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(Thank you Ann Reiley Jones for sending this to me to share with the group)

https://rmi.org/low-cost-high-value-opportunities-to-reduce-embodied-carbon-in-buildings/

Low-Cost, High-Value Opportunities to Reduce Embodied Carbon in Buildings

August 4, 2021 | By Matt Jungclaus

Buildings account for at least 39 percent of energy-related global carbon emissions on an annual basis. At least one-quarter of these emissions result from embodied carbon, or the carbon emissions associated with building materials and construction. The solutions for addressing embodied carbon in buildings have not been widely studied in the United States, leaving a significant knowledge gap for engineers, architects, contractors, policymakers, and building owners. Further, there is little information about the cost-effectiveness of reducing embodied carbon in buildings.

RMI's new report, *Reducing Embodied Carbon in Buildings: Low-Cost, High-Value Opportunities*, helps fill this knowledge gap. The report demonstrates low- or no-cost options to reduce embodied carbon in buildings and provides design and construction strategies that can help limit a project's embodied carbon. The case studies showcased in the report show an embodied carbon savings potential of 24 percent to 46 percent at cost premiums of less than 1 percent. Current practice indicates that we can achieve these reductions by specifying and substituting material alternatives with lower embodied carbon during the design and specification process. Far greater reductions are possible through a whole-building design approach.

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