

# Adopting Innovations for Low- Carbon Concrete in Arizona

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# Agenda

**01 Concrete as a Solution to Sustainability**

**02 Policy Trends**

**03 Green Project Demand**

**04 EPDs**

**05 Levers for Cutting CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions in Concrete**

**06 Barriers & Opportunities**

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# Concrete is the most abundant building material in the world.

As a result, cement production creates ~7% of the world's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and is one of the **largest contributors** to embodied carbon in the built environment.

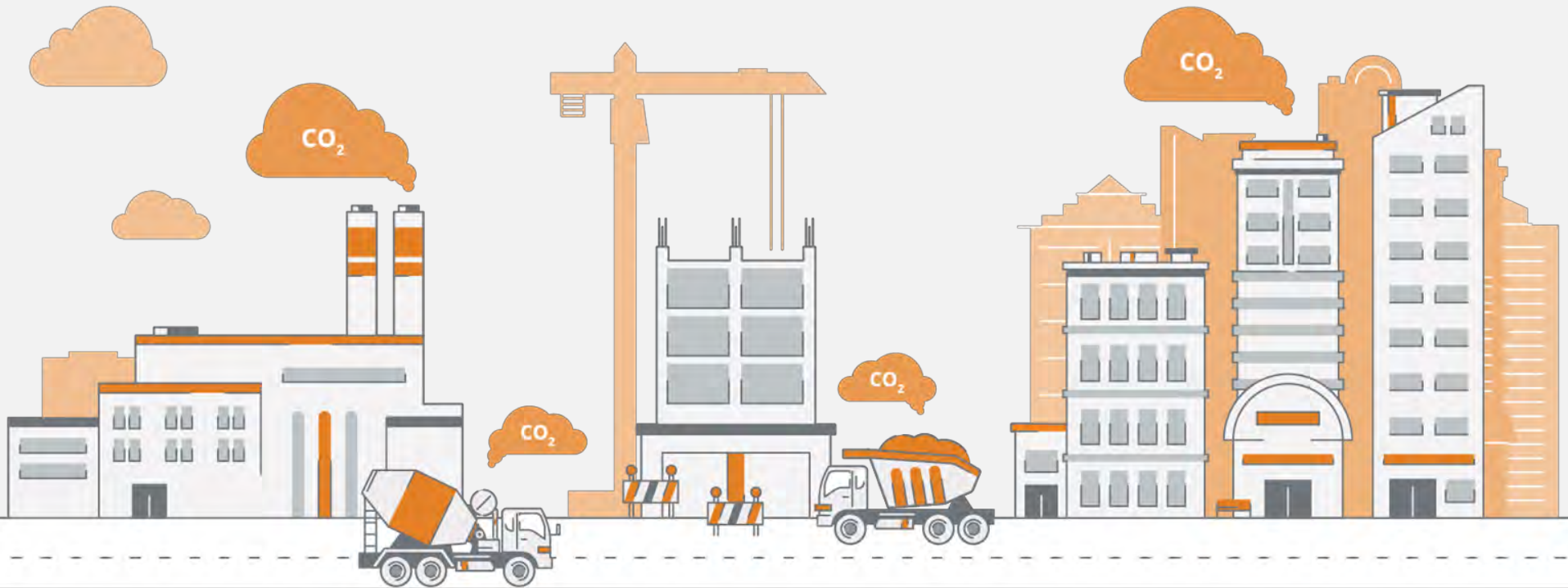
Did you know?

**Concrete** is uniquely positioned to respond to one of the most **rapidly growing trends** in today's construction.

Did you know?

**Embodied carbon** is expected to account for **nearly 50%** of the total carbon emissions from new construction over the next 40 years.

# Carbon Definitions



## Embodied Carbon

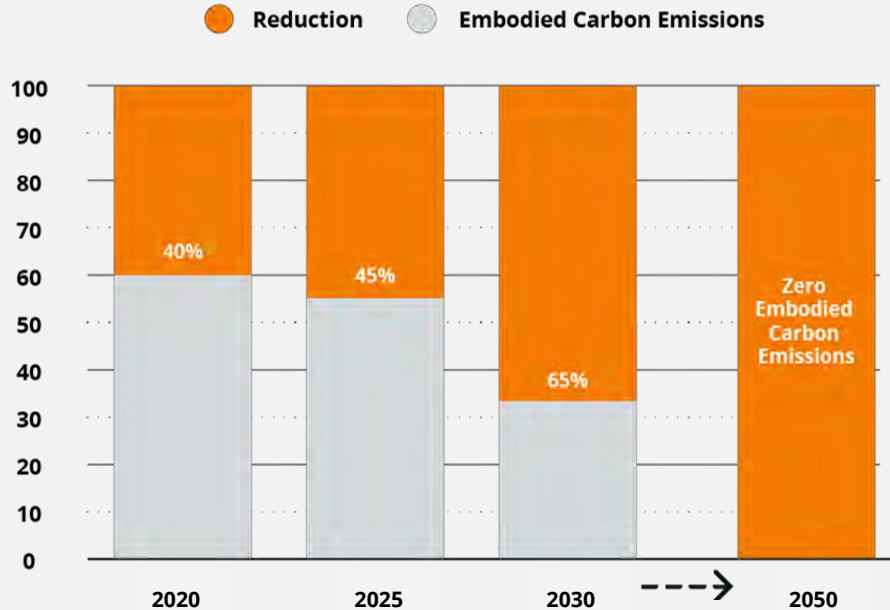
The emissions from manufacturing, transportation, and installation of building materials.

## Operational Carbon

The emissions from a building's energy consumption.

# The Embodied Carbon Challenge

Architects, engineers, owners and governments aligned on a mission to reduce the carbon footprint of building materials and construction.



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Mission alignment with:



WORLD  
GREEN  
BUILDING  
COUNCIL



# Federal Buy Clean Executive Order

## Laws and Regulations

- January 1, 2023 - the United States federal purchasing agencies are required to obtain EPDs for concrete building materials used on federal projects.





# Green Building as Growing Producer Opportunity

## Key Market Trends

- High performance and green buildings are in high demand.
- Various government efforts and regulation mandates are driving green building in the US markets.
- The Global Green Building Materials market is projected to grow over 9% over the next 5 years (2022 - 2026)

## EMBODIED CARBON PROJECT GROWTH

**There are currently 584 active projects valued at over \$18 billion dollars in the United States.**

## LEED PROJECT GROWTH

**There are currently 52 active projects  
valued at over \$3 billion dollars in Arizona.**

# Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

# What is an EPD?

A third party-verified declaration of environmental impact

- Essentially like a nutrition label for concrete
- For a single mix design at a specific plant
- A Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) following the Product Category Rule (PCR) for construction material
- The environmental impact of this product from “cradle-to-gate”
- Valid for five years

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

### Declared Product:

Mix L40ZT9P8 • Hayward Plant

Description: LTWT 4000 PSI TEICHERT ROD MILL CO2 50SL

Compressive strength: 4000 PSI at 28 days

### Declared Unit: 1 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete

Global Warming Potential (kg CO <sub>2</sub> -eq)	432
Ozone Depletion Potential (kg CFC-11-eq)	2.95E-5
Acidification Potential (kg SO <sub>2</sub> -eq)	3.10
Eutrophication Potential (kg N-eq)	0.35
Photochemical Ozone Creation Potential (kg O <sub>3</sub> -eq)	56.1
Abiotic Depletion, non-fossil (kg Sb-eq)	9.05E-5
Abiotic Depletion, fossil (MJ)	4,238
Total Waste Disposed (kg)	0.38
Consumption of Freshwater (m <sup>3</sup> )	1.93

**Product Components:** natural aggregate (ASTM C33), lightweight aggregate (ASTM C330), Portland cement (ASTM C150), slag cement (ASTM C989), batch water (ASTM C1602), admixture (ASTM C494), admixture (ASTM C260)

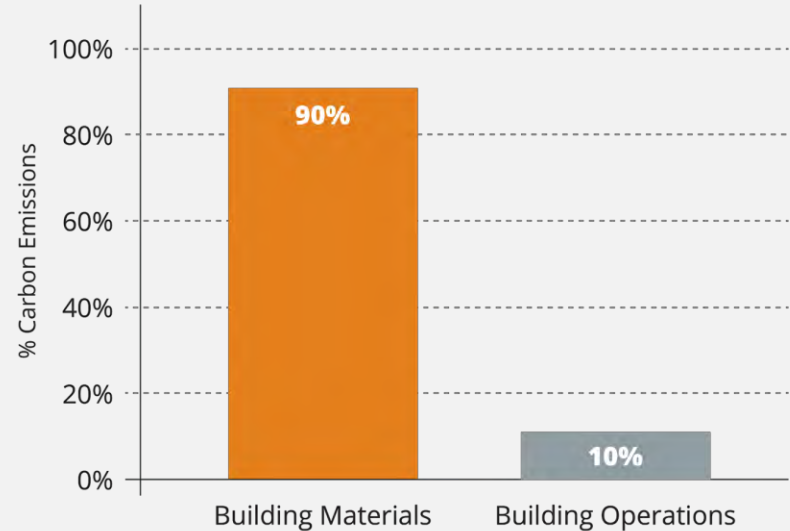
## EPDs IN ARIZONA

**There are currently 18 EPDs spec'd on projects across Arizona. These projects are valued at \$127 million dollars.**

# Why Do We Need EPDs?

- Growing demand for transparency of environmental impact of building materials
- Designers and architects are requesting EPDs more often
- New federal legislation in the US making EPDs a requirement (starting Jan. 1, 2023)

Building Sector CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions  
New Construction: 2015 - 2050



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Data Source: EIA (2011), Richard Stein, CBECS (2003), McKinsey Global Institute

# How are EPDs Created?



## 1. Find the PCR

Find the correct Product Category Rule for Concrete to perform calculations and reporting.



## 2. Data Collection

Compile information on raw materials, suppliers, ancillary materials and other plant data.



## 3. Life Cycle Assessment

Create a life cycle assessment based on the data for each mix at a plant.



## 4. Create EPD

Use the life cycle assessment results to create an EPD.



## 5. Get EPD Verified

Have the results of the life cycle assessment and EPD verified by a third party.



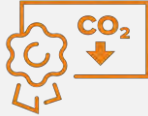
# Reducing Embodied Carbon in Concrete

# How Can We Reduce Embodied Carbon in Concrete *Now*?



## **Optimize**

aggregate sources  
and combined  
gradations



**Utilize** low-  
carbon cement  
types



**Incorporate**  
alternative and  
recycled materials



**Shift**  
to performance-  
based specs



**Permanent**  
CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration  
through CO<sub>2</sub>  
mineralization

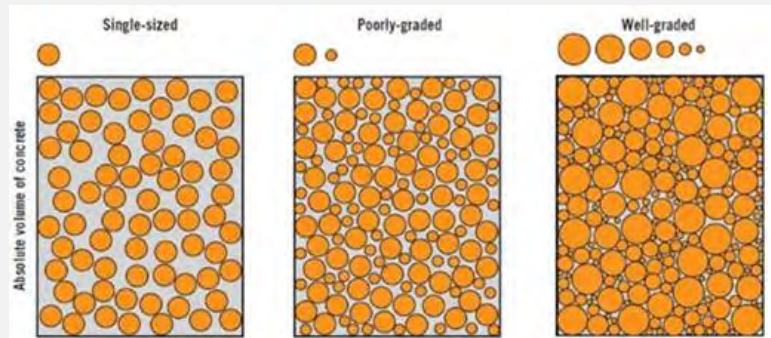
# Optimize Your Aggregates

## Optimized Gradation

- Incorporation of intermediate aggregate
- Focus on performance - workability, finishability, segregation, strength
- Reduce total paste fraction by 5-15%
- Reduced shrinkage and permeability
- Coarseness Factor (Shilstone), 0.45 Power Curve, Tarantula Curve (Ley)

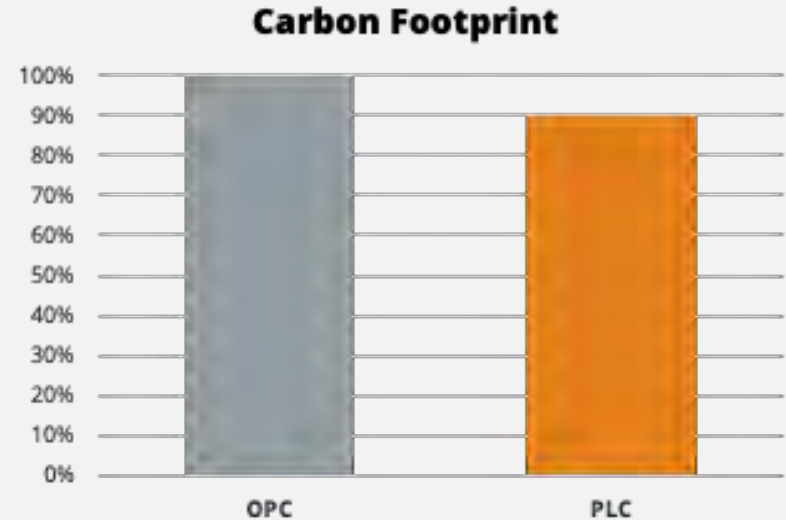
## Optimized Source

- Hard, durable aggregates will require less cement to hit compressive strength target
- Shop local to reduce emissions associated with trucking, railing, or barging aggregates long distances



# Utilize Low-Carbon Cements

- ASTM C595 Blended Cements
  - Limestone (IL), “PLC” or “GUL”
  - Slag (IS)
  - Pozzolan (IP)
- Alternate Cements
  - LC3 - 40% reduction
  - CSA - 60% reduction
  - Geopolymer cements - 70% reduction
- Less carbon-intensive manufacturing process = capitalize on lower CO<sub>2</sub>e in mix design



# Incorporate Alternative Materials

- Supplementary Cementitious Materials
  - Class F and C fly ashes
  - Class N “natural pozzolans”
  - Ground slag cement
  - Ground glass pozzolans
- Admixtures
- Recycled aggregate
  - Fresh returned concrete - captured through reclaimer
  - Hardened concrete - crushed and separated
  - Low risk / high volume applications
  - LEED - minimum 20% replacement
- Recycled water
  - C1602 process water
  - Slurry water



# Shift Concrete Specifications

## Types of Specifications

- **Prescriptive Specification:** recipe or how-to
- **Performance Specification:** end-goal but no method
- Hybrid options
  - Non conflicting requirements
- No “one spec fits all” approach, understand limits of each

## NRMCA P2P Initiative

- 5 primary bottlenecks for reducing embodied carbon:
  - SIP 1: Maximum SCM content
  - SIP 2: Maximum W/CM
  - SIP 3: Minimum cementitious content
  - SIP 4: Type and characteristics of fly ash
  - SIP 5: Aggregate grading
- Establish applicable requirements
- Don't eliminate specs that are working well

*\*SIP = Specification In Practice*

# Permanent CO<sub>2</sub> Storage

## CO<sub>2</sub> utilization technology for concrete

- CO<sub>2</sub> captured from industrial emitters
- Injected directly into fresh concrete
- CO<sub>2</sub> is permanently sequestered as a mineral
- Improved concrete performance allows for mix optimization, cost savings, and sustainable business growth



# More About CarbonCure

CO<sub>2</sub> mineralization technology provider for concrete producers



Founded in  
**Halifax, Canada in 2012 by Rob Niven, MSc**



More than  
**500 systems sold, 450+ plants currently supplying**



Grand Prize Winner  
**of the NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE**



Backed by  
**Breakthrough Energy Ventures, Amazon, Microsoft,  
Mitsubishi Corporation, Shopify, Stripe + more**



**CarbonCure's mission is to reduce  
500 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>  
emissions annually. That's equal to  
taking 100 million cars off the road.**





# Thank You!

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