

PRESERVATION PRIORITIES **TASK FORCE**



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation®

Calculating Carbon Savings from Building Reuse and Retrofit

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Larry Strain, Seigel & Strain Architects

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Practical tools for preservation organizations and advocates

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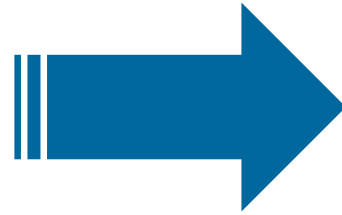
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Coordinate efforts

Align communication

Develop resources

Multiply impact



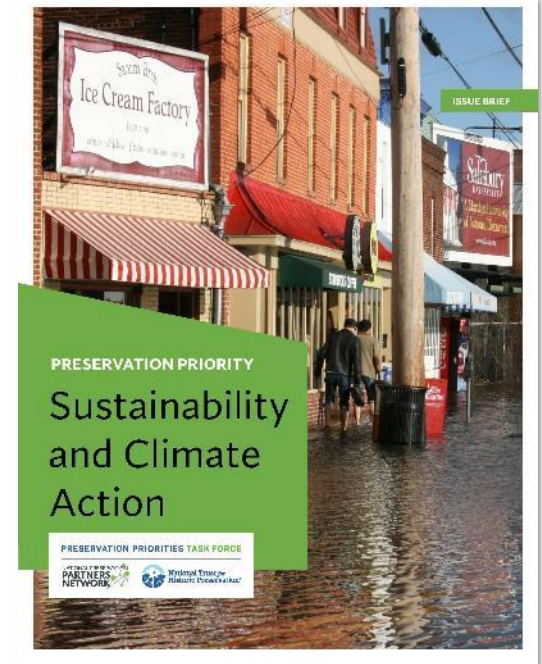
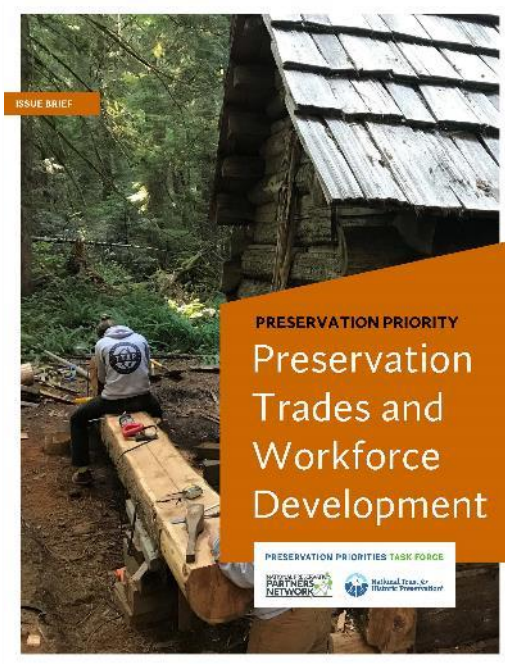
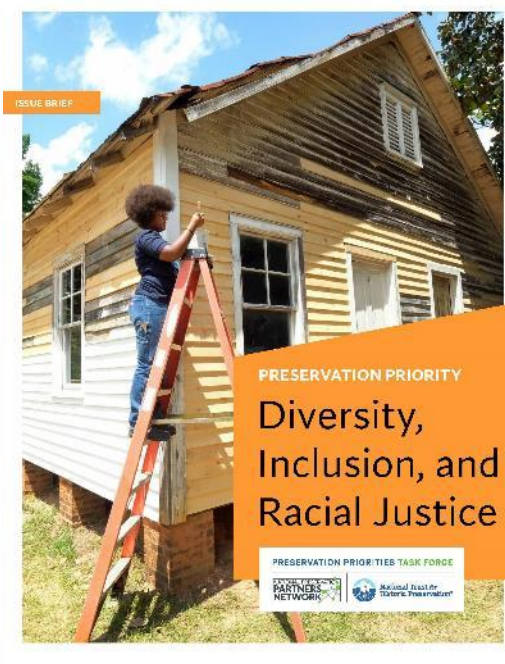
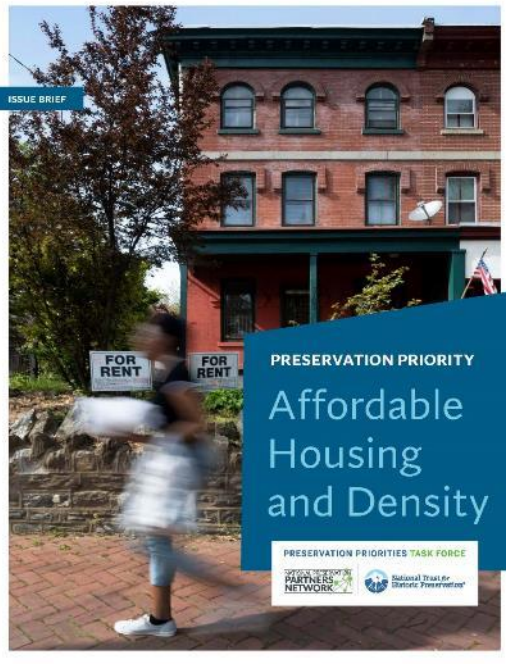
**Stronger
preservation
movement**

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Issue Briefs

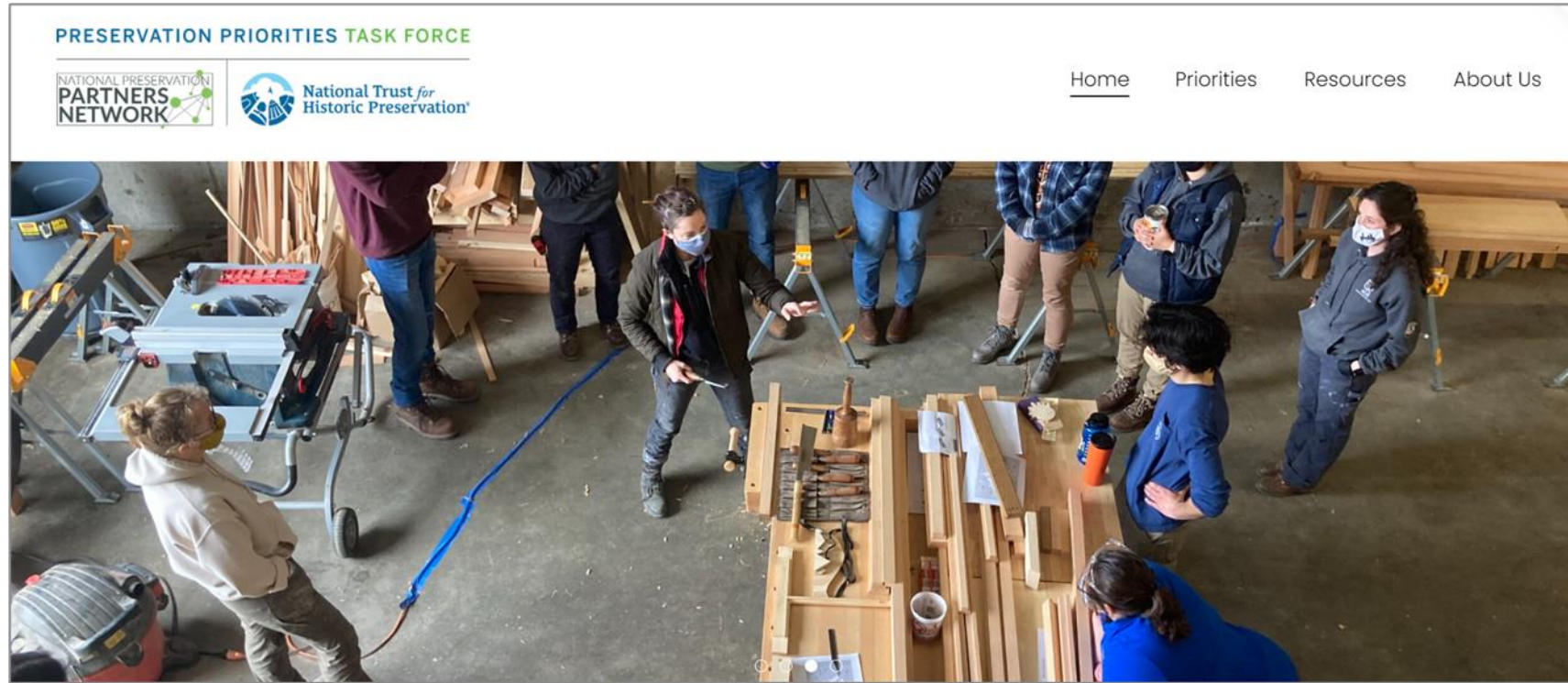


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website: [PreservationPriorities.org](https://www.PreservationPriorities.org)



2 Year partnership

4 Working Groups

50+ Volunteer Advocates

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Supported by

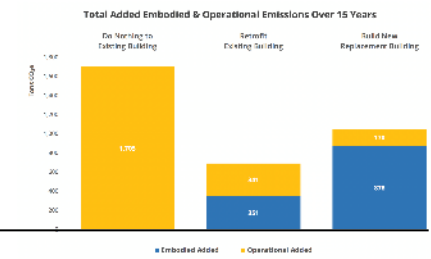
The Moe Family Fund
for Statewide and Local Partners

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C.A.R.E – Carbon Avoided Retrofit Estimator



Calculating Carbon Savings from Building Reuse and Retrofit

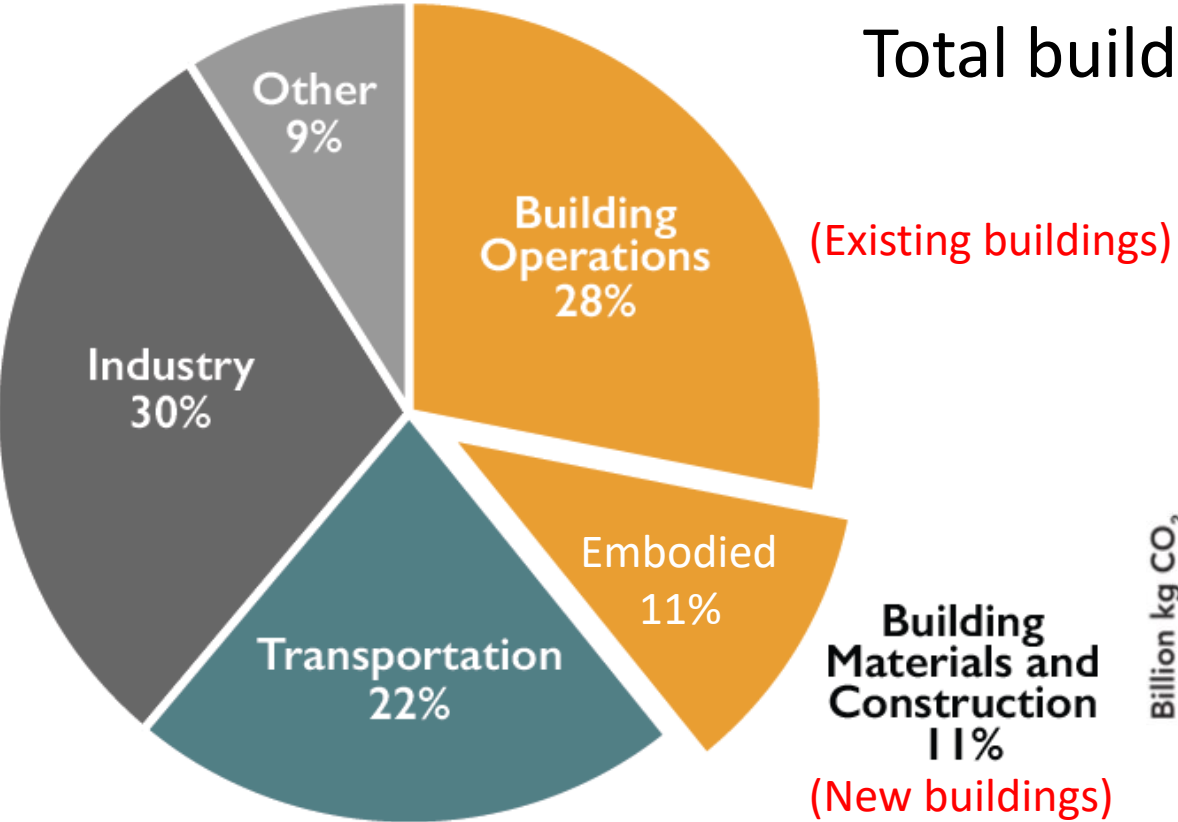
Larry Strain, FAIA

SIEGEL & STRAIN Architects

Lori Ferriss, AIA, PE

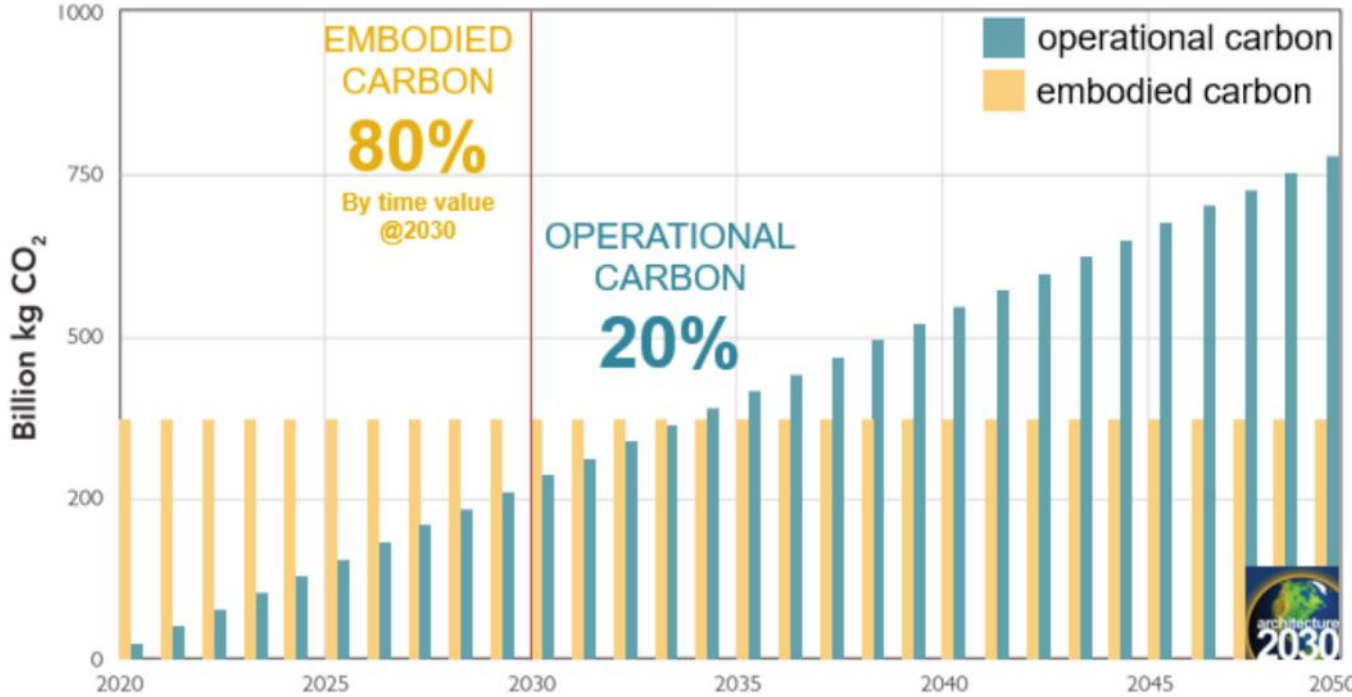
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Global CO₂ Emissions by Sector



Total building emissions: +/- 40%

Time Value of Carbon



Source: © 2018 2030, Inc. / Architecture 2030. All Rights Reserved. Data Sources: UN Environment Global Status Report 2017; EIA International Energy Outlook 2017

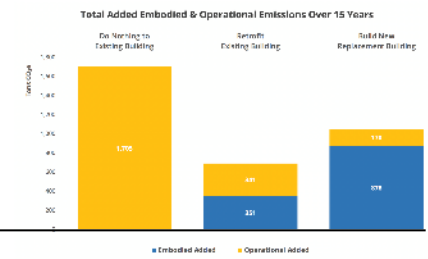
New Buildings built between now and 2050

An aerial night view of a city skyline, likely New York City, showing numerous skyscrapers illuminated with lights. The sky is dark blue, and the city lights create a vibrant, glowing effect. The text "Why Existing Buildings Matter" is overlaid in white on the left side of the image.

Why Existing Buildings Matter

- We have a lot of buildings
- They contain a lot of materials
- They are not very efficient
- We can't afford to replace them all

C.A.R.E – Carbon Avoided Retrofit Estimator

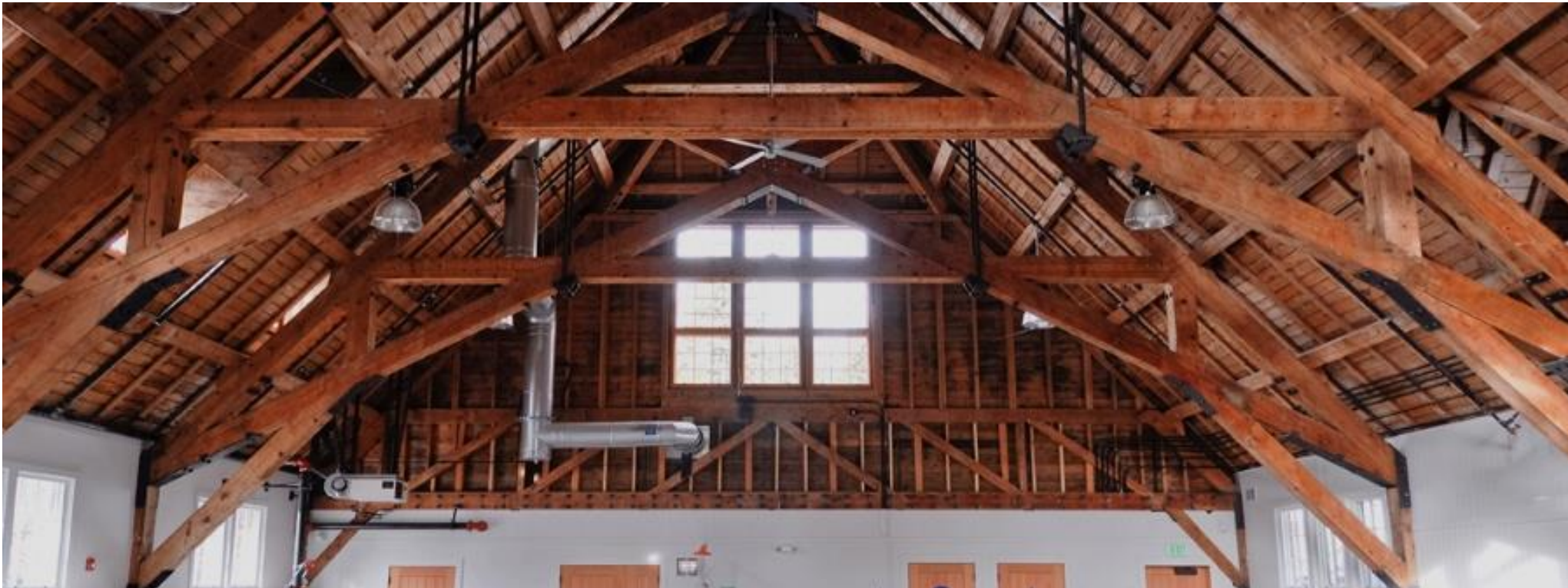


Compares

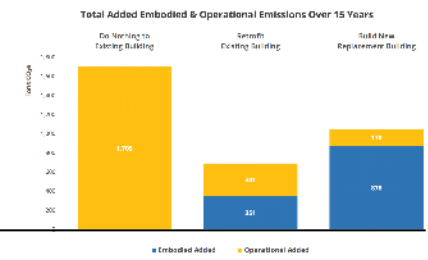
- Embodied carbon
- Operational carbon
- Avoided carbon

Existing, New & Reuse Scenarios

- Existing Baseline Building
- Replace Existing w/New Building (4 types)
- Reuse & Retrofit Existing – (menu of retrofit options)



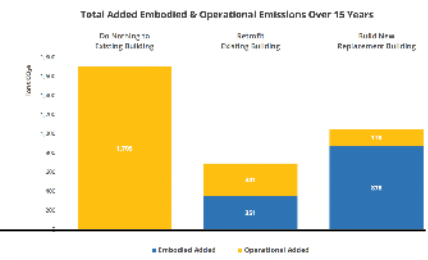
C.A.R.E – Carbon Avoided Retrofit Estimator



Partners

- Architecture 2030
- Carbon Leadership Forum (CLF)
- Zero Net Carbon Collaboration (ZNCC)
- Climate Heritage Network (CHN)
- EHDD and the EPIC Tool

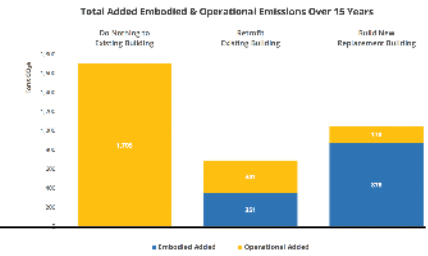
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Data Sources

- Architecture 2030 Zero Tool
- CLF Embodied Carbon studies
- Athena Embodied Carbon Studies
- Residency
- SEAOC Embodied Carbon Study
- Whole Building LCA studies – various sources

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

Mechanical & Electrical: 45

Envelope: 15

EMBODIED PERFORMANCE: CORE & SHELL RENOVATION

Interior: 50

Cladding: 25

Structure: 50

total embodied emissions / m2:

OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Baseline EUI: 85

Performance Target: 17

total operational emissions / m2:

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

Building Type & Structure: 500

total embodied emissions:

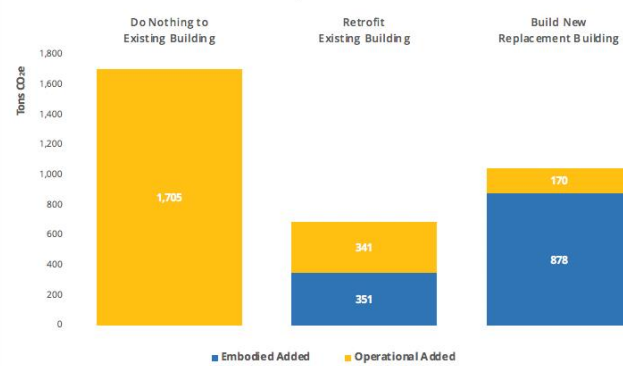
OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE

Baseline EUI: 43

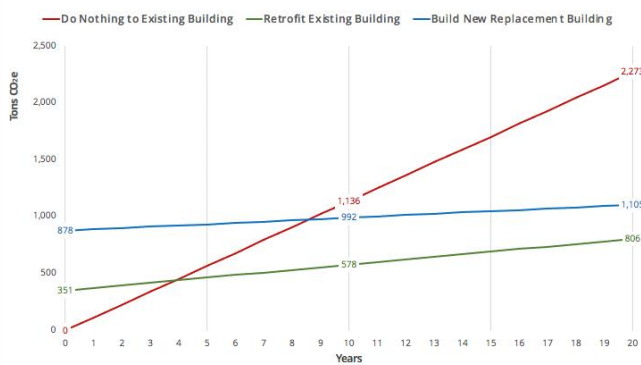
Performance Target: 9

total operational emissions:

Total Added Embodied & Operational Emissions Over 15 Years



Cumulative Emissions Over Time

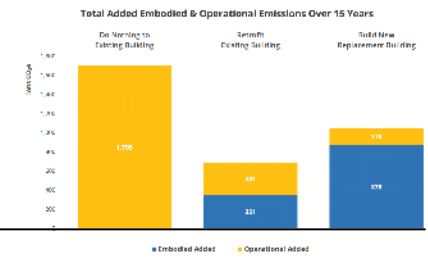


	EMBODIED EMISSIONS (CO2e, cradle to gate)			OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS (CO2e, 15 years)		TOTAL EMISSIONS
	Added kg/m2	Added Tons	Total Tons	EUI (kBtu/sf-yr)	Added Tons	Total Tons
Do Nothing	0	0	0	85	1,705	1,705
Retrofit Existing	210	351	351	17	341	692
Build New Replacement	525	878	878	9	170	1,048

User Interface:

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

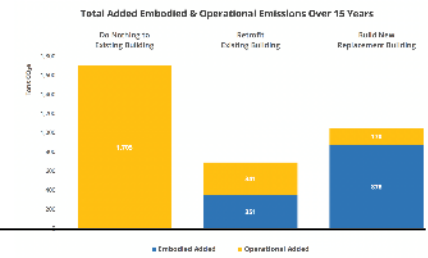
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Building Retrofit - Embodied Carbon

Building Retrofit - Embodied Carbon			
Structure Light / Heavy	Envelope Low / High Carbon Materials	Interiors Residential / Commercial	MEP Standard / High-Performance
No Upgrade	No Upgrade	No Upgrade	No Upgrade
Minor Reinforcing / Repair Major Reinforcing / Repair	Minor: Insulation, Air sealing	Minor: Replace 25%	Minor: New lighting & Controls
Minor Replacement Major Replacement	Medium: New Roof: Medium: New Windows:	Medium: Replace 50%	Medium: New equipment / reuse distribution
Minor Lateral Reinforcing Major Lateral Reinforcing	New Façade: Major	Major: Replace: 100%	Major: New Systems
Calculated as a percentage of new structural system. Choose Light / Heavy structural systems	Calculated as a percentage of new envelope elements, accounts for carbon intensity & wall:floor area ratio	Calculated as a percentage of new interiors accounts for carbon intensity of residential vs commercial	Calculated as a percentage of new HVAC system, accounts for standard or high- performance system

C.A.R.E – Carbon Avoided Retrofit Estimator

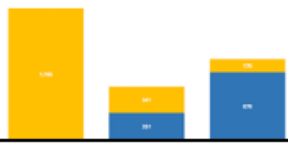


New Building - Embodied Carbon

Light - Wood Framed Building	Mixed – Wood + Concrete / Steel	Mid-Rise Concrete /Steel	High Carbon Buildings
250 kg/m ²	350 kg/m ²	500 kg/m ²	650 kg/m ²



C.A.R.E.



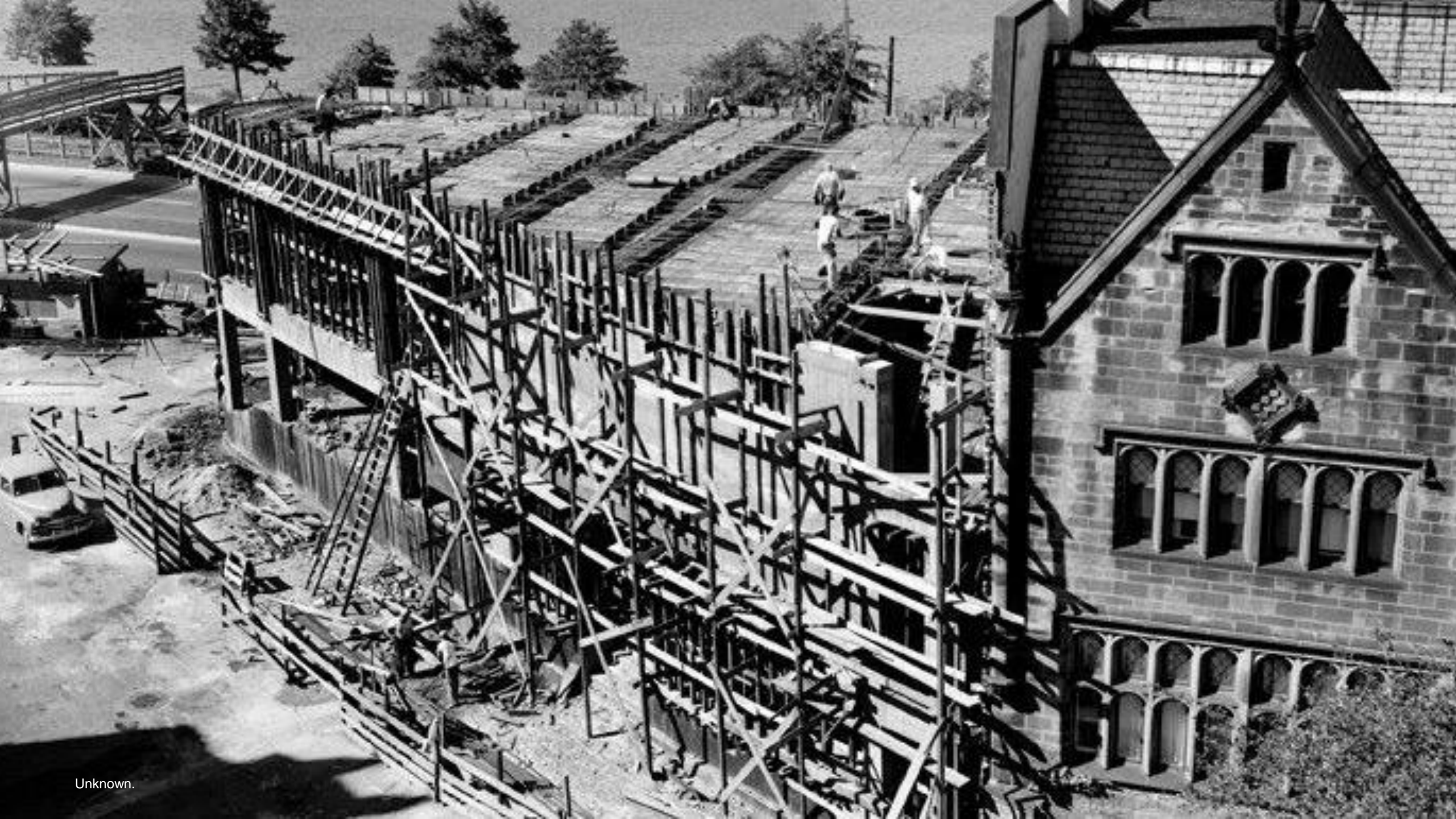
Carbon Avoided : Retrofit Estimator

Operational Carbon

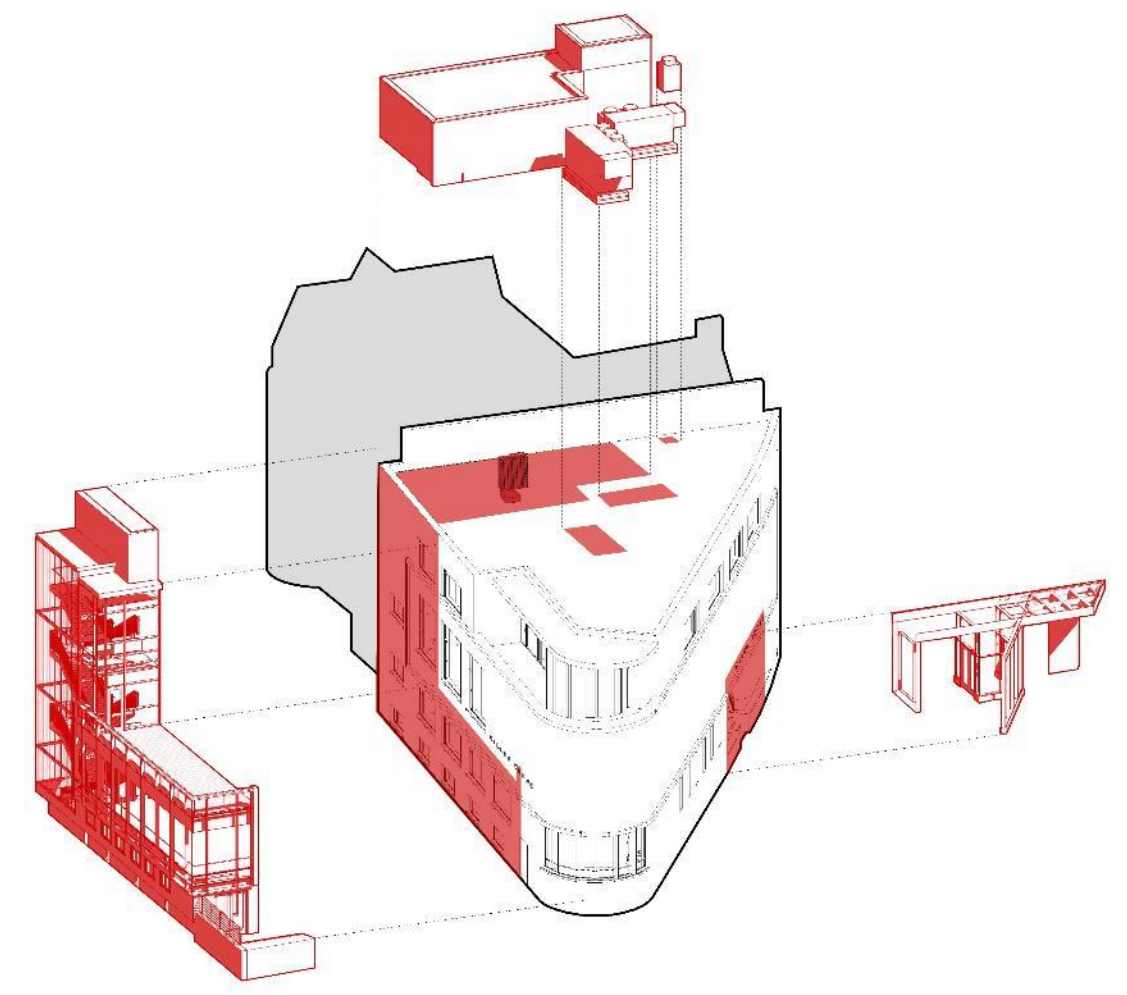
Existing Building Estimate	Retrofit Building Target	New Building Target
Baseline – Zero tool	Baseline - no efficiency upgrade	Baseline: Code Average
Or enter your own	20% better than baseline	20% better than baseline
	40% better than baseline	40% better than baseline
	60% better than baseline	60% better than baseline
	80% better than baseline	80% better than baseline
	Net Zero Carbon	Net Zero Carbon

Building Example

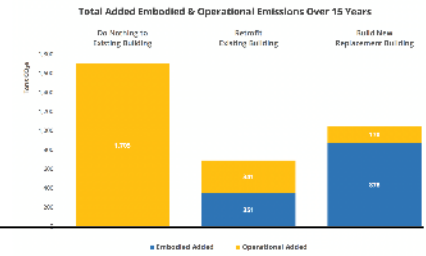




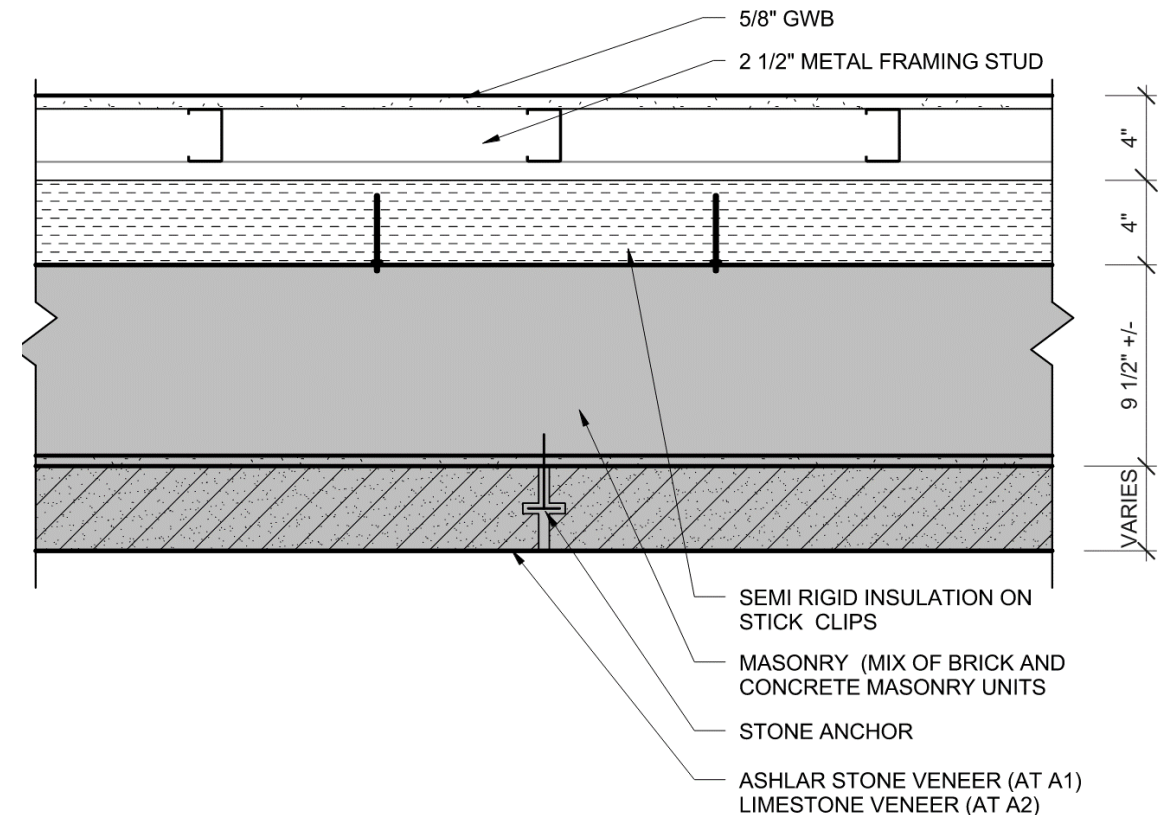
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C.A.R.E – Carbon Avoided Retrofit Estimator



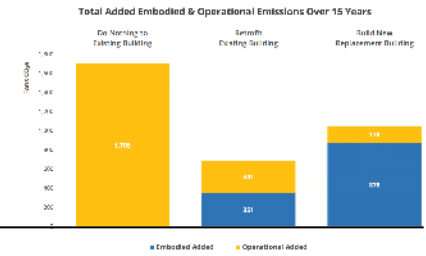
- Scope of renovation included:
 - New windows with high-performance glazing
 - Insulating interior face of exterior walls
 - Roof insulation
 - New VRF units and high-efficiency condensing boilers
- Preserved 86% of structure and enclosure
- Reduced operational energy use by 70%



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

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
Massachusetts

Zip Code
2115

Primary Use Type
Education

Existing Building Floor Area
18,000 sf

Operational Timeline
15 years

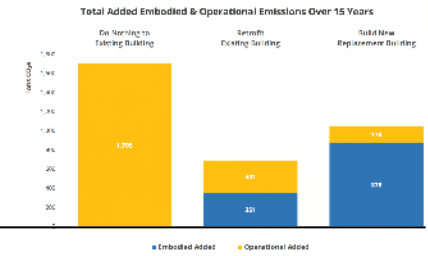
key climate dates: 2030 & 2040

CBECS Climate Zone Mapping

CBECS Use Type

Total Carbon Emissions

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RETROFIT

Primary Building Use

Office	20,000 ft2
Retail	5,000 ft2

Add another use type?

OPERATIONAL ENERGY & EMISSIONS

Upgrading to all electric systems and equipment?

Generating/procuring enough renewable energy to meet total energy demand?

Calculate Energy & Emissions Baselines

Baseline EUI	73 kBtu/sf-yr
Baseline Emissions Intensity	74 kg/m2-yr
EUI Target	40% Better than Baseline 44 kBtu/sf-yr
Emissions Target	80% Better than Baseline 15 kg/m2-yr

EMBODIED EMISSIONS

Structural Upgrade	Heavy <input checked="" type="radio"/> Light <input type="radio"/>	Minor: 25% new	50 kg/m2
Envelope Upgrade	High EC <input checked="" type="radio"/> Low EC <input type="radio"/>	Medium: New Roof - underlayment, rigid insulation, membrane	20 kg/m2
Interior Upgrade		Minor: 25% New	10 kg/m2
MEP Upgrade	Standard <input checked="" type="radio"/> High Perf. <input type="radio"/>	Major - new HVAC and electric system	50 kg/m2

total embodied emissions intensity **130 kg/m2**

Size of Renovated Building for Total Emissions

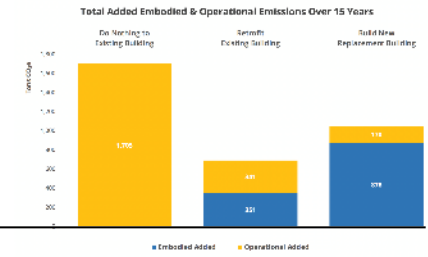
Operational Energy and Emissions

Embodied Carbon of Renovation Select from drop down menus

Drop down menu

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

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NEW BUILDING

Primary Building Use

Office	20,000 ft2
Retail	5,000 ft2

Add another use type?

OPERATIONAL ENERGY & EMISSIONS

Upgrading to all electric systems and equipment?

Generating/procuring enough renewable energy to meet total energy demand?

Calculate Energy & Emissions Baselines

Baseline EUI	66 kBtu/sf-yr
Baseline Emissions Intensity	67 kg/m2-yr

EUI Target: 60% Better than Baseline

Emissions Target: Zero Carbon

EMBODIED EMISSIONS

Building Type & Structure

total embodied emissions intensity

Size of New Building for Total Emissions

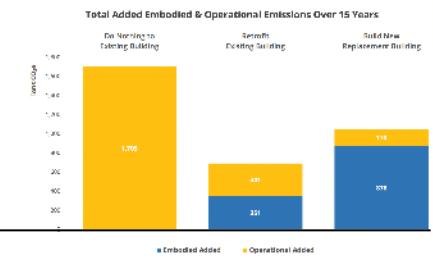
Operational EUI of New Building
Operational Emissions

Embodied Carbon of New Building
Select from drop down menus

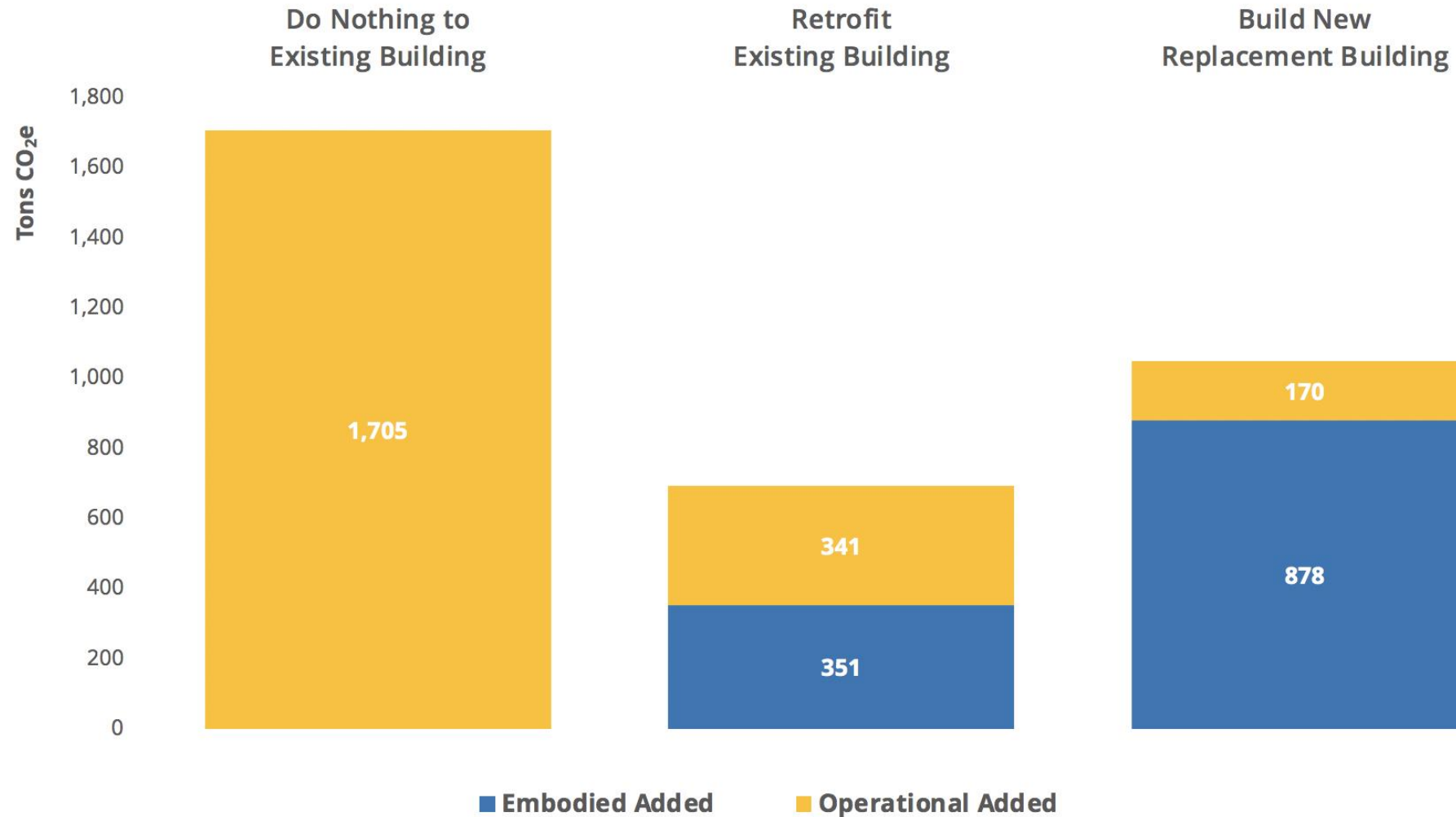
Drop down menu

- Light
- Mixed
- Mid Rise**
- High Carbon

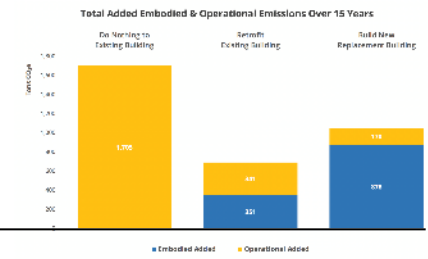
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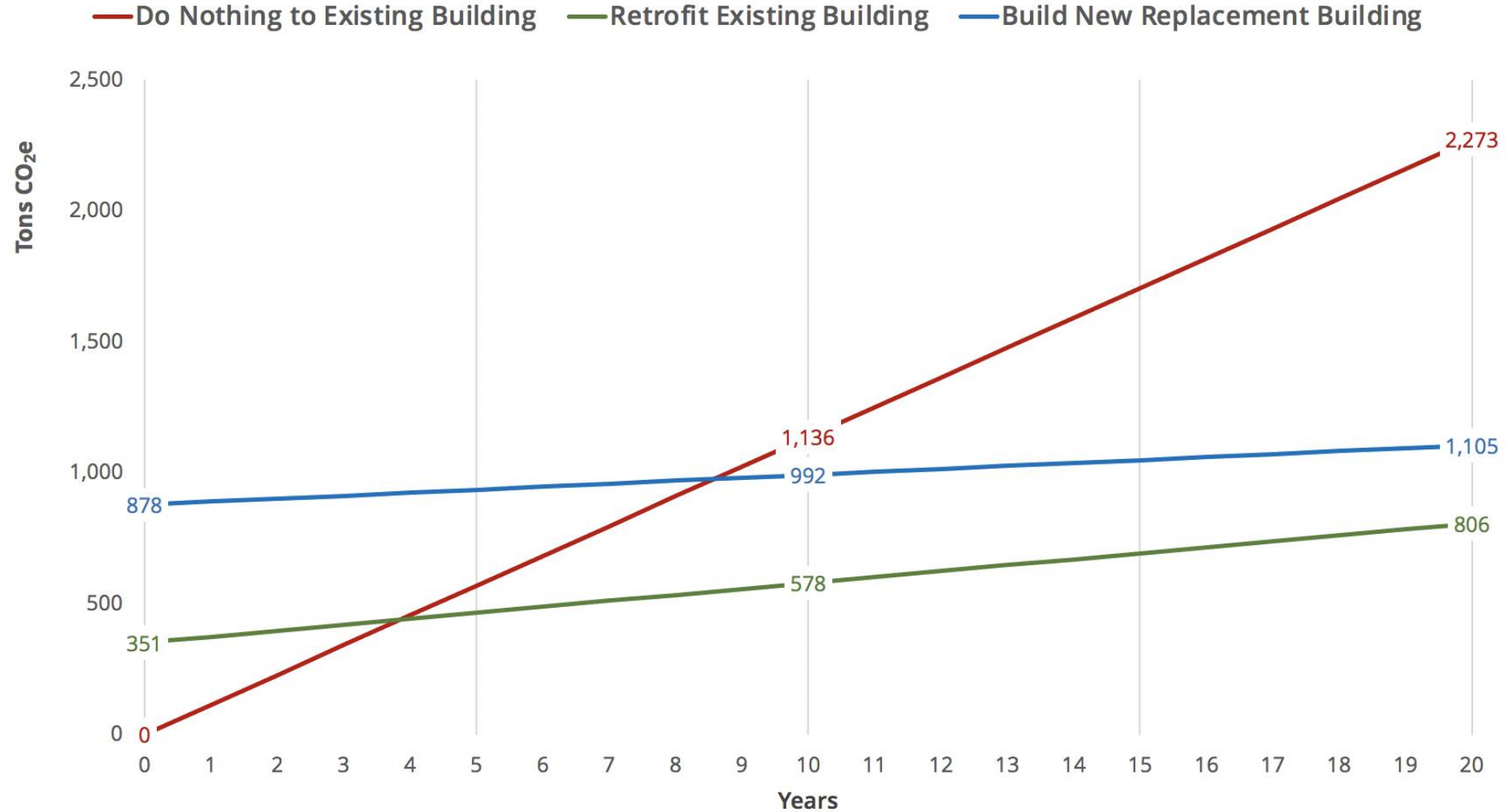
Total Added Embodied & Operational Emissions Over 15 Years



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Cumulative Emissions Over Time



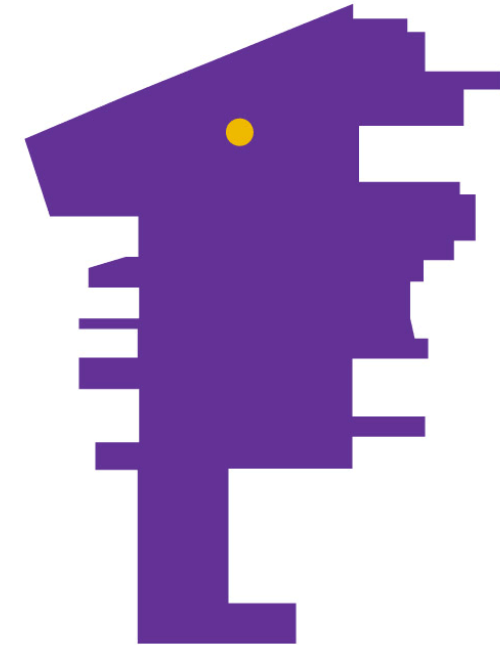
Portfolio Example



Historic Campus Growth



Photo credit: Agnes Scott Special Collections

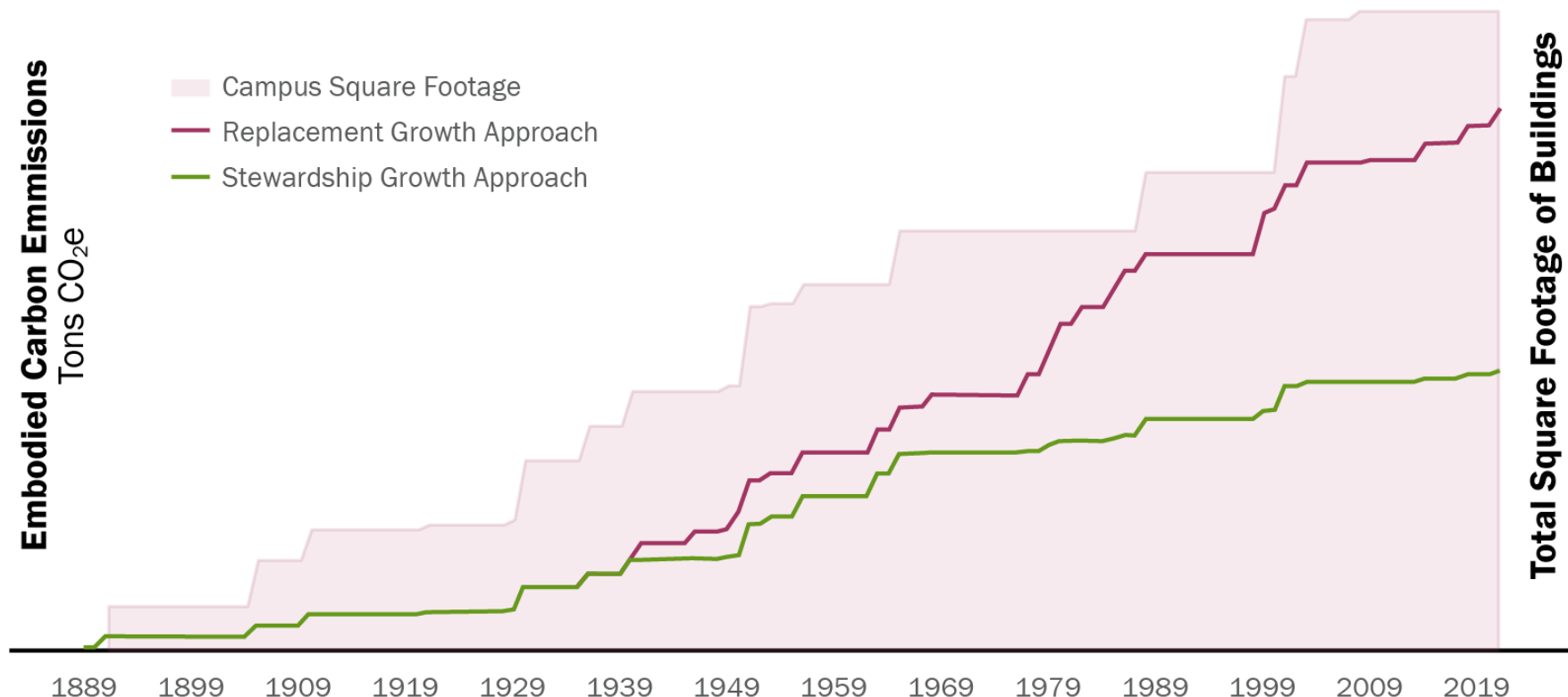


1891

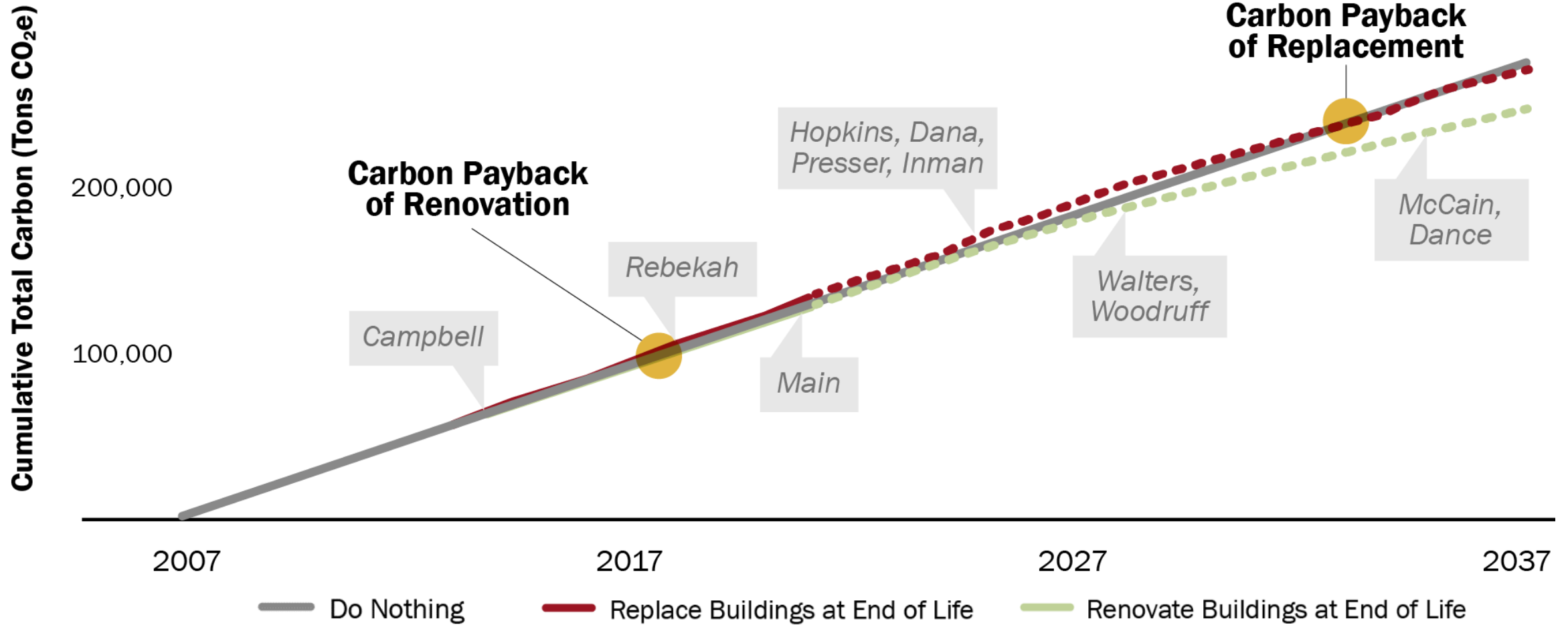
Approach to Growth 1889 - 2021

Over its history, the college's stewardship approach to growth has **avoided embodied emissions equivalent to 34,000 metric tons of CO₂e.**

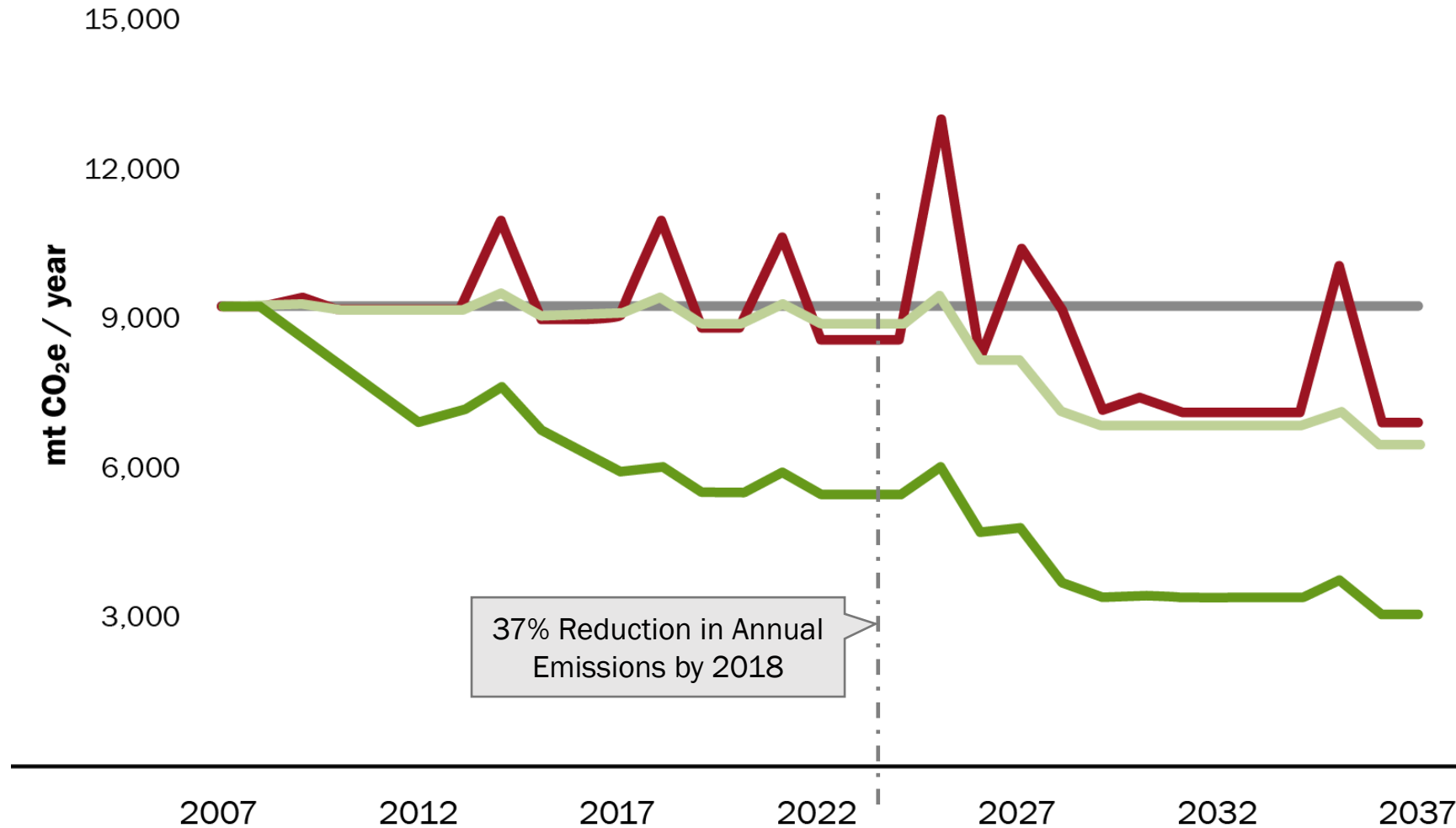
It would take a **forest the size of the entire Agnes Scott campus more than 400 years** to sequester that much CO₂.



Campus Scale Cumulative Emissions



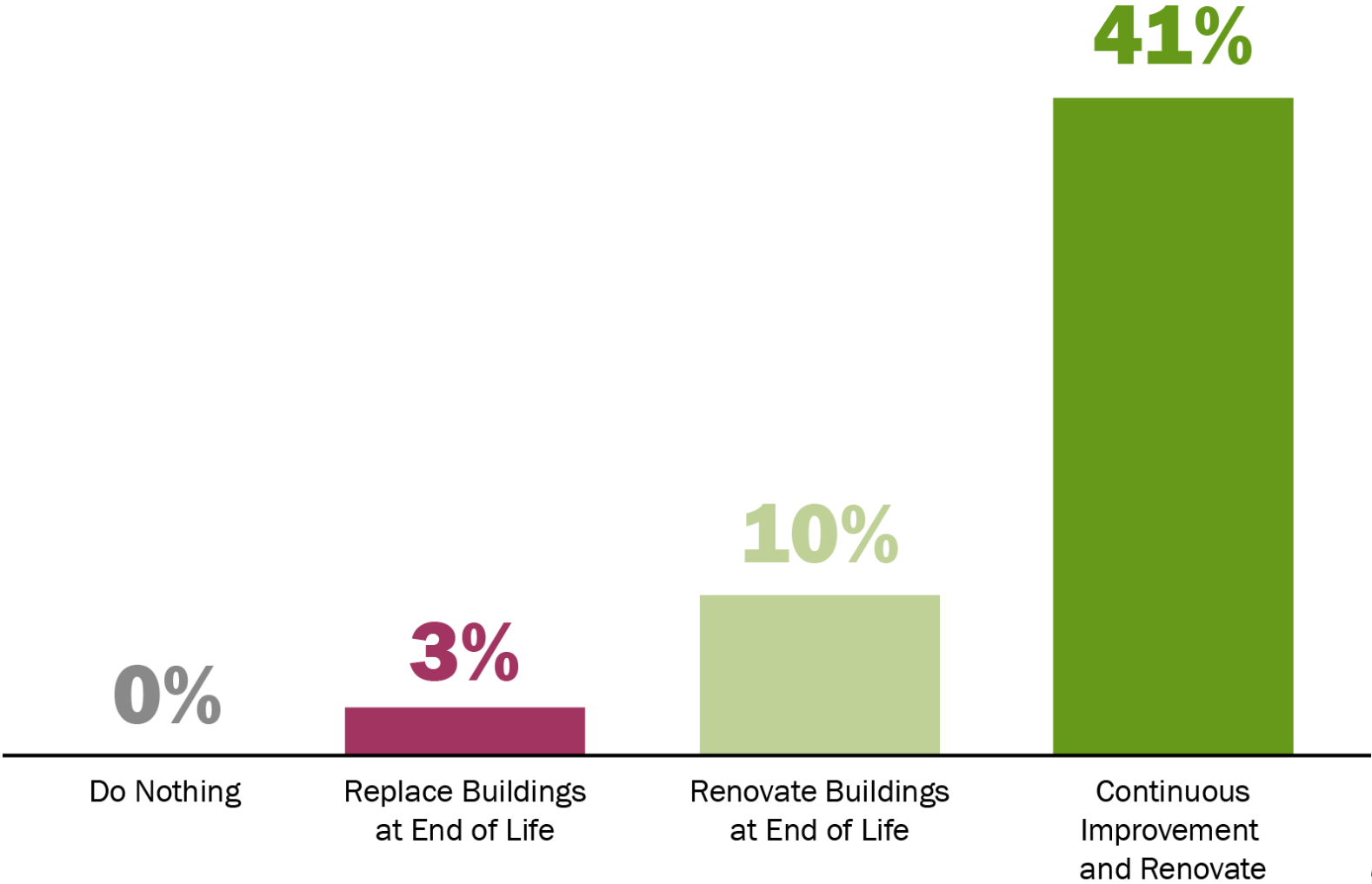
Campus Scale Annual Carbon Emissions 2007-2037



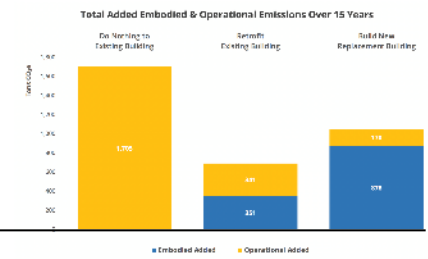
37% Reduction in Annual Emissions by 2018

- Do Nothing
- Replace Buildings at End of Life
- Renovate Buildings at End of Life
- Continuous Improvement and Renovate

Total Reduction in Carbon Emissions 2007-2037



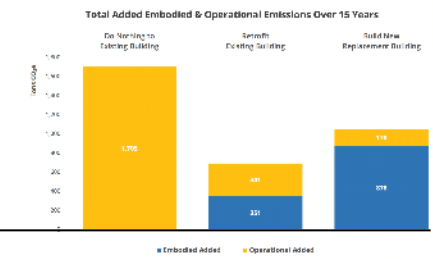
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Potential Future Development

- Independent renovation and addition inputs
- Saved scenarios for comparison
- Manual emissions factors and fuel source options
- Expanded drop-down options
- Geographic expansion
- Portfolio function

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Thank you

Larry Strain, FAIA

SIEGEL & STRAIN Architects

Lori Ferriss, AIA, PE

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ARCHITECTURE / PLANNING / PRESERVATION

Learn More

Preservation Priorities Task Force: [PreservationPriorities.org](https://www.preservationpriorities.org)

PPTF Climate Justice webinar: [Early May](#)

Forum webinar series: <https://forum.savingplaces.org/forum-webinar>

C.A.R.E. Tool Updates: <https://www.znccollaboration.org/care>

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Historic Preservation®

More about the PPTF:

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Preservation Priorities Task Force

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