# The Embodied Carbon Story of a Green Builder

Talia Dreicer

TC Legend Homes/Powerhouse Designs



# TC Legend Homes & Powerhouse Designs

- +35 High Performance Homes built since 2009
- 9-Time DOE Housing Innovation Award (HIA) Winner
- Design & Build Priorities:
  - Resiliency
  - Affordability
  - Indoor Air Quality
  - Comfort and functionality
  - Net Zero or Net Positive Energy
  - Embodied Carbon



### What is Embodied Carbon?



### Why Do We Care About Embodied Carbon?



Global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by sector. Adapted from the UNEP 2019 Global Status Report and OurWorldInData.org, based on data from Climate Watch and the World Resources Institute.

© Copyright 2020, Carbon Leadership Forum



Calculate Embodied Carbon

Create Company Baseline Set Emission Reduction Goals Explore Alternative Materials

### **Establishing an Embodied Carbon Baseline**



### **TC Legend Homes Typical House**



## TC Legend Homes Embodied Carbon Baseline



#### Embodied Carbon Project Totals



Material Carbon Intensity

Material Carbon Instensity (Total Area)

Material Carbon Intensity (Conditioned Area)

# TC Legend Homes Embodied Carbon Baseline



Footings, Slabs & Foundation Walls, & Structural Elements

- Exterior Walls & Exterior Wall Cladding
- Windows
- Interior Walls, Floors, & Ceilings
- Roof
- Garage

#### Baseline Material Carbon Emissions by Component



- Footings, Slabs & Foundation Walls, & Structural Elements
- Exterior Walls & Exterior Wall Cladding

Windows

- Interior Walls, Floors, & Ceilings
- Roof
- Garage

# TC Legend Homes Embodied Carbon Reduction Goals

#### • Base:

Average 5% reduction in MCI by 2025 projects Average 15% reduction in MCI by 2028 projects Average 30% reduction in MCI by 2031 projects Average 50% reduction in MCI by 2035 Net zero carbon for annual projects by 2035

#### • Stretch:

Average 15% reduction in MCI by 2025 projects Net zero carbon for annual projects by 2032

#### • Dream:

Average 35% reduction in MCI by 2028 projects Net zero carbon for annual projects by 2030





### **High Performance Building**



### **New Frontier Building**



### **Considering Material Changes**



# Considering Material Changes

- Reduce concrete & foam where possible
- Alternative internal insulation & drywall
- Consider carbon storing, biogenic materials
- Prioritorize lower carbon alternatives
  - Plywood > OSB
  - Timber > GLB > LVL
- Explore on site & local sequestration



### **Implementing Embodied Carbon Reductions**



# Questions?



Contact: talia@tclegendhomes.com https://www.linkedin.com/in/taliadreicer/



# POWERHOUSE

https://powerhouse-designs.com/embodied-carbon-consulting

Powerhouse Designs offers carbon related consulting and embodied calculation services.