

# The Drive Toward Reducing Carbon in Concrete Construction



# Speakers

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- Why Address Embodied Carbon?**
- The Importance of Concrete in Reducing Embodied Carbon
- Where We Are Now
- Drivers for Increasing Reductions
- Challenges
- Advancements in Concrete

- 21% Building Sector share of total GHG emissions:
- 57% indirect emissions from offsite generation of electricity and heat
  - 24% direct emissions produced onsite
  - 18% embodied emissions



**Need further gains:** in most regions, efficiency improvements: have been matched by growth in floor area per capita.

“Well-designed and effectively implemented mitigation actions in the building sector have significant potential for achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.”

**Start treating carbon accounting the same way you treat your financial accounting. You need to know [your entire] footprint and what you can do about it.**

Cristina Gamboa, CEO, World Green Building Council





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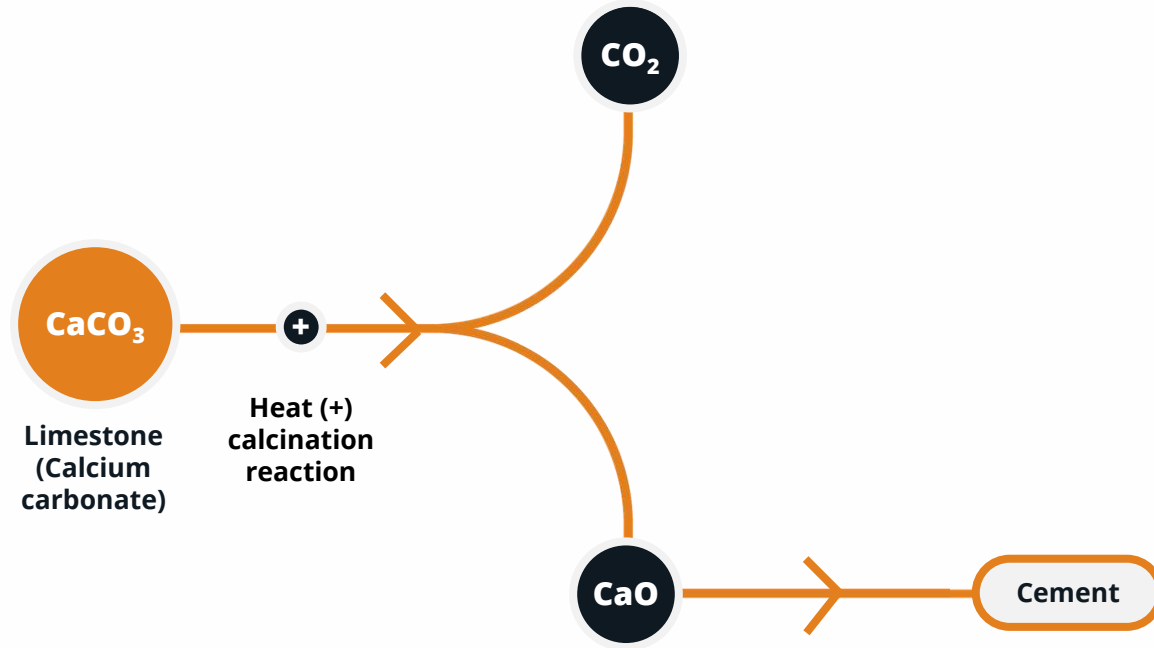


Did you know?

**Cement makes up only 12% of the weight of concrete.**

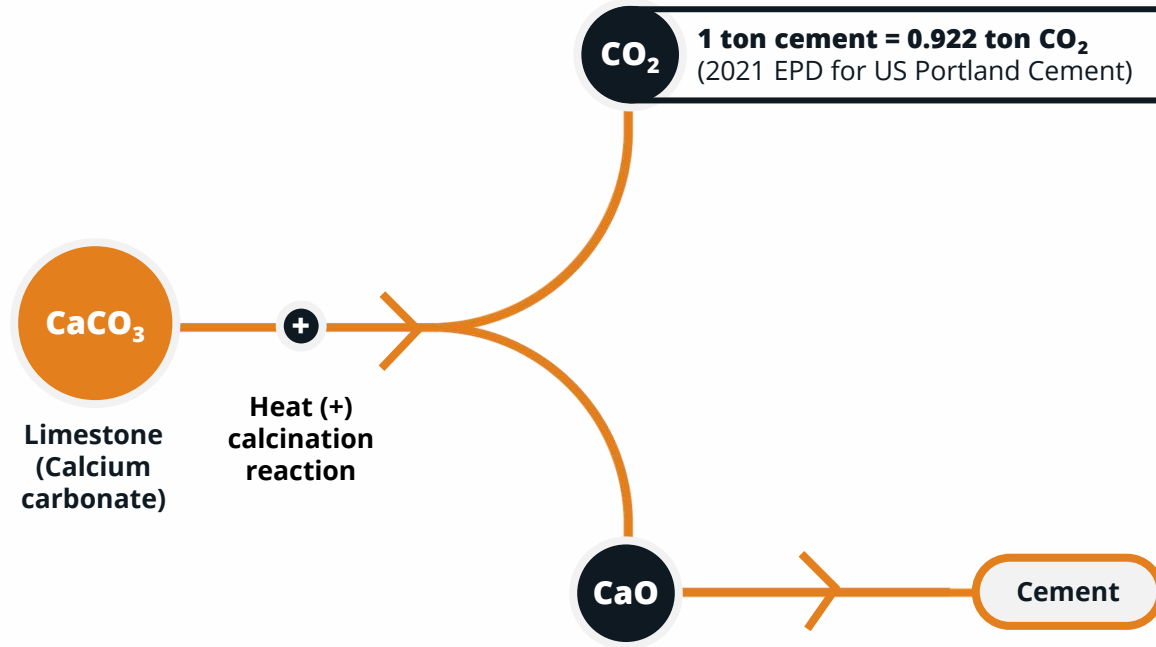
But is responsible for **95%** of concrete's carbon footprint.

# Cement Manufacturing Process





# Cement Manufacturing Process

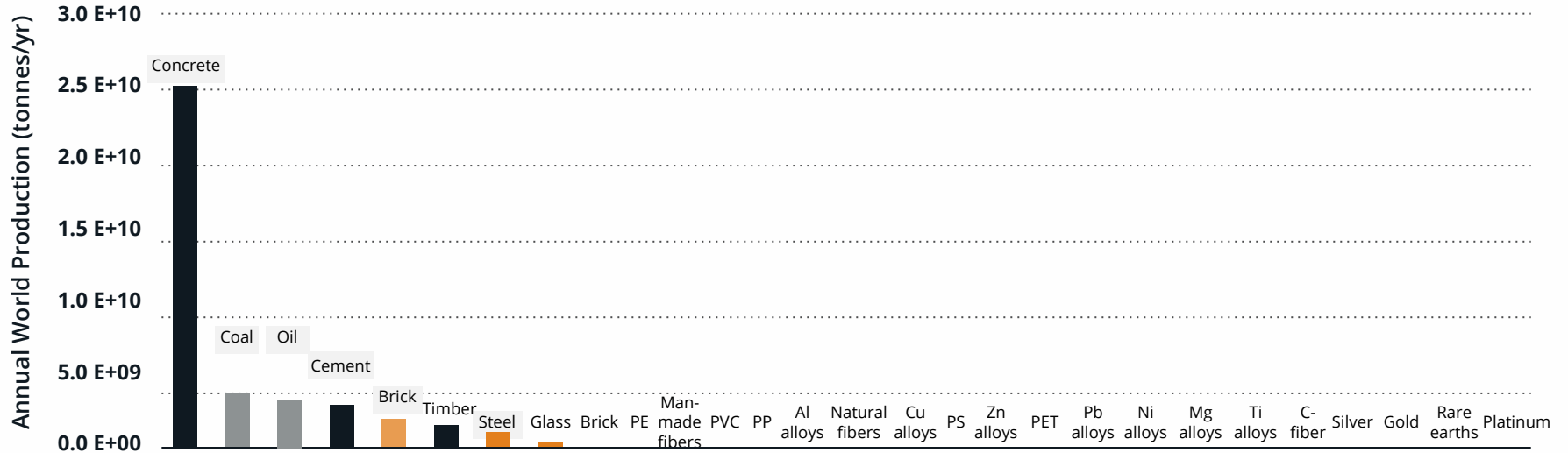




# Concrete is the most abundant human-made material in the world.

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.

# Concrete Made At Unparalleled Scale



Source: "27 Materials on Which Industrialized Society Depends"

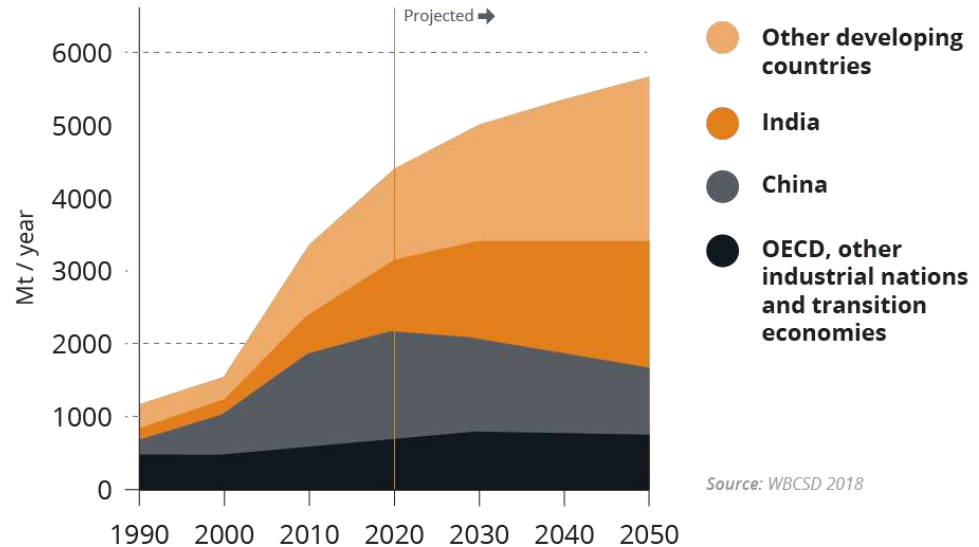
Adapted from Ashby (2013) *Materials and the environment, eco-informed material choice*. ISBN 978-0-12-385971-6

# Cement Demand Projection

**Cement demand  
expected to grow  
12 to 23% by 2050.**


*-IEA, Cement Sustainability Initiative*

World Portland Cement  
Production 1990-2050



Source: WBCSD 2018

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## Online Study Conducted Spring 2022



### Requirements to participate:

Had to be involved with or have influence over the specification or purchase of concrete for projects.



45  
Architects

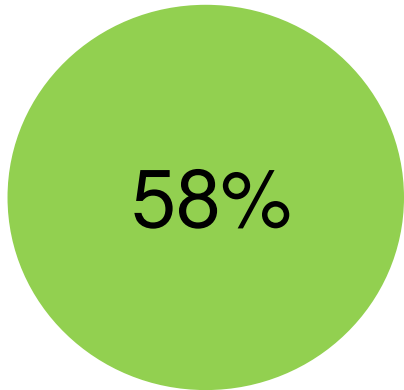


43  
Structural Engineers

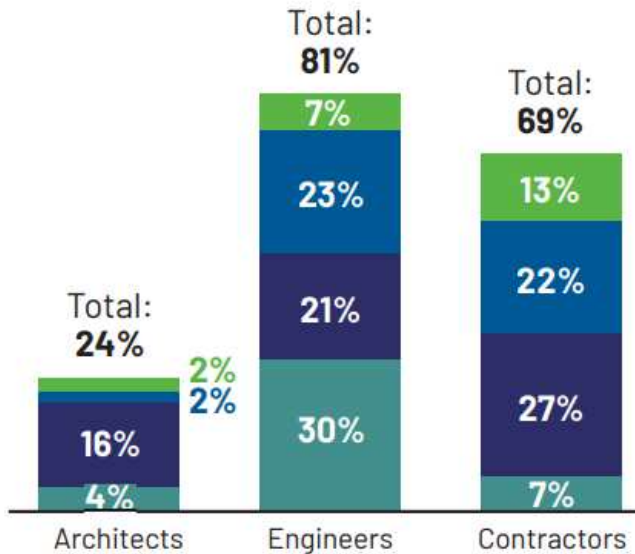


45  
Contractors

# Current Approach to Tracking and Reducing Embodied Carbon



Share of Respondents Who Track Embodied Carbon on at Least Some of Their Projects



- We track the embodied carbon on all of our building projects and are actively seeking to reduce it
- We track the embodied carbon on most of our building projects and are actively seeking to reduce it
- We track the embodied carbon on at least some of our building projects and are actively seeking to reduce it
- We are tracking embodied carbon on at least some of our projects, but are not yet seeking to reduce it



# Means of Measuring Embodied Carbon

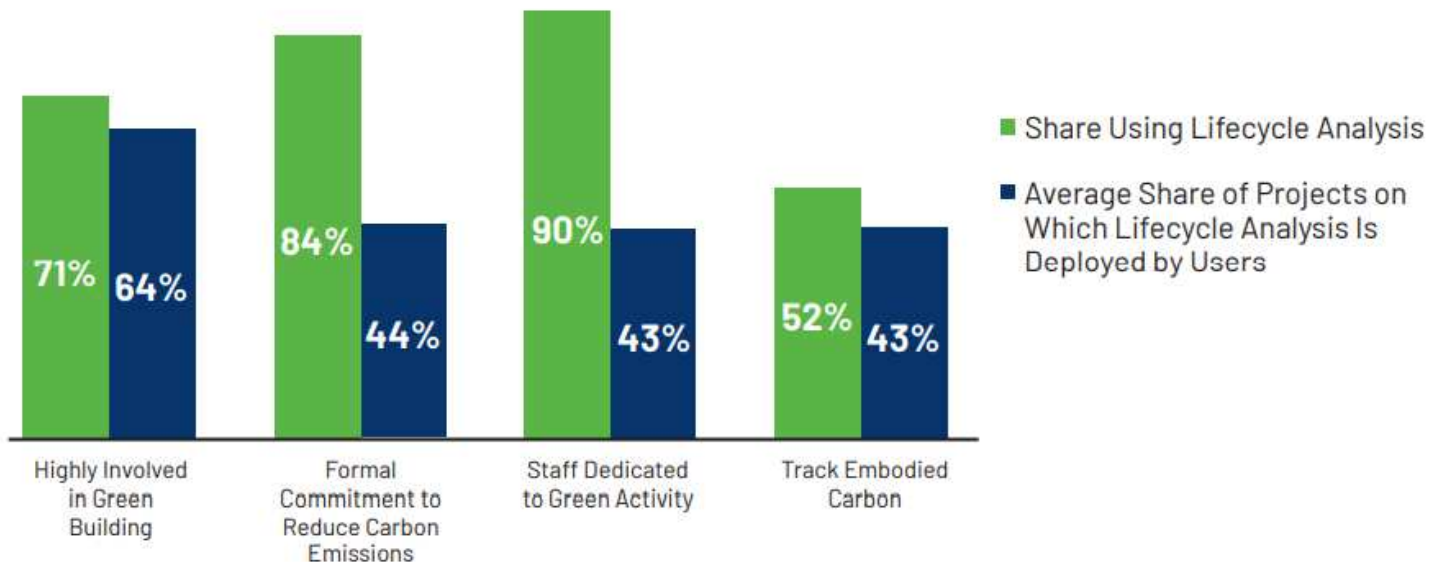


# Lifecycle Analysis

## Use of Lifecycle Analysis

(By Green Engagement)

Dodge Data & Analytics, 2022



# Environmental Product Declarations

EPDs use consistent measurements for easy & objective comparison of products in same category



## Environmental Facts

Functional unit = 1 yd<sup>3</sup> of concrete

## Impact

Primary Energy Demand (BTU)	9.3x10 <sup>5</sup>
Global Warming Potential (lb CO <sub>2</sub> eq)	360
Acidification Potential (lb H <sup>+</sup> eq)	40
Eutrophication Potential (lb N eq)	0.4
Ozone Depletion Potential (lb CFC-11 eq)	1.98x10 <sup>-5</sup>
Smog Potential (lb O <sub>3</sub> eq)	21

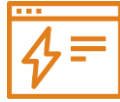
Prove how your concrete is different

# CarbonCure Express EPD



## Easy as 1,2,3

- CarbonCure does all the heavy lifting
- No headaches
- CarbonCure provides the guidance and expertise to create the LCA and EPD
- Low time investment



## Straightforward Cost

- Less upfront costs
- Fixed fee per plant
- Unlimited EPDs per plant



## High-Quality

- Product-specific EPDs
- Digital integration allows for fast and accurate EPDs using real data

# How CarbonCure Express EPD is Different

1

**Tell Us About Your Mixes:** We need to know about the raw materials that go into your mixes.

2

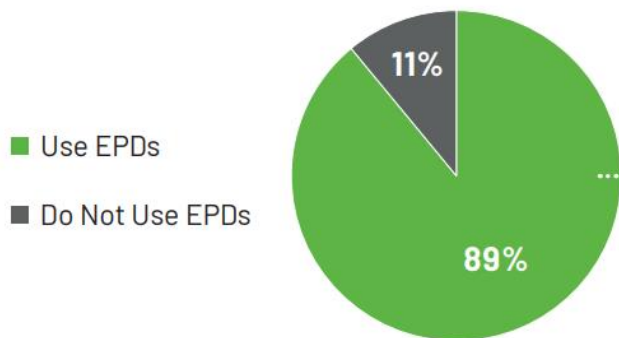
**Tell Us About Your Plant:** Help us learn more about your suppliers and ancillary materials.

**And that's it!  
We take care of the rest.**

# Use of EPDs

## Use Environmental Product Declarations (All Respondents)

Dodge Data & Analytics, 2022



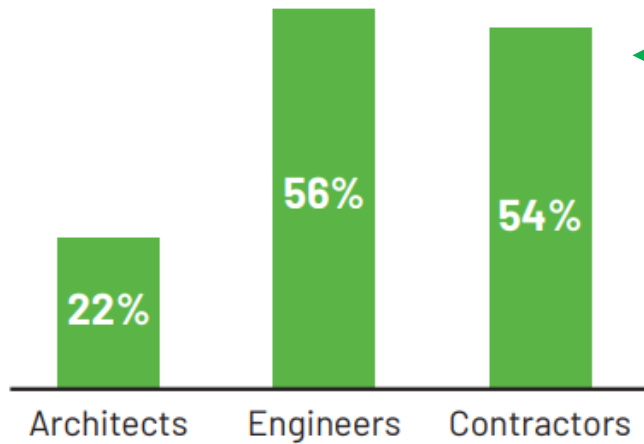
## Frequency of Use of EPDs (According to Those Using Them)

Dodge Data & Analytics, 2022



# Use of EPDs

## By Type of Company



## Frequency of Use of EPDs (According to Those Using Them)

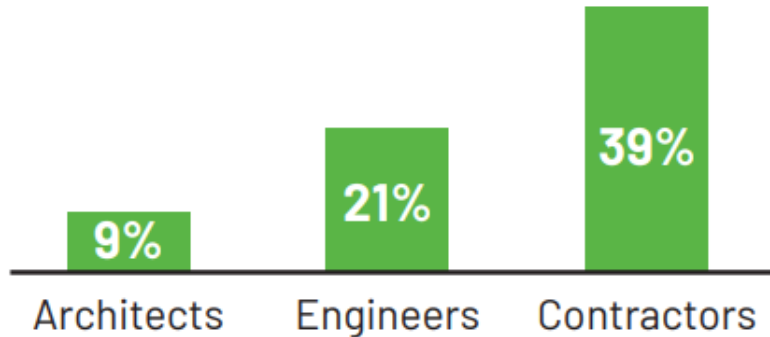
Dodge Data & Analytics, 2022



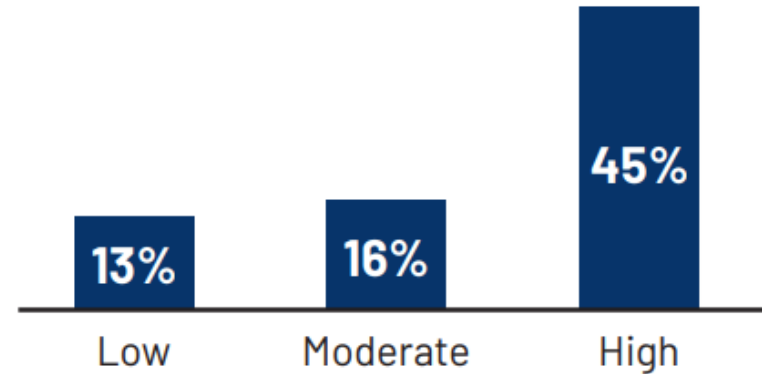


# Frequency That Practitioners Request EPDs on All Projects

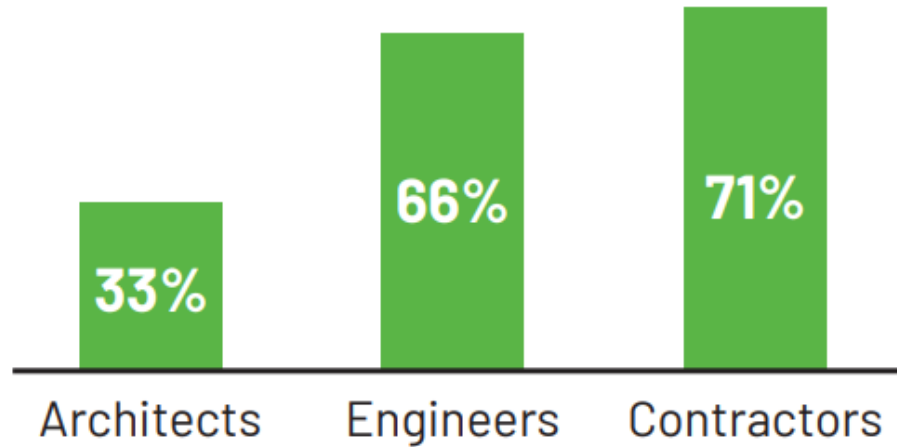
## By Type of Company




## By Involvement in Green Projects



## Increased Use of EPDs in the Last Year



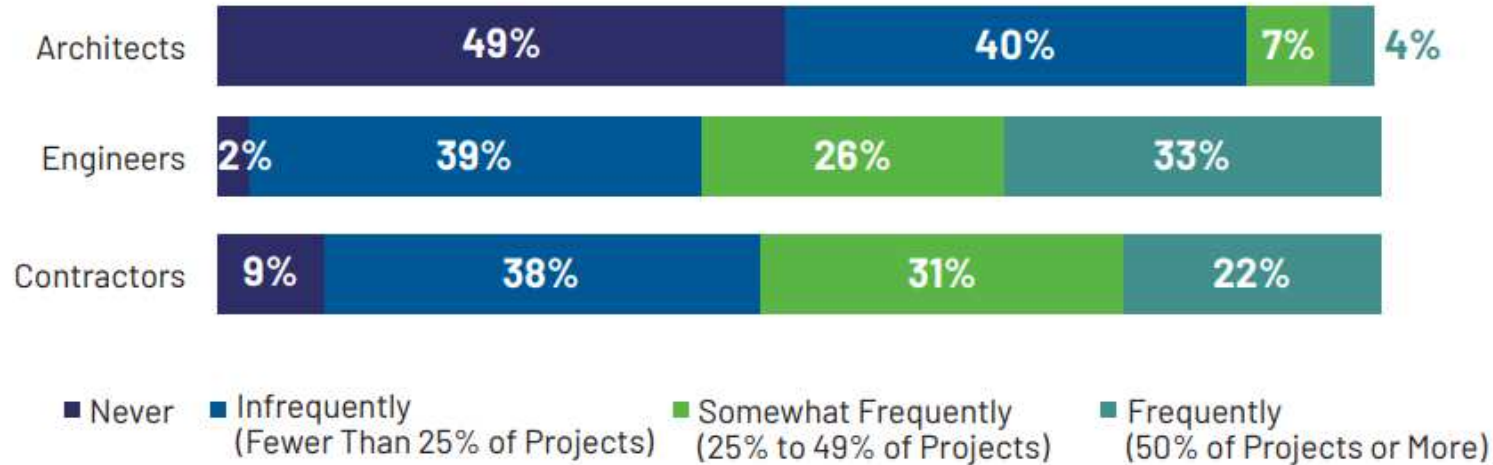
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# Owners Driving Increased Engagement

## Frequency of Client Requests for Reducing Embodied Carbon

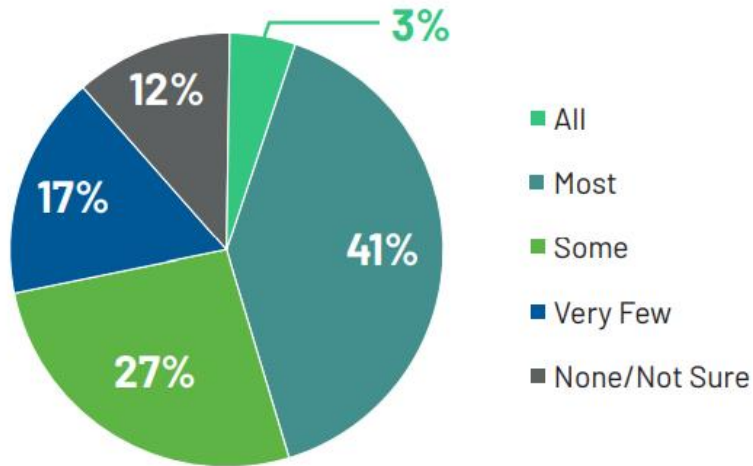
Dodge Data & Analytics, 2022



# Owners Driving Increased Engagement

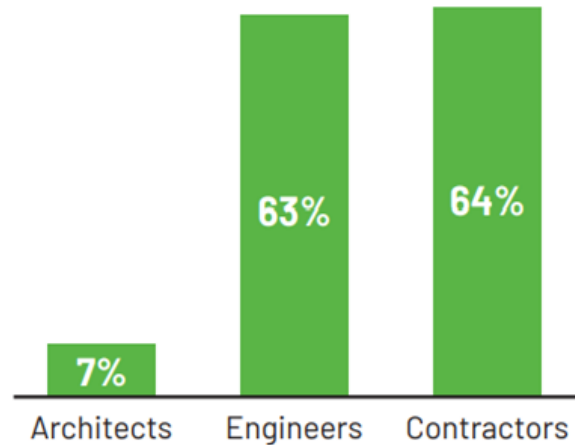
## Frequency of Clients Asking for EPDs

Dodge Data & Analytics, 2022



## Most/All Clients Ask for EPDs

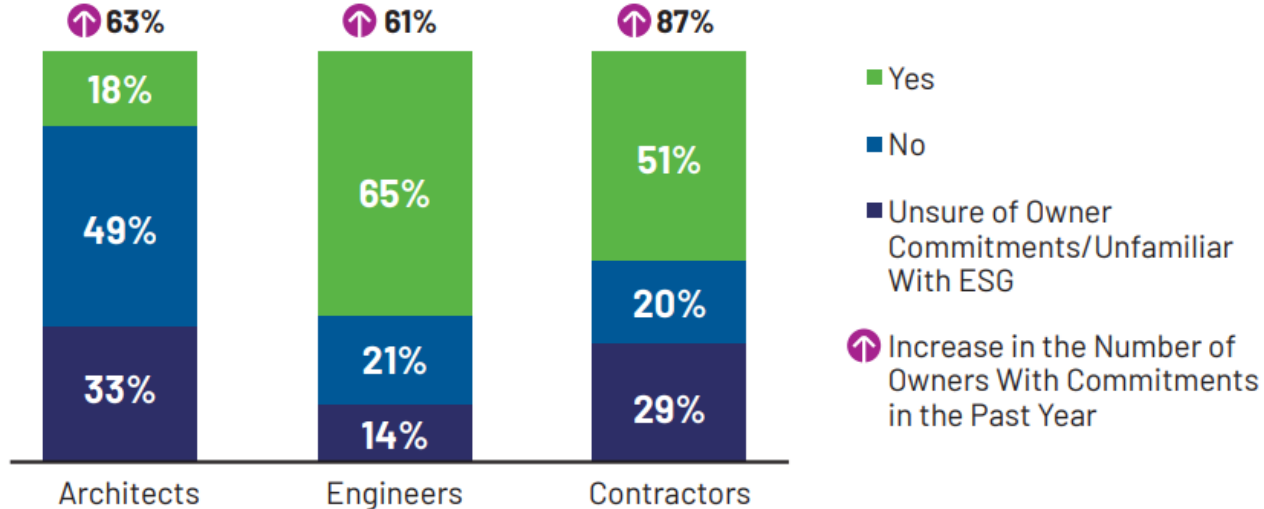
Dodge Data & Analytics, 2022



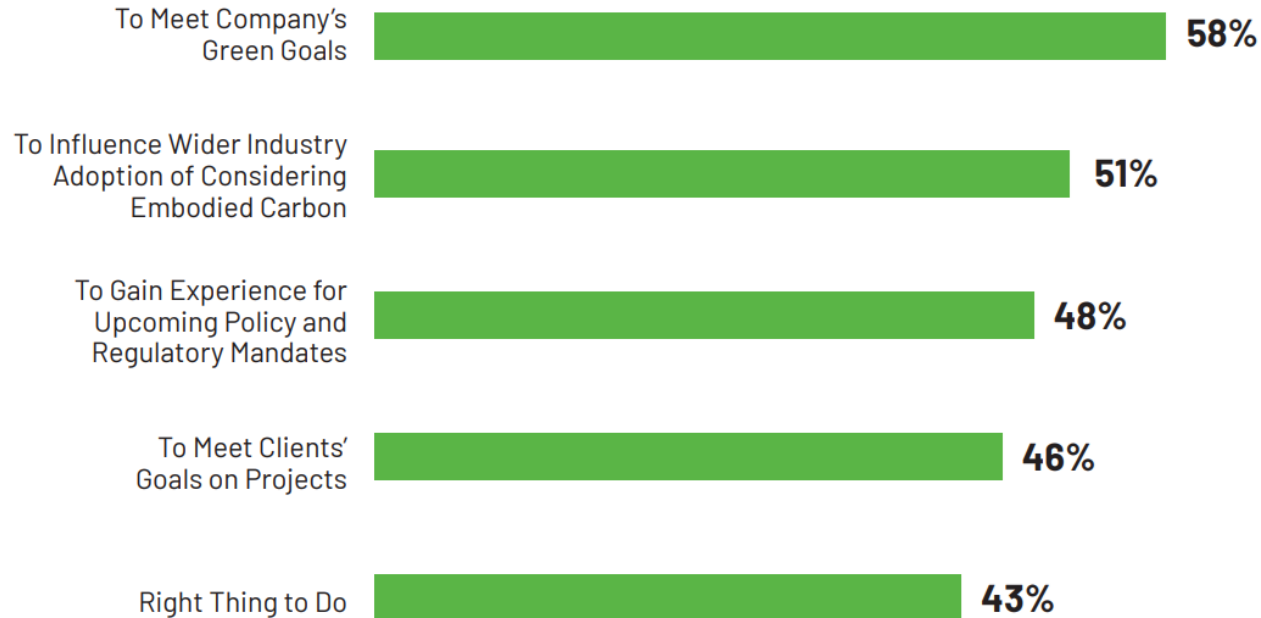
# Owners Driving Increased Engagement

## Involved in Projects With Owners/Investors With Specific ESG Commitments

Dodge Data & Analytics, 2022



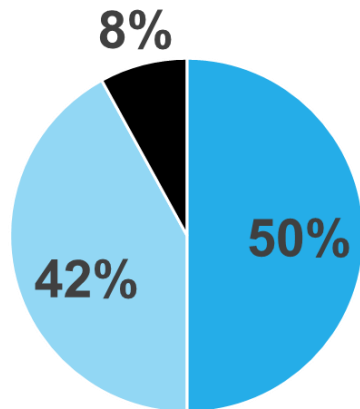
# Reasons That Practitioners Currently Take Embodied Into Consideration at Project Start



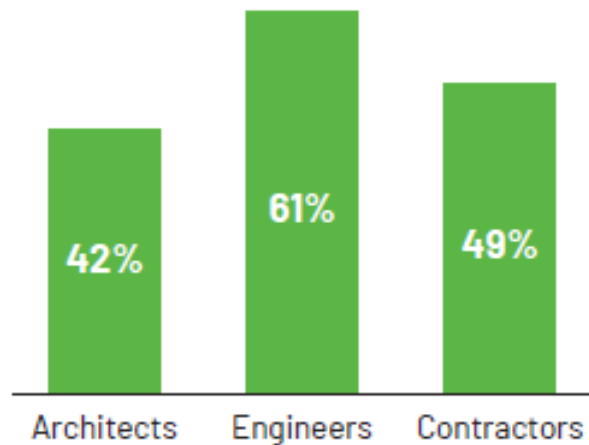


# Importance of Integrating Reduction of Embodied Carbon Into Green Building Projects in the Next Five Years

- Vital Aspect of Future Green Projects
- Only Important for Those Doing Intensive Green Building Projects
- Will Not Have an Important Role

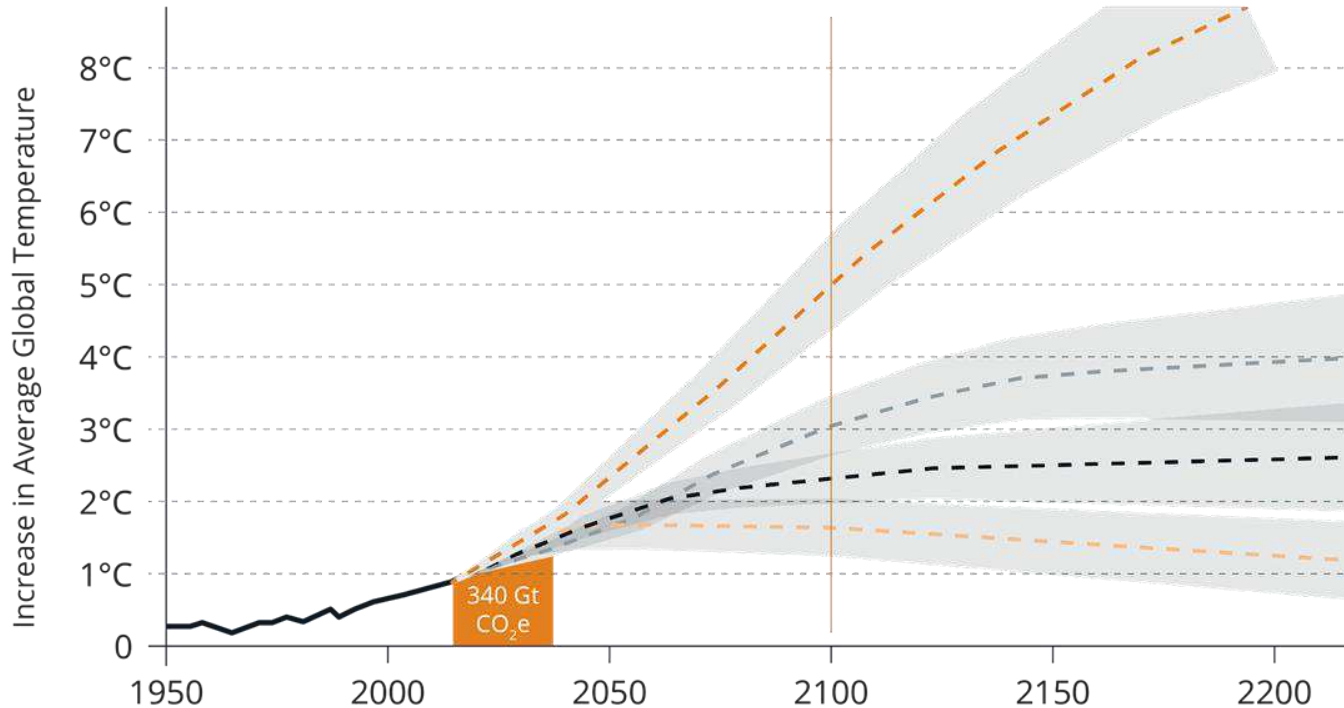


## Vital Aspect of Future Green Projects



# Global CO<sub>2</sub> Challenge

Global temperature projections for various scenarios



- RCP8.5**  
Business-as-usual  
2.2 trillion tons carbon
- RCP6.0**  
emissions peak 2080  
1.6 trillion tons carbon
- RCP4.5**  
emissions peak 2040-50  
1.3 trillion tons carbon
- RCP2.6 (1.5°C)**  
0.53 trillion tons carbon  
zero CO<sub>2</sub> emissions ~2050

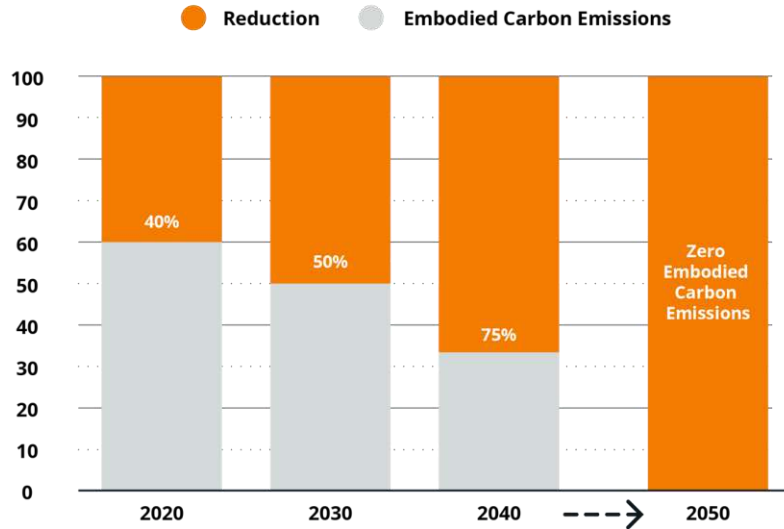
Source: Reproduced with permission from Architecture 2030; Adapted from IPCC Fifth Assessment Report, 2013. Representative Concentration Pathways (RCP), temperature projections for SRES scenarios and the RCPs.

# The Embodied Carbon Challenge

A multi-disciplinary challenge to achieve net zero embodied carbon by 2050

## The 2030 Challenge for Embodied Carbon

*Buildings, Infrastructure, and Materials*




Mission alignment with:



WORLD GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL

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# Top Reasons That Embodied Carbon Is NOT Taken Into Consideration at Project Start

## Architects

- Not a priority for most clients (71%)
- Concerns about increased cost (49%)
- Lack of knowledge of how to measure (44%)

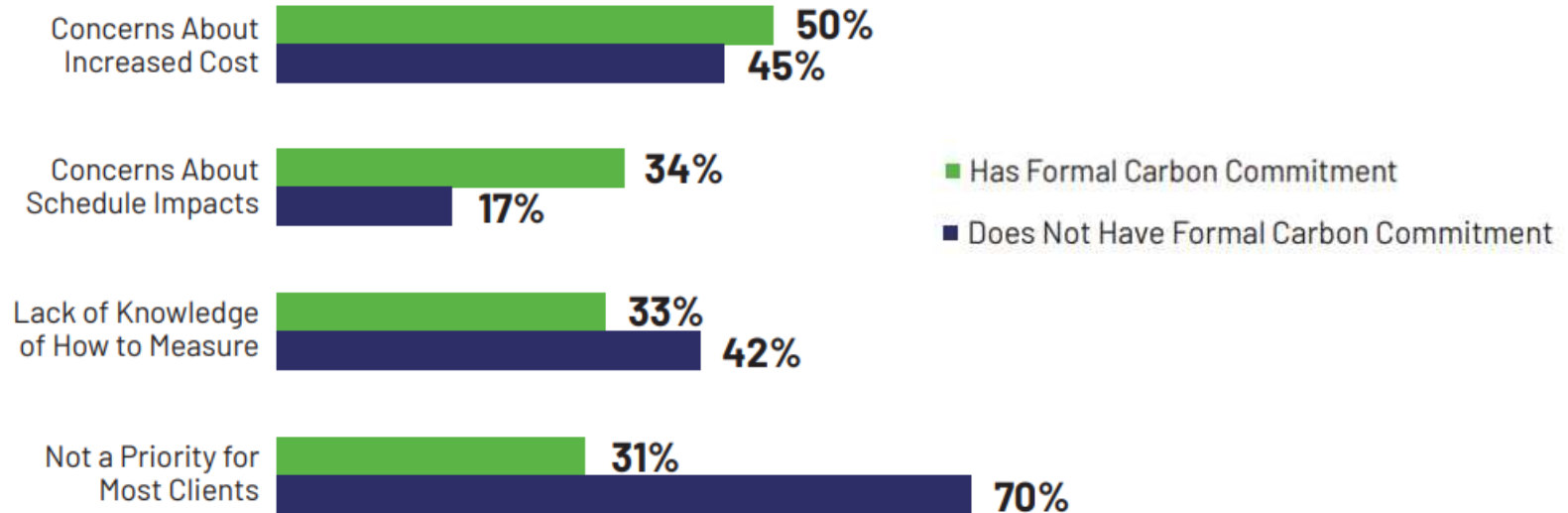
## Engineers

- Not a priority for most clients (37%)
- Concerns about increased cost (37%)
- Concerns about schedule impacts (33%)

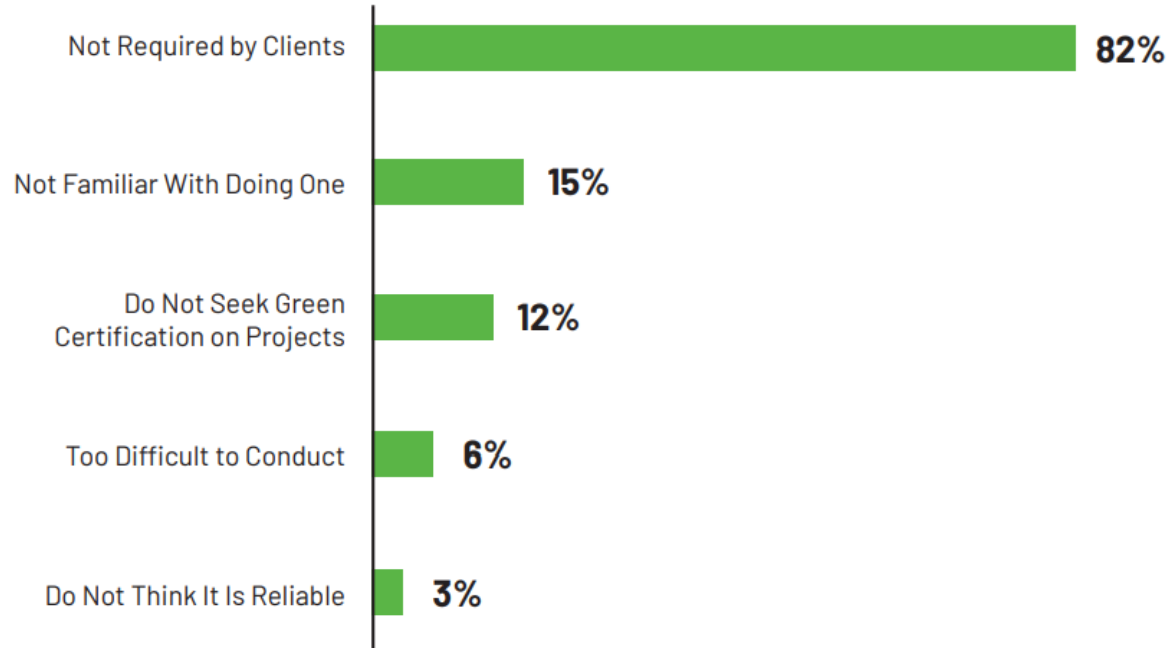
## Contractors

- Concerns about increased cost (58%)
- Lack of knowledge of how to measure (33%)
- Not a priority for most clients (31%)

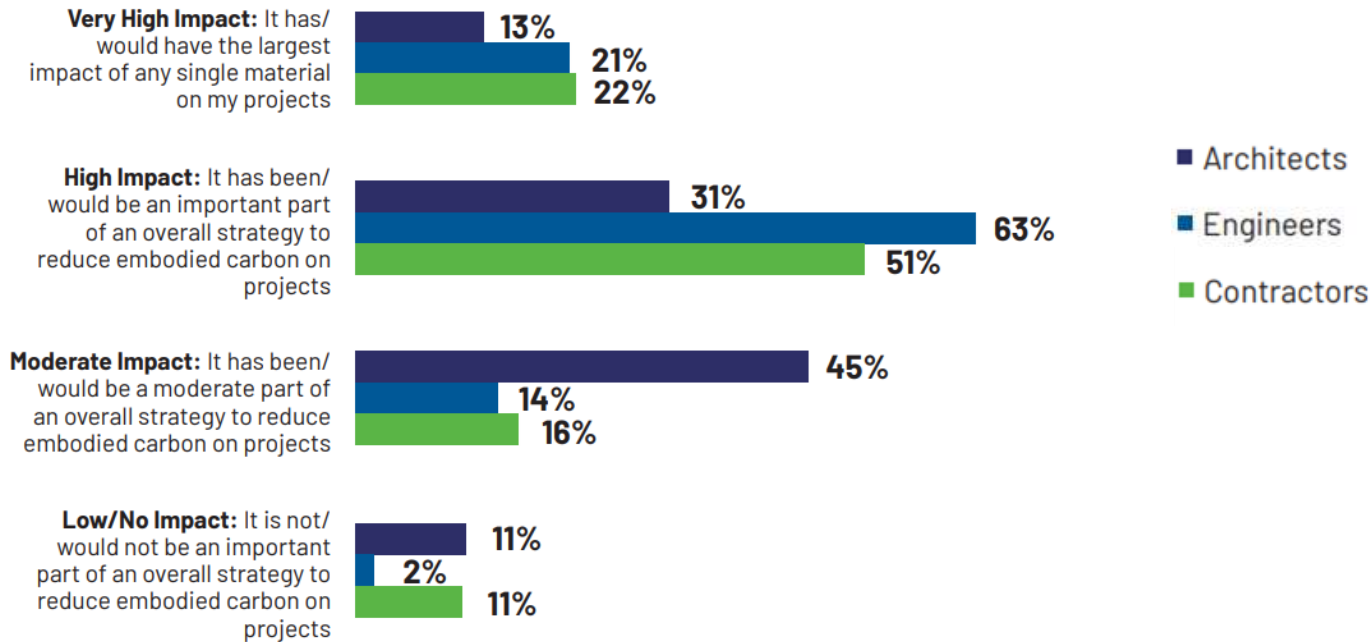
# Top Reasons That Embodied Carbon Is NOT Taken Into Consideration at Project Start



# Reasons That Practitioners Currently Do NOT Conduct a Lifecycle Analysis on Their Projects




# Importance of Reducing Embodied Carbon of Concrete to Overall Embodied Carbon Reduction on Projects

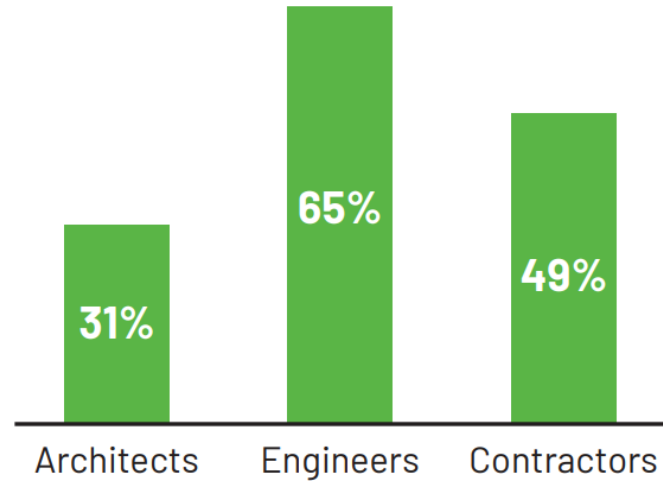




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# Aware of Concrete Products or Companies That Can Reduce the Level of Embodied Carbon

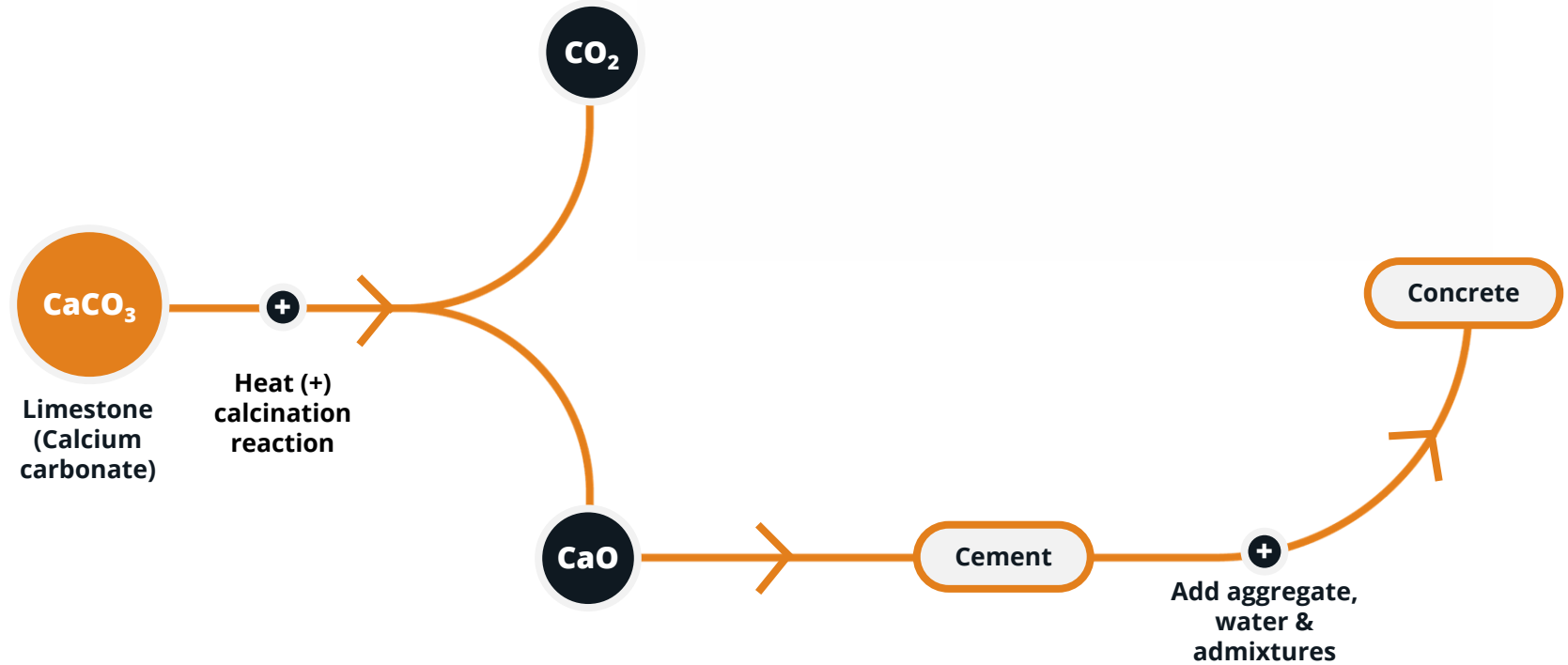


# CarbonCure's Solution for Embodied Carbon

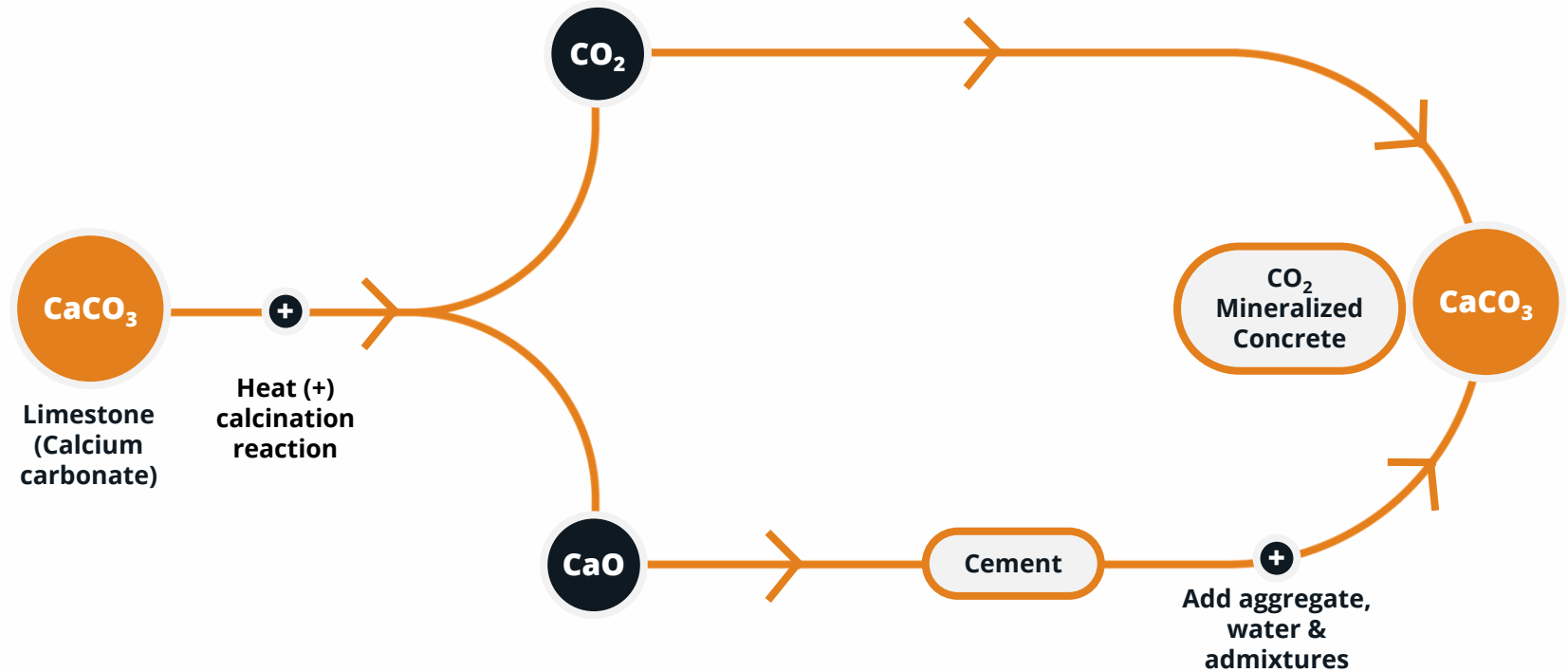
- CarbonCure's CO<sub>2</sub> mineralization technologies offer a proven solution for reducing embodied carbon **today**
- The tech beneficially repurposes CO<sub>2</sub> to produce the same high quality concrete but with a lower carbon footprint.



# Concrete Manufacturing Process



# Converting CO<sub>2</sub> to a Mineral





**CO<sub>2</sub> Injection**

# New Emphasis on Embodied Carbon

Green buildings certification systems now address embodied carbon



## LEED BD+C: New Construction | v4.1 - LEED v4.1 Building Life-Cycle Impact Reduction

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Possible 5 points



### 2 points

Demonstrated impact reduction of at least **5%** in global warming potential (GWP) and 2 other impact categories



### 3 points

Demonstrated impact reduction of at least **10%** in global warming potential and 2 other impact categories



### 4 points

Demonstrated impact reduction of **20%** in global warming potential, at least **10%** in 2 other impact categories, and building reuse and/or use of salvaged materials

## Materials & Resources

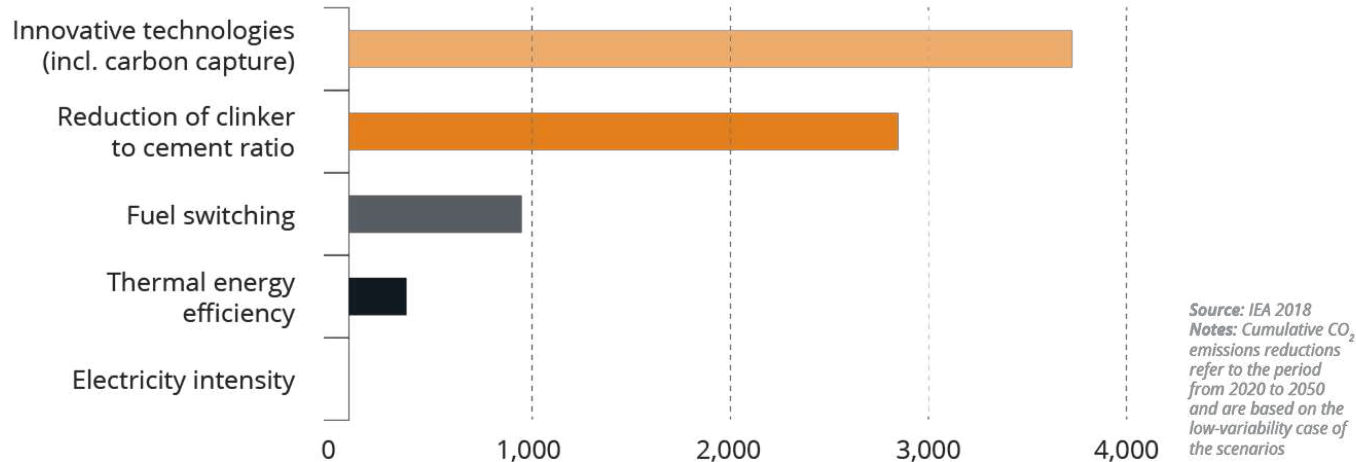
Focuses on minimizing embodied environmental impacts to support a life cycle approach that improves performance

### Option 4: Whole Building Life Cycle Assessment (1-4 points)

Conduct a life cycle assessment and show a 10% impact reduction in embodied CO<sub>2</sub> emissions + 2 other impact categories shown on an environmental product declaration

# IEA Technology Roadmap

## Pathway for reducing emissions in the cement and concrete sector



- 48% of emissions reductions must come from carbon capture and utilization strategies
- 37% of reductions must come from reduced clinker to cement ratios



# Key Takeaways & Questions



Thank you



CARBON  
CURE™

