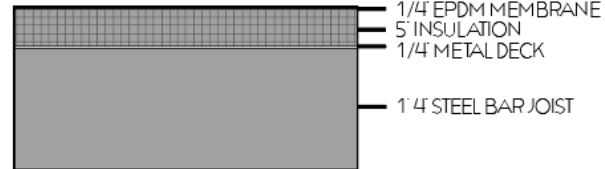
EXTERIOR WALL SECTION



INTERIOR WALL SECTION

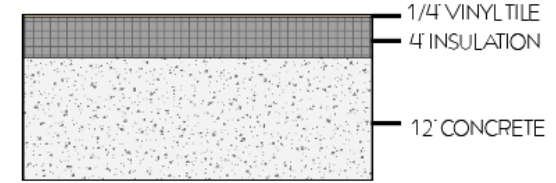


ROOF SECTION

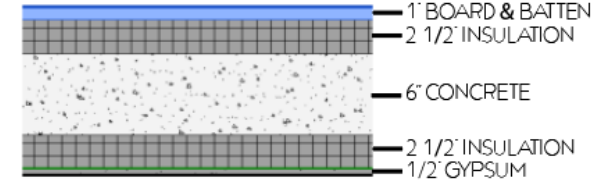


ALTERNATE DESIGN 2

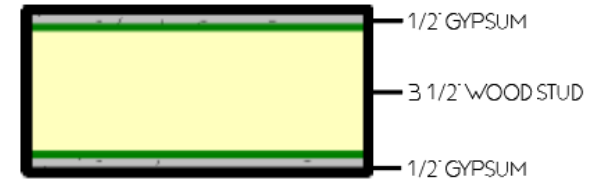
FLOOR SECTION



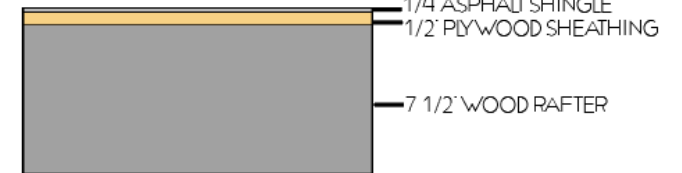
EXTERIOR WALL SECTION



INTERIOR WALL SECTION



ROOF SECTION



COMPARING RESULTS

INTERIOR WALLS, EXTERIOR WALLS, FLOOR AND ROOF TYPES

ALTERNATE DESIGN 1

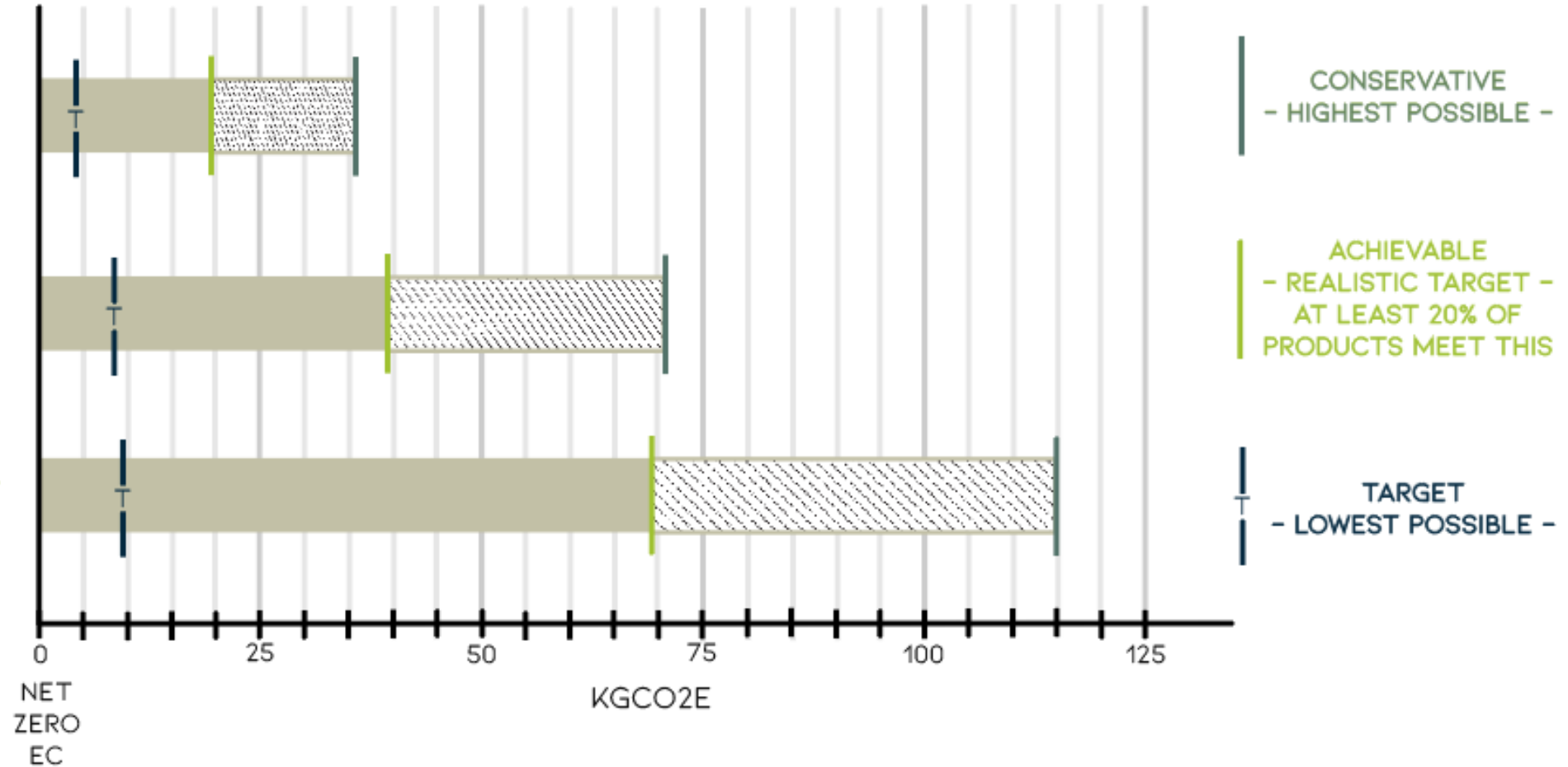
TARGET: 4.37 KGCO2E
ACHEIVABLE: 19.1 KGCO2E
CONSERVATIVE: 35.6 KGCO2E

EXISTING BUILDING

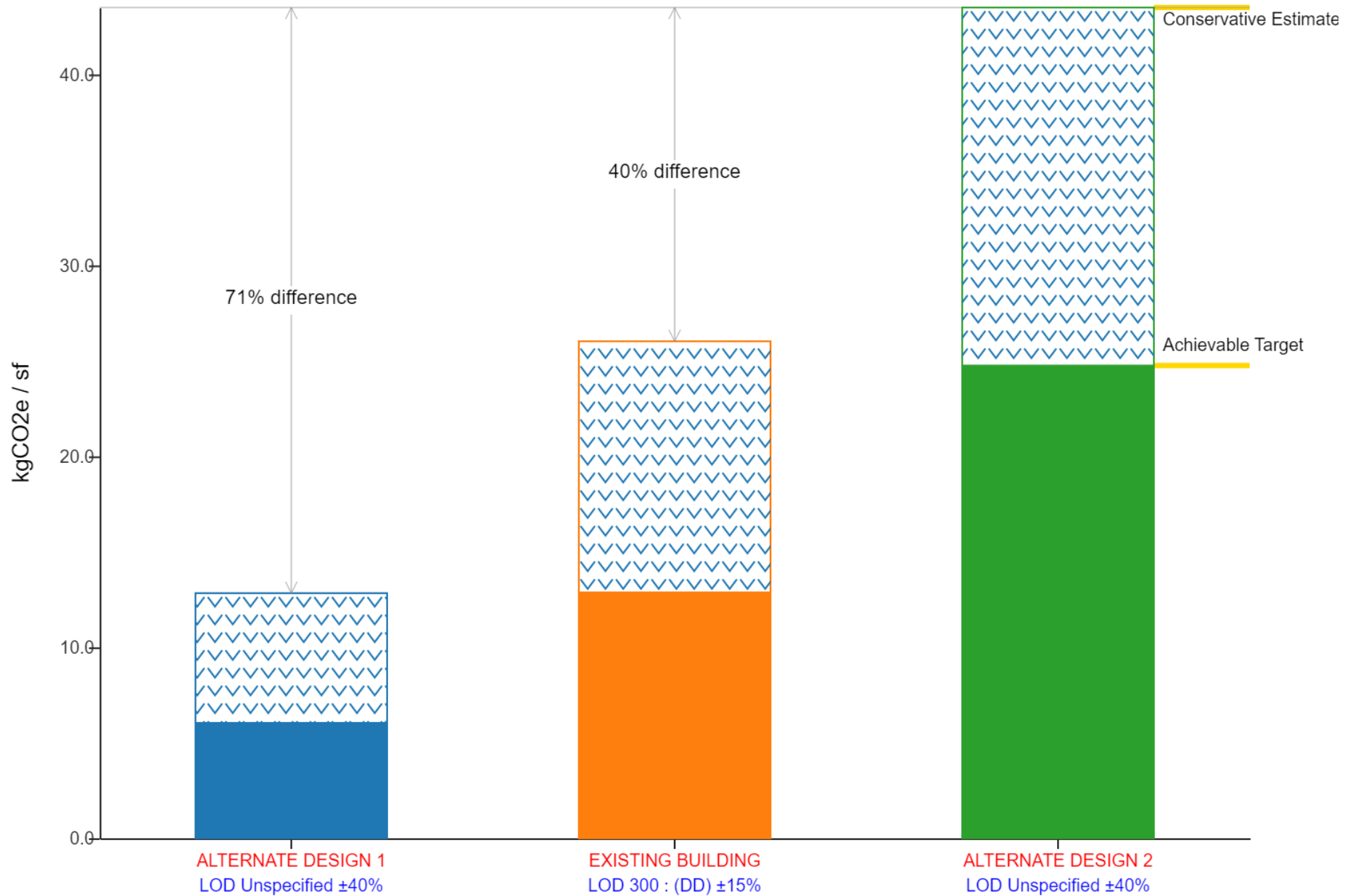
TARGET: 8.4 KGCO2E
ACHEIVABLE: 39.7 KGCO2E
CONSERVATIVE: 71.7 KGCO2E

ALTERNATE DESIGN 2

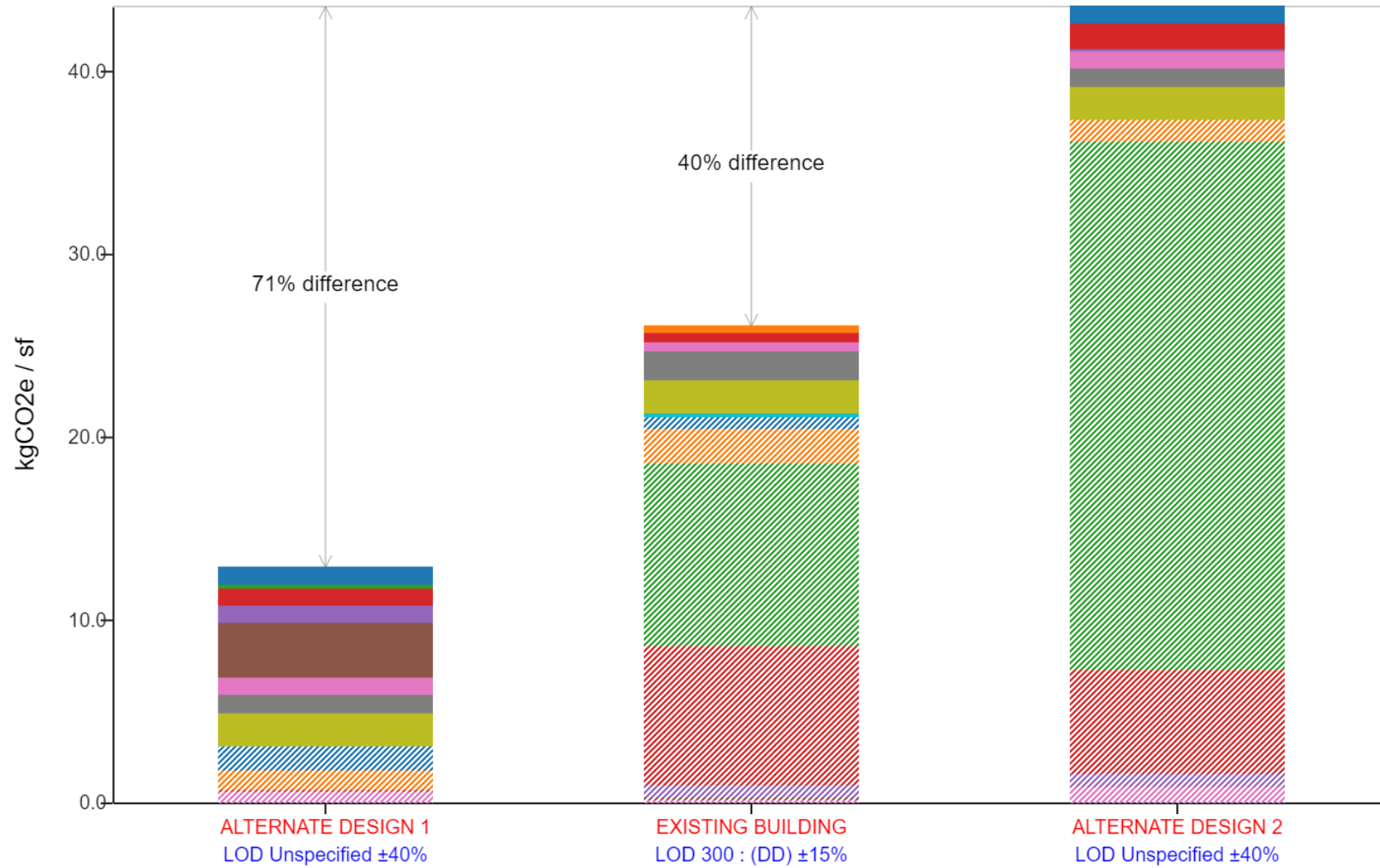
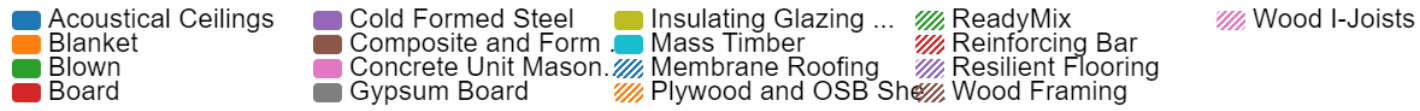
TARGET: 9.31 KGCO2E
ACHEIVABLE: 69.5 KGCO2E
CONSERVATIVE: 115 KGCO2E



COMPARING RESULTS



EMBODIED CARBON INTENSITY PER UNIT AREA



OPTIMIZING CARBON FOOTPRINT

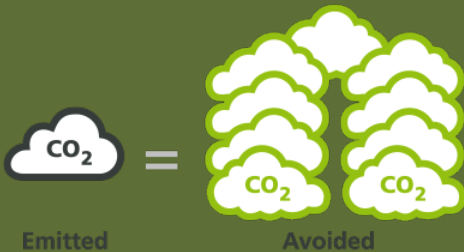


BY UNDERSTANDING WHERE CARBON EMISSIONS COME FROM, WE CAN PIN POINT WHERE THE MOST IMPACTFUL CHANGES CAN OCCUR.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION METHODOLOGY

CARBON FOOTPRINT

REDUCING CARBON FOOTPRINT REFERS TO REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS CAUSED BY HUMAN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY PRODUCTION, AND INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES. IT INVOLVES REDUCING ENERGY CONSUMPTION, USING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES, AND INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY.



VS

CARBON SEQUESTRATION

CARBON SEQUESTRATION IS THE TERM THAT IS USED TO DESCRIBE THE PROCESS OF CAPTURING, SECURING AND STORING CARBON DIOXIDE FROM THE ATMOSPHERE.

THE IDEA IS TO STABILIZE CARBON IN SOLID AND DISSOLVED FORMS SO THAT IT DOESN'T CAUSE THE ATMOSPHERE TO WARM.

INTRODUCING MORE VEGETATION TO A SITE IS ANOTHER WAY OF HELPING TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF CARBON DIOXIDE AROUND THE SITE.

CARBON SEQUESTRATION METHODOLOGY

BIOMASS EQUATION

$M=ADB$
M=ABOVE GROUND
BIOMASS (KG)
D=DIAMETER AT
BREAST HEIGHT (CM)
A & B=SPECIES
SPECIFIC
COEFFICIENTS

1

SPECIES SPECIFIC COEFFICIENTS

RESEARCH
THE SPECIES
SPECIFIC
COEFFICIENTS

2

TREE DIAMETER

MEASURE
TREE
DIAMETER

3

CALCULATE DATA

INSERT
DIAMETER (D)
AND SPECIES
SPECIFIC
COEFFICIENTS
(A&B) INTO
EQUATION

4

CALCULATE CARBON

AVERAGE TREE
IS ABOUT 50%
CARBON. THEN
MULTIPLY BY
WEIGHT OF THE
CARBON 3.67

5

CARBON SEQUESTRATION COMPARISON

4" TREES



CALCULATING TREE'S BIOMASS

$$M = ADB$$

M=TREE BIOMASS

A & B=SPECIES SPECIFIC COEFFICIENTS

D=DIAMETER

1. WALNUT = .007 KGS OF CARBON

- JUGLANS MANDSHURICA: $M=0.0001*4^{2.63} = 0.0038$ KG
- $.0038$ KG * 50% * 3.67 = *.007 KGS*

2. ASH = .0068 KGS OF CARBON

- FRAXINUS MANDSHURICA: $M=0.0001*4^{2.61} = .0037$ KG
- $.0037$ * 50% * 3.67 = *.0068 KGS*

3. PINE = .0062 KGS OF CARBON

- PINUS KORAIENSIS: $M=0.0001*4^{2.54} = .0034$ KG
- $.0034$ * 50% * 3.67 = *.0062 KGS*

4. MAPLE = .00175 KGS OF CARBON

- ACER MONO: $M=0.0001*4^{2.56} = 0.0035$ KG
- $.0035$ KG * 50% * 3.67 = *.00175 KGS*

5. BIRCH = .00175 KGS OF CARBON

- BETULA PLATYPHYLLA: $M=0.0001*4^{2.57} = .0035$ KG
- $.0035$ * 50% * 3.67 = *.00175 KGS*

6. LARCH = .00175 KGS OF CARBON

- LARIX GMELINII: $M=0.0001*4^{2.56} = .0035$ KG
- $.0035$ * 50% * 3.67 = *.00175 KGS*



1



2



3



4



5



6

THE IMPACT OF THIS METHODOLOGY

- CREATES A PATH FOR CHANGE ON A PERSONAL LEVEL
- ALLOWS DESIGNER TO LEARN WHILE CREATING
- CHANGES CAN BE MADE TO PREEXISTING & EXISTING BUILDINGS
- PROVIDES ADDITIONAL TECHNIQUES FOR REDUCING CARBON IN THE ATMOSPHERE THROUGH CARBON SEQUESTRATION
- UNDERSTANDING RESPONSIBILITY & TAKING ACTION FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT





• <https://materialpalette.org/>

• <https://buildingtransparency.org/ec3>

• <https://www.buildingtransparency.org/>

• <https://pliteq.com/news/building-vs-carbon-footprint/#:~:text=Last%20but%20not%20least%2C%20the,an%20abundantly%20available%20natural%20resource.>

SOURCES



THANK YOU

KAITLYN KANE

THESIS PRESENTATION

PROFESSOR MAHALINGAM

SPRING 2023