



COLORADO
Department of Transportation

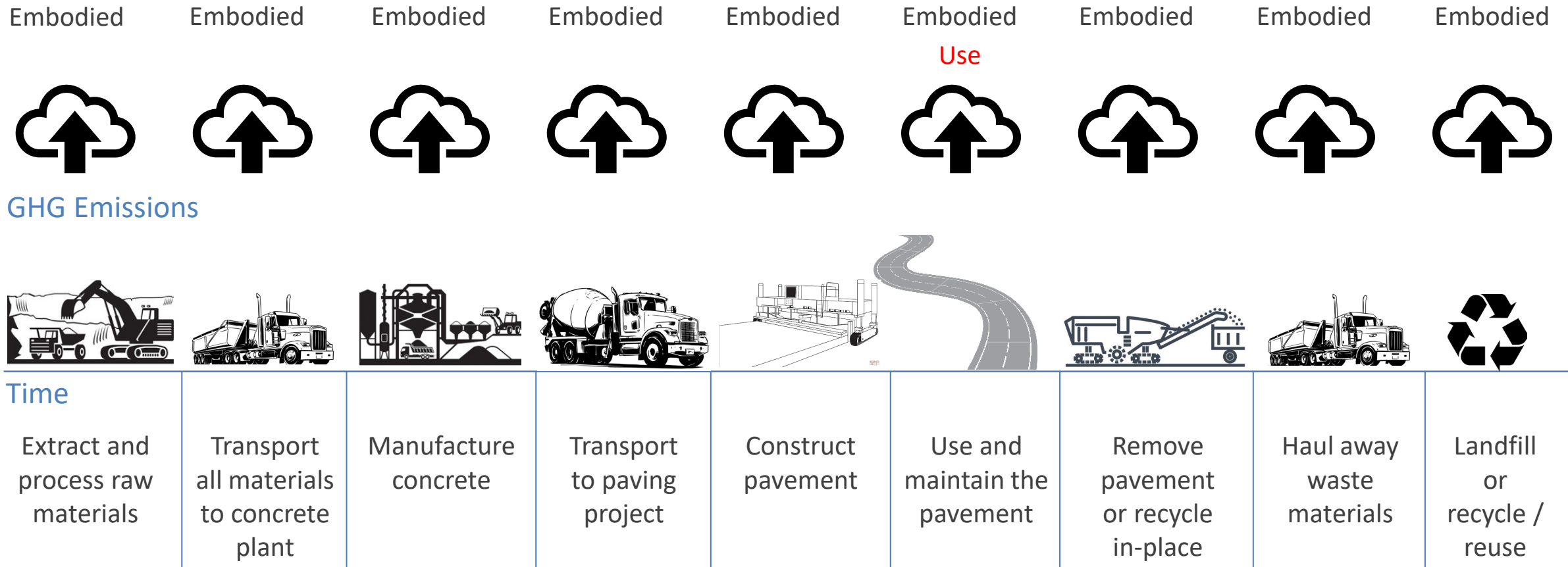
CDOT Industry Stakeholder EPD Workshop

Concrete Industry Perspective



Embodied and Operational (Use) GHG Emissions

Concrete Pavement Life-Cycle



GHG Emissions

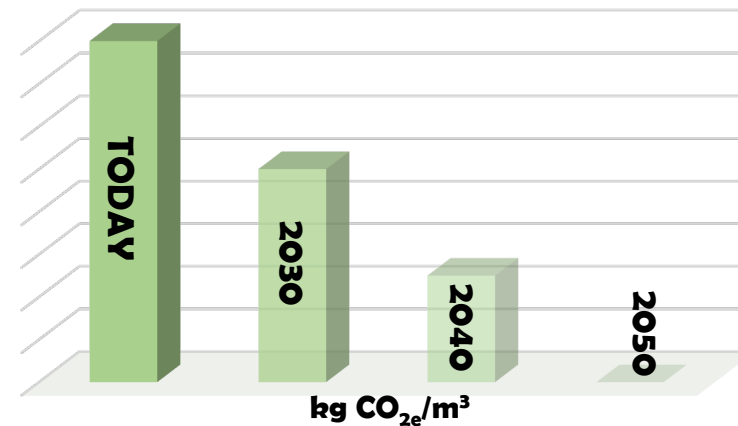
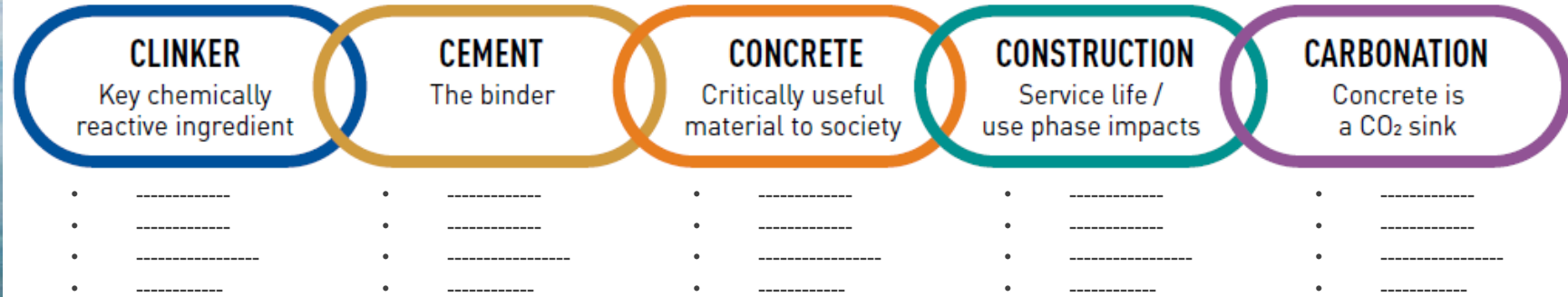
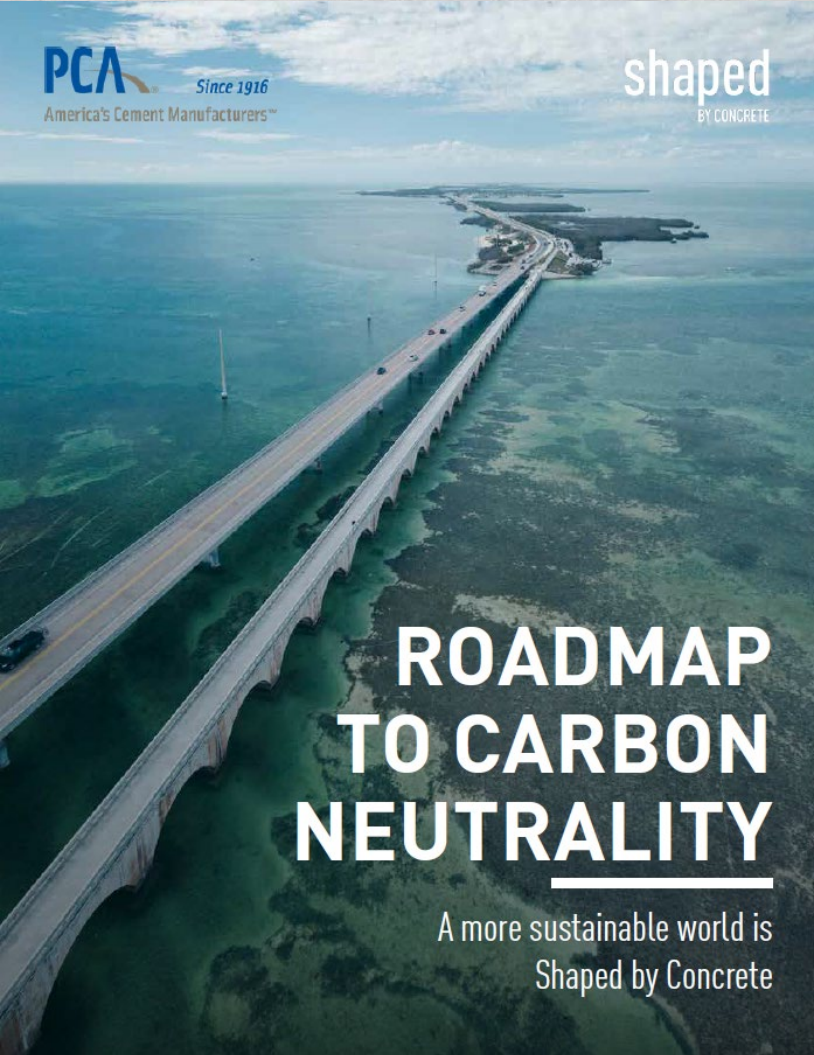
Time

Cradle-to-Gate (A1-A3)

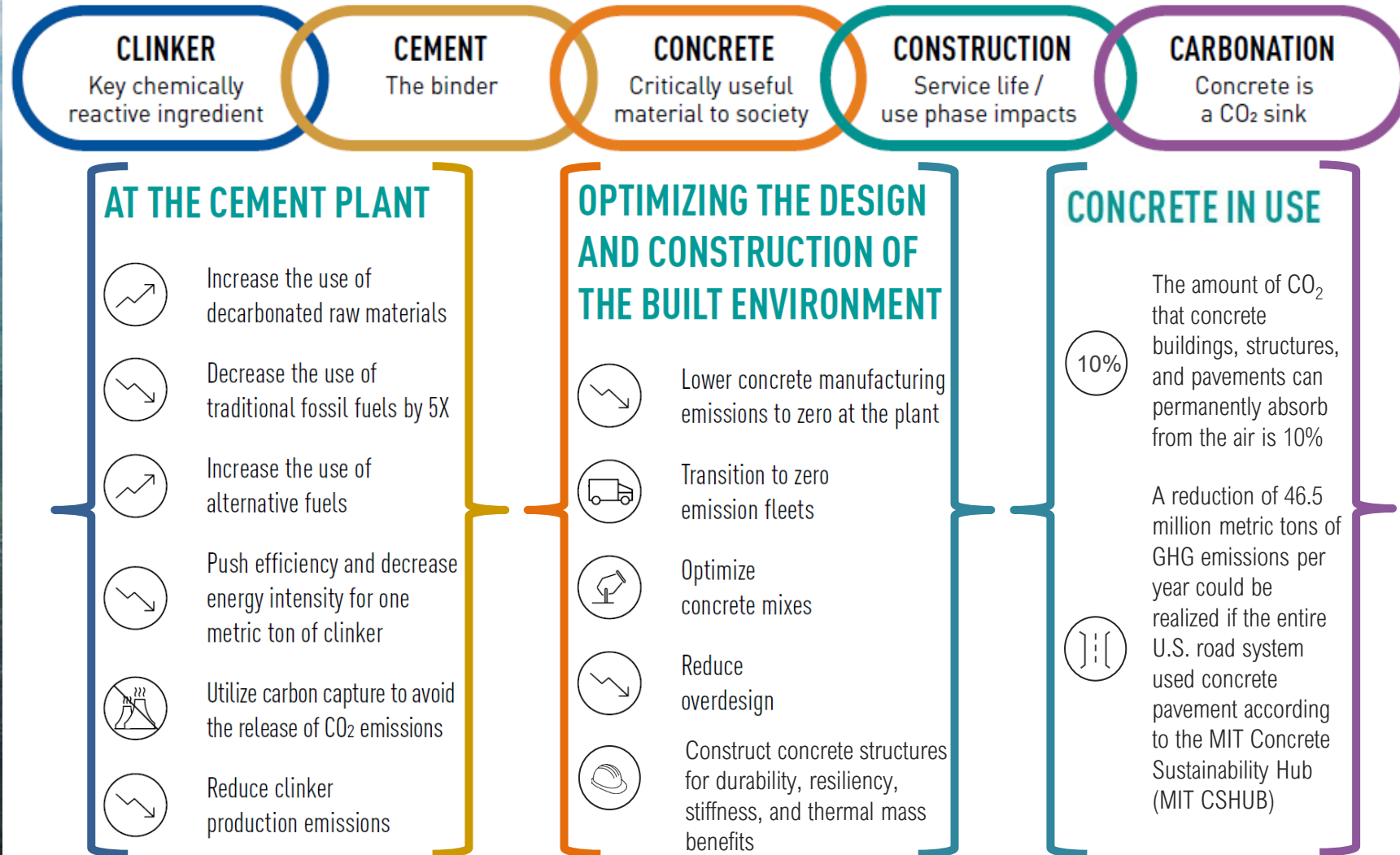
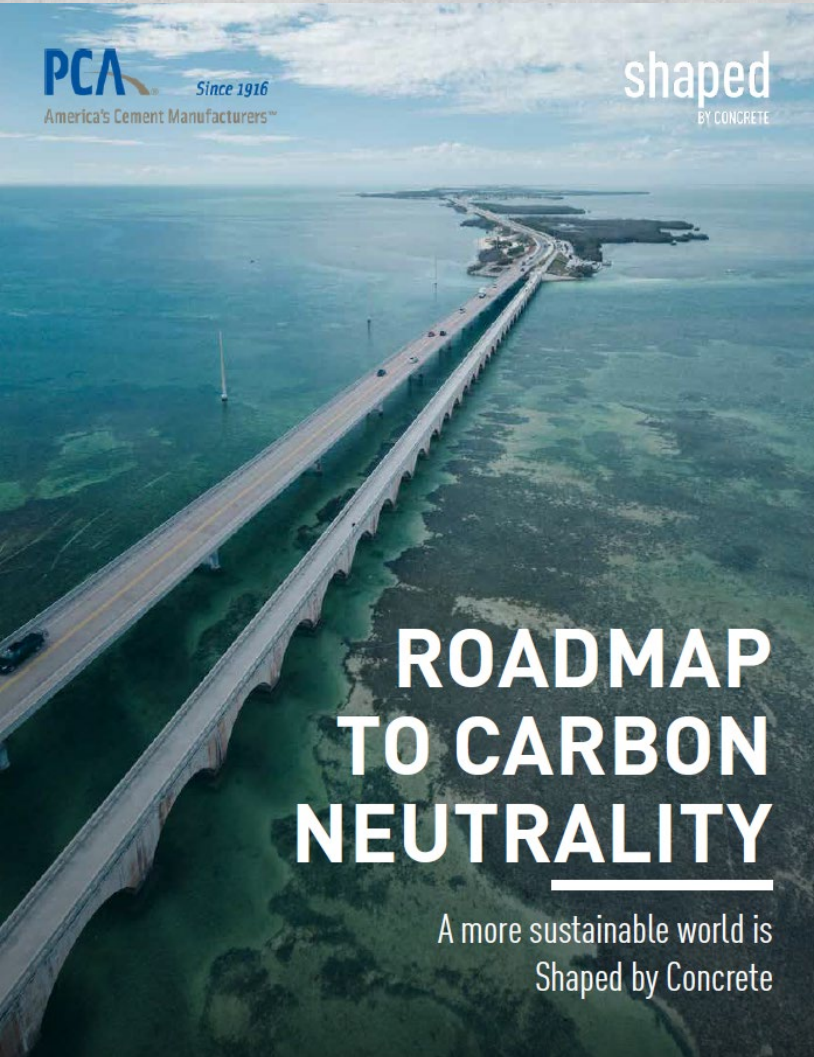
Cradle-to-Grave

Based on an illustration by Stacy Smedley (www.climategifs.com)

Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality: Cement & Concrete



Roadmap to Carbon Neutrality: Cement & Concrete



Reducing Concrete's Embodied Carbon Emissions (In-Use to Near-Term)

- **Optimized Pavement Designs & Rehabilitations**
 - Use of Pavement ME and other innovative methods (e.g., short or long [jointless] slab designs, concrete o/l, FDR).
- **Use of Type IL Cement**
 - Portland-limestone cement containing more than 5% but less than or equal to 15% by mass of limestone.
- **Alternative & Blended Cements / Clinkers**
 - The use of low CO₂ clinker and blended cements.
- **Supplementary Cementitious Materials (SCMs)**
 - Fly Ash, Slag, other pozzolans to reduce the amount of cement in the concrete.
- **Aggregate Optimization**
 - Use well graded mixes to reduce paste and improve workability & durability. On-site concrete recycling.
- **Enhanced Carbonation**
 - Technologies to use CO₂ emissions (e.g., injected CO₂).

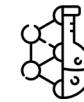


Optimizing concrete mixes using these tools allows the Industry to create low carbon ready-mix concrete

Reducing Concrete's Embodied Carbon Emissions (In-Use to Near-Term)



Communicate Carbon Reduction Goals



Specify Admixtures



Ensure Good Quality Control and Assurance



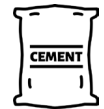
Don't Limit Ingredients



Optimize Concrete Designs & Mixtures



Set Targets for Carbon Footprint



Specify Innovative Cements



Sequester Carbon Dioxide in Concrete



Specify Supplementary Cementitious Materials



Encourage Innovation

The embodied CO₂ footprint of a typical concrete paving mixture today is as much as 40 percent lower than just a few decades ago.

Reducing Concrete's Embodied Carbon Emissions (Mid- to Long-Term)

- **Increase Use of Alternative Fuels at Cement Plants**
 - Utilize transformative fuels and technologies: hydrogen, plasma heating, oxyfuel/oxy-calcination, electric calcination, agriculture and sorted disposed waste...
- **Zero or Low Emissions During Cement and Concrete Manufacturing and Transportation**
 - Move to renewable energy sources and alternative fuels (e.g., hydrogen) or electric power for transportation.
- **Development of New Cements**
 - Use low CO₂ clinker and blended cements, new binders, etc.
- **Carbon Capture Utilization & Storage**
 - Further develop technologies to capture, store, and use CO₂ emissions (e.g., underground storage, enhanced carbonation cement and aggregates, etc.).



Optimizing concrete mixes using these tools allows the Industry to create low carbon ready-mix concrete

Public Agency Collaboration: Key Policy Levers



Research, Development & Innovation



Market Acceptance



Regulations, Permitting & Guidance



Community Acceptance



Financial Incentives & Support



Cradle-to-Cradle Life Cycle-Based Procurement



Performance-Based Material Standards



Low-Carbon Infrastructure

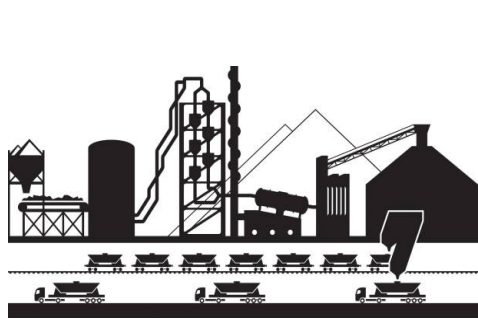


Market-Based Carbon Pricing



Level Playing Field

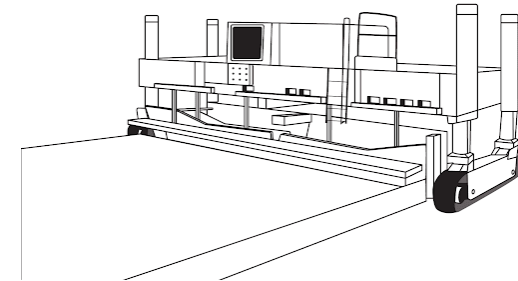
Industry Partnering: Working Together to Meet Sustainability Goals



Cement Suppliers



Equipment Manufacturers



Concrete Contractors

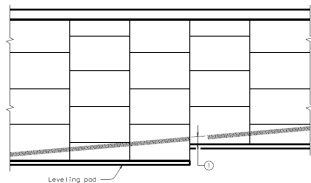


Aggregate Suppliers

Concrete Producer
Partners



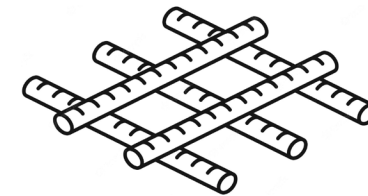
Truck Manufacturers



Precast Suppliers



Admixture / Additive Suppliers



Steel Suppliers

Concrete Materials

Transparency Initiatives



Concrete Industry EPD Process

1. Submitting Company Selects a Program Operator.
2. Choose Product and Related Product Category Rule (PCR) and Gather Data per PCR.
3. Conduct Life-Cycle Assessment (LCA) by In-House Staff or LCA Consultant.
4. Conduct Independent Review of LCA.
5. Develop Draft EPD by In-House Staff or LCA Consultant.
6. Submit the LCA Report and Draft EPD to Program Operator for Initial Verification.
7. Program Operator Engages Independent Verifier Who Reviews the LCA Report and Draft EPD.
8. Program Operator Certifies EPD for Submitting Company.

Common EPD Program Operators for Concrete

Program Operator	LCA / EPD Practitioner
	
	 Athena Sustainable Materials Institute & 
	 Athena Sustainable Materials Institute & 

Concrete Product Category Rule (PCR) – Revision History

Version	Date issued
Version 1 (published by Carbon Leadership Forum)	November 2012
Version 1.1 (published by Carbon Leadership Forum)	December 2013
Version 2 (published by NSF International)	February 2019
Version 2.1 (published by NSF International)	August 2021 Valid through February 22, 2024

Version 2.x (published by NSF International) August 2022(?) Consideration of Mobile Mixers

Concrete PCR Revisions: Consideration of Mobile Batch Plants

- PCR Committee recently voted to include a one-year deviation:
 - Informative annex to the PCR;
 - Allows for data collection and analysis of data from portable mixing equipment;
 - Data would be basis for paving project EPDs using mobile batch plants.
- Committee will evaluate need to add language specific to paving vs. building mobile batch plant impacts.
 - Subcommittee could be assigned and propose expanded language, if necessary.
- Roller Compacted Concrete Paving Industry
 - Seeking clarification whether deviation is applicable to continuous (pugmill) mixers.

Concrete Environmental Product Declarations

- Over 38,000+* product specific EPDs have been published by concrete producers since 2013 in U.S. and Canada (~40,000+* globally)

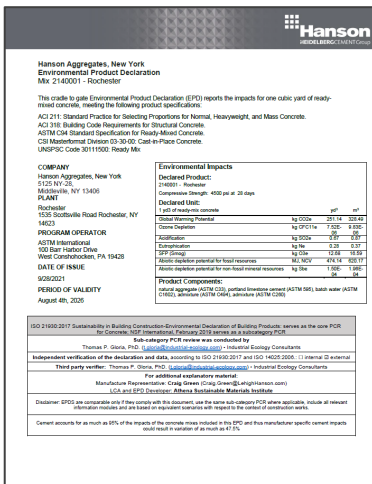
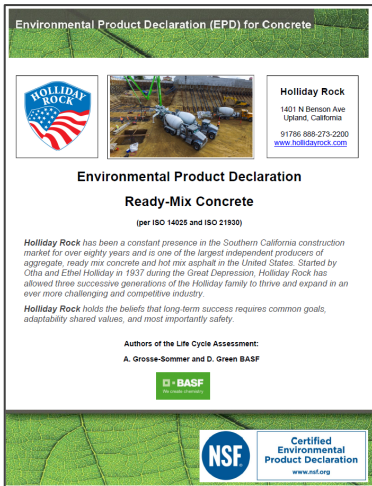
- Largest number published by any industry

- Concrete GWP Values (from EC3 Tool):

- Conservative (Baseline set @ 80th percentile): 366 kgCO_{2e}/yd³

- Average (“Typical” @ Arithmetic Mean & Std Dev): 302 kgCO_{2e}/yd³ ± 27.5%

- Achievable (“Low-Carbon” set @ 20th percentile): 234 kgCO_{2e}/yd³



*Based on Embodied Carbon in Construction Calculator (EC3) Tool Published by Building Transparency which is very comprehensive but not exhaustive.

Colorado Concrete EPDs

- **Currently 614* concrete EPDs Published for CO**

- **Concrete GWP Values (from EC3 Tool):**

- Conservative (Baseline set @ 80th percentile): 393 kgCO_{2e}/yd³
- Average (“Typical” @ Arithmetic Mean & Std Dev): 301 kgCO_{2e}/yd³ ± 39.5%
- Achievable (“Low-Carbon” set @ 20th percentile): 201 kgCO_{2e}/yd³

BURSCO COLORADO
ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION
MA-PSI-PC02P2 - Castle Rock Plant

This Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) reports the impacts for 1 m³ of ready-mixed concrete mix, meeting the following specifications:

- ASTM C84 - Ready-Mixed Concrete
- UNSPSC Code 20111000 - Ready Mix Concrete
- CSA A23.1A23.2 - Concrete Materials and Methods of Concrete Construction
- CSO Division 03-30-00 - Cast-in-Place Concrete

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Declared Product:	MA-PSI-PC02P2 - Castle Rock Plant
Description:	COOT CLASS 8/20P LOW SLUMP
Compressive strength:	4000 PSI @ 28 days
Declared Unit:	1 m ³ of concrete
Global Warming Potential (GWP)	393
Acid Equivalency Potential (AEP)	6.864
Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP)	0.01
Smog Potential (SP)	0.30
Photochemical Smog Potential (PSP)	23.4
Acid Equivalency Potential (AEP)	7.055
Water Depletion (WD)	710
Total Mass (TM)	102
Global Warming Potential (GWP)	1.34

DATE OF ISSUE
10/02/2021 (valid for 5 years until 10/02/2026)

FLATRION
ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION
MA-PSI-PC02P2 - Flatiron Wet Batch Plant

This Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) reports the impacts for 1 m³ of ready-mixed concrete mix, meeting the following specifications:

- ASTM C84 - Ready-Mixed Concrete
- UNSPSC Code 20111000 - Ready Mix Concrete
- CSA A23.1A23.2 - Concrete Materials and Methods of Concrete Construction
- CSO Division 03-30-00 - Cast-in-Place Concrete

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

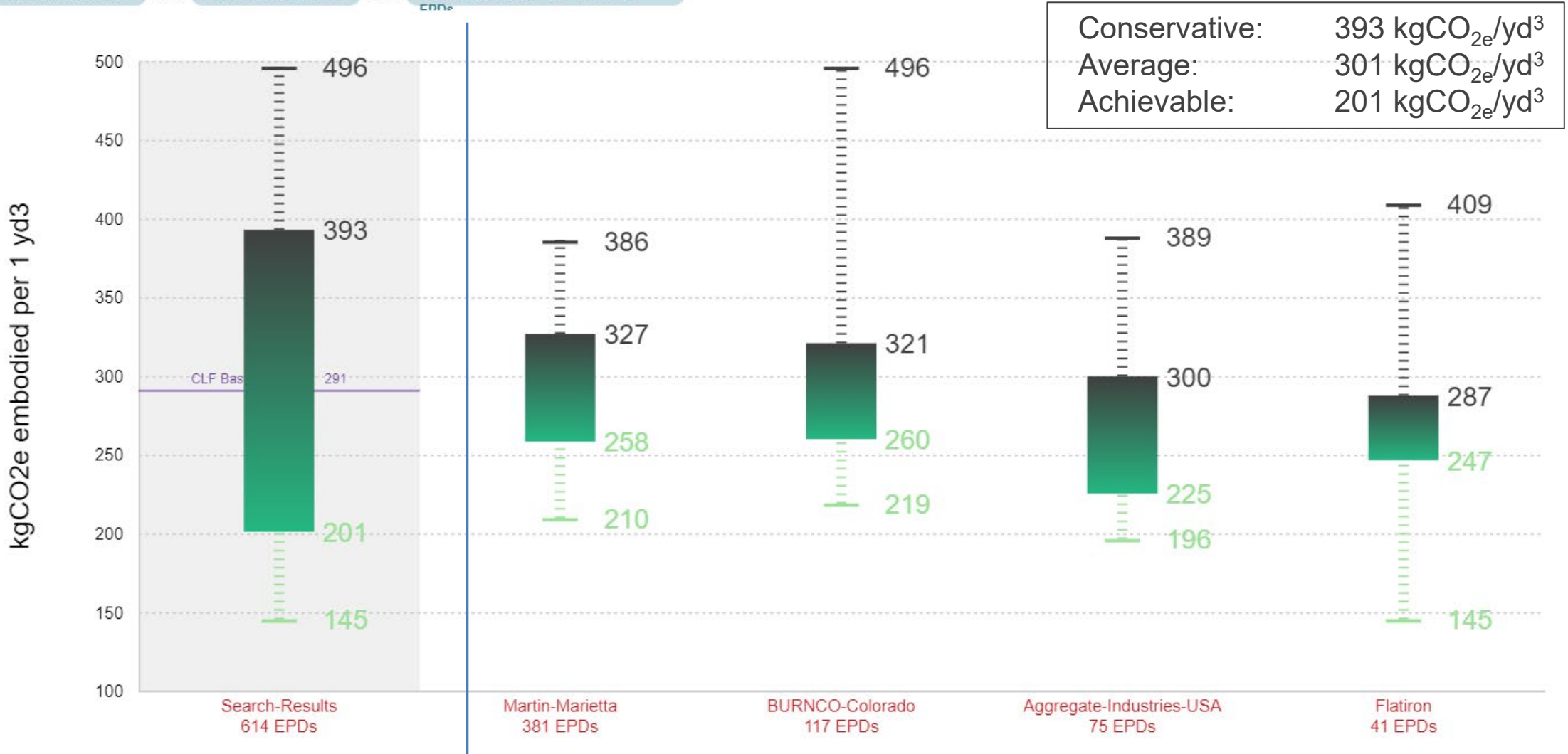
Declared Product:	MA-PSI-PC02P2 - Flatiron Wet Batch Plant
Description:	Planting Concrete
Compressive strength:	4000 PSI @ 28 days
Declared Unit:	1 m ³ of concrete
Global Warming Potential (GWP)	289
Acid Equivalency Potential (AEP)	6.266
Ozone Depletion Potential (ODP)	0.01
Smog Potential (SP)	0.30
Photochemical Smog Potential (PSP)	5.962
Acid Equivalency Potential (AEP)	6.84
Water Depletion (WD)	613
Total Mass (TM)	678
Global Warming Potential (GWP)	0.78

DATE OF ISSUE
10/02/2021 (valid for 5 years until 10/02/2026)

*based on Embodied Carbon in Construction Calculator (EC3) Tool Published by Building Transparency which is very comprehensive but not exhaustive.

Colorado Concrete EPDs

jurisdiction: USA|CO and Valid after: 2022-08-09 and EPD Type: Product EPDs, Industry



Conservative: 393 kgCO_{2e}/yd³
 Average: 301 kgCO_{2e}/yd³
 Achievable: 201 kgCO_{2e}/yd³

Industry Wide Environmental Product Declaration

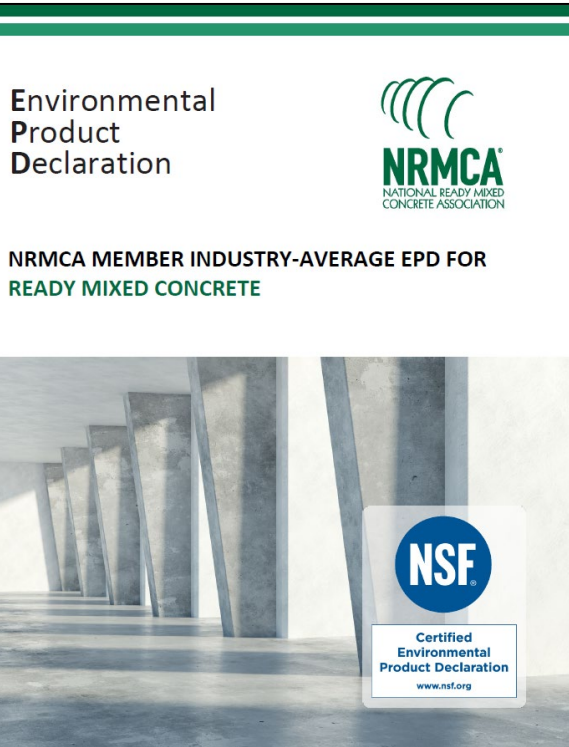
- Ready Mixed Concrete Industry Wide EPD (v3.2) Jan 2022 – Nov 2024
- From NRMCA Member Data (100+ Companies & ~2,000 Plants)
- Concrete GWP Values from IW EPD (calculated at ↑strength & ↓SCM ranges):

Industry Average EPD (Published January 3rd, 2022)										
28-day f'c, psi	Minimum	Maximum	0% FA/SL	20% FA	30% FA	40% FA	30% SL	40% SL	50% SL	50% FA/SL
Conventional Concrete GWP (per yd³)										
0 - 2,500	136.6	213.7	213.7	184.7	169.1	152.6	168.0	152.8	137.5	136.6
2,501 - 3,000	150.7	238.1	238.1	205.2	187.4	168.8	186.1	168.9	151.7	150.7
3,001 - 4,000	182.5	293.3	293.3	251.7	229.1	205.5	227.5	205.6	183.7	182.5
4,001 - 5,000	220.3	358.5	358.5	306.6	278.6	249.0	276.5	249.2	221.8	220.3
5,001 - 6,000	231.5	377.4	377.4	322.6	293.0	261.7	290.8	262.0	233.1	231.5
6,001 - 8,000	266.9	438.9	438.9	374.4	339.5	302.6	336.9	302.9	268.9	266.9
Lightweight Aggregate Concrete GWP (per yd³)										
0 - 3,000	303.0	426.4	426.4	367.2	335.2	360.0	305.7	340.8	303.0	321.6
3,001 - 4,000	343.6	491.2	491.2	424.0	385.0	414.7	348.2	390.3	343.6	362.5
4,001 - 5,000	373.6	547.6	547.6	468.5	422.4	455.3	380.1	427.5	373.6	394.4

Supplementary Cementitious Material (SCM) Ranges:

0-19% Fly Ash and/or Slag, 20-29% Fly Ash, 30-39% Fly Ash, 40-49% Fly Ash, 30-49% Slag, 40-39% Slag, ≥ 50% Slag, ≥ 20% Fly Ash and ≥ 30% Slag

- **NRMCA members decreased their carbon footprint by 21% in 7 years**



https://www.nrmca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/NRMCA_EP_D10294.pdf

NRMCA Member Regional LCA Benchmark Report

Region	28-Day Compressive Strength, psi								
	2,500	3,000	4,000	5,000	6,000	8,000	3,000LW	4,000LW	5,000LW
	Global Warming Potential (per yd ³)								
National	183.5	200.6	235.6	279.0	294.6	341.3	376.4	412.9	449.8
Eastern	183.3	201.5	240.2	289.0	305.3	360.5	395.4	437.9	480.1
Great Lakes Midwest	177.6	194.8	231.4	277.6	293.1	345.3	381.6	421.6	461.3
North Central	184.2	201.9	238.8	284.7	301.5	351.8	372.1	410.7	451.7
Pacific Northwest	180.0	199.8	242.0	295.2	311.9	372.7	396.2	439.7	483.4
Pacific Southwest	196.5	213.5	247.3	288.9	306.4	349.0	382.2	417.5	453.9
Rocky Mountains	177.5	194.6	229.8	273.4	289.6	336.7	369.8	406.5	443.5
South Central	172.4	187.7	218.6	257.2	272.2	312.8	357.7	390.2	424.5
South Eastern	188.9	204.6	236.5	275.5	292.1	332.2	365.6	398.7	429.4

- Published July 2022 (v3.2)
- Region Specific Mixtures For:
 - 6 Conventional Concrete Mixtures &
 - 3 Lightweight Concrete Mixtures

Table B1-NRMCA U.S. National Benchmark Mix Designs (per cubic yard)										
Compressive Strength	psi	2500	3000	4000	5000	6000	8000	3000 LW	4000 LW	5000 LW
Portland Cement	lbs	354	394	475	576	610	719	394	475	556
Fly Ash	lbs	62	69	83	101	107	126	69	83	97
Slag Cement	lbs	17	19	23	28	30	35	19	23	27
Mixing Water	lbs	305	305	305	315	341	341	308	308	308
Crushed Coarse Aggregate	lbs	1,126	1,115	1,083	1,029	1,061	1,018	0	0	0
Natural Coarse Aggregate	lbs	553	547	531	505	521	499	0	0	0
Crushed Fine Aggregate	lbs	169	167	162	154	159	152	161	149	136
Natural Fine Aggregate	lbs	1,282	1,270	1,233	1,171	1,208	1,159	1,225	1,130	1,035
Man. Lightweight Aggregate	lbs	0	0	0	0	0	0	980	990	1,000
Air %	%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	0	6%	6%	2%
Air Entraining Admixture	oz	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Plasticizer & Superplasticizer	oz	3	3	3	7	3	3	3	7	7
Set Accelerator	oz	25	20	15	10	25	20	15	10	10
Total Weight	lbs	3,867	3,886	3,895	3,878	4,037	4,049	2,178	2,168	2,159



EPD Software Tools

- EPDs developed utilizing pre-verified EPD software becoming more prevalent.
 - Athena
 - Climate Earth
 - GCCA / Quantis
 - One-Click LCA



Athena
Sustainable Materials
Institute



Reproducibility and Alignment of LCA Models

- Concrete PCR v2 requires verification and validity of an EPD
- Two (of five) conditions state:
 - EPD calculations by software systems should be verified using similar procedures as verifying and EPD.
 - When EPDs are aligned to an industry average, there should be consistency of results between product specific EPDs and industry average.
 - Use same LCA software version and background data, or
 - test representative samples of the regionally specific industry average benchmark data and include report of the maximum percent difference.

Reproducibility and Alignment of LCA Models

Appendix A: Summary of Reproducibility Results

Results of alignment for the NRMCA Eastern Region Benchmark.

April 2021

Impact category	ABB	Athena	Climate Earth	Unit	Results		Difference
		Method Used	Method Used		Athena	Climate Earth	
Global warming	GWP	TRACI 2.1 V1.02	TRACI 2.1 v 1.04	kg CO2 eq	202.80	201.02	-0.88%
Ozone depletion	ODP	TRACI 2.1 V1.02	TRACI 2.1 v 1.04	kg CFC-11 eq	6.18E-06	5.98E-06	-3.28%
Eutrophication	EP	TRACI 2.1 V1.02	TRACI 2.1 v 1.04	kg N eq	0.29	0.2799	-2.79%
Acidification	AP	TRACI 2.1 V1.02	TRACI 2.1 v 1.04	kg SO2 eq	0.74	0.7245	-2.17%
Smog	SFP	TRACI 2.1 V1.02	TRACI 2.1 v 1.04	kg O3 eq	15.20	14.959	-1.57%

EPD Misunderstandings, Misconceptions, and Misuses and Other Considerations

- Comparing EPDs across categories is tempting but improper.
- Life-cycle inventory data quality is critical for accurate analysis and EPD results.
- EPDs can lead to a “how low can we go” mentality, unintentionally affecting other properties.
- There is more to environmental stewardship than green house gas emissions.
- Producer-contractor collaboration may not be fully realized when only considering EPDs.
- Whole pavement EPD would provide for better decision making.
- Individual EPDs do not account for uncertainty, but a collection of within category EPDs can.
- There are costs that could potentially inhibit some producers from bidding on projects.

Concrete Materials

Beyond EPDs



Strategies BEYOND the Embodied Footprint



- Prioritizing means reducing our embodied carbon – in cement and in concrete – right now.
- The industry has embraced EPDs to benchmark and measure progress.
- The industry has made huge strides already... optimizing mixtures (PEM), reducing cement content, SCMs, PLC, ternary blends, etc.
- However... embodied carbon is only a PORTION of the carbon footprint.

How Concrete Properties Can Lower Use Phase CO₂

- **Durability and Resilience**

- Concrete's durability reduces future rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.
- Concrete's strength and resiliency allows it to better withstand natural disasters and their aftermath.

- **Improved Fuel Efficiency**

- Fuel consumption of trucks on concrete is improved because concrete pavements are stiffer and stay smoother longer.

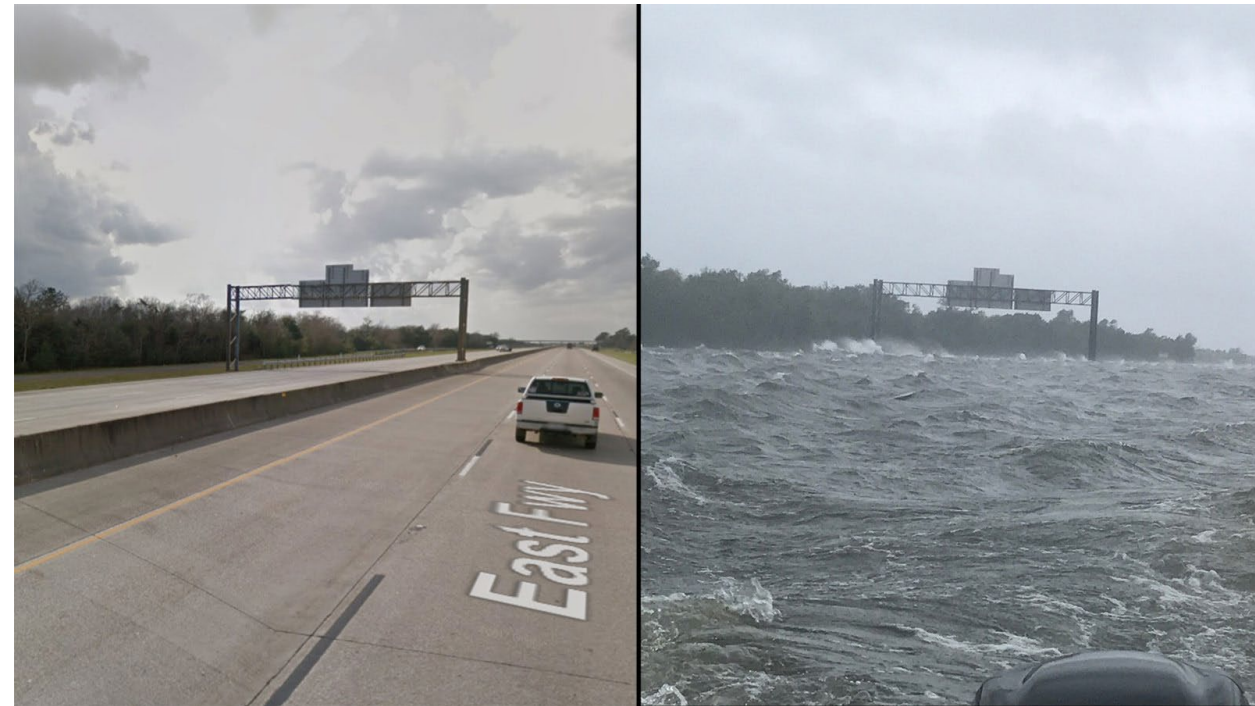
- **Highly Reflective**

- Concrete's light color lowers lighting requirements and UHI impacts; and increases Radiative Forcing that can offset 20% to 40+% of concrete CO₂ used to make the pavement (dependent on thickness)

- **Increased Carbonation**

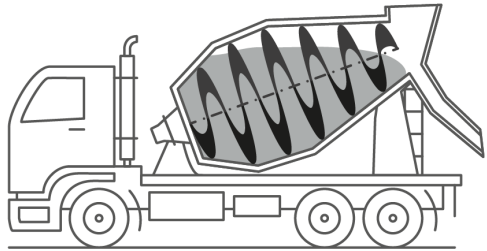
- Re-carbonation absorbs ~10-11% of the CO₂ emitted in the A1-A3 phase and 25% of the total potential CO₂ that could be sequestered.

Resilience and Sustainability:
Not having to rebuild after natural disasters saves CO₂



I-10 South of Beaumont, TX During Hurricane Harvey 2017
Source: Logan Wheat

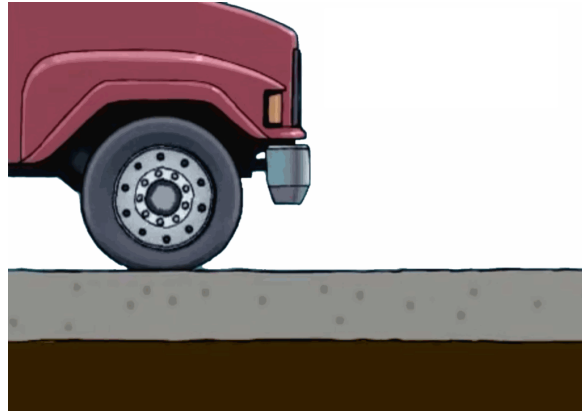
Combining Methods to Decarbonize Pavements



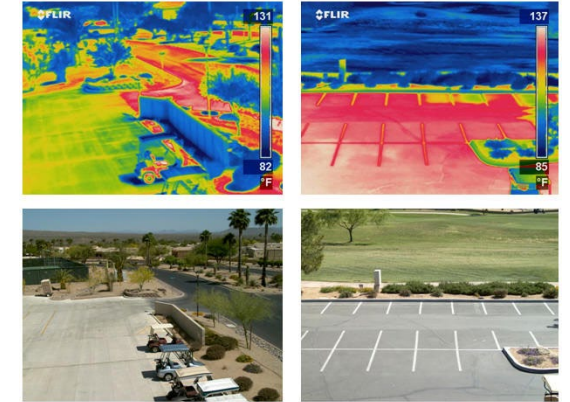
Use Low Carbon & Performance Based Materials



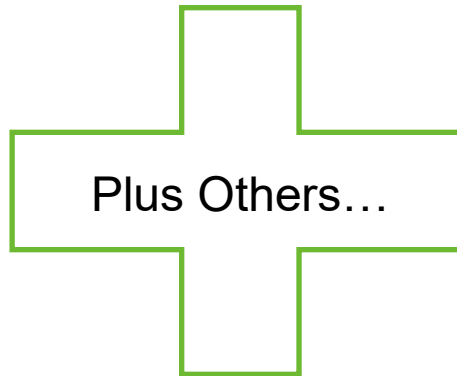
Build & Maintain Smooth Pavements For Better Fuel Efficiency



Build Low Deflection Pavements For Better Fuel Efficiency



Build High Albedo Pavement To Reduce Urban Heat Island



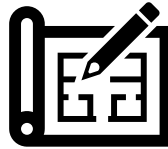
Infrastructure Decision Making: Considering Sustainability and Resilience

Planning/Goals



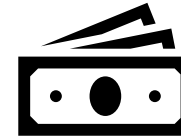
Use scoring systems (i.e., INVEST) to evaluate a project's potential environmental impact and set specific sustainability goals.

Design



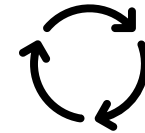
Use whole pavement, full life cycle to understand a project's cradle-to-grave cost and environmental impacts and select designs with the lowest impacts.

Procurement



Use environmental product declarations (EPDs) to set benchmarks and procure materials that meet sustainability goals.

Operation



Use life cycle cost and environmental modeling for asset management treatment optimization and selection. Network analyses will provide the largest CO₂ reductions.

Summary & Key Take-Aways

- **The cement and concrete industries worldwide are committed to combat climate change, but we cannot do it ourselves**
 - We need support from government, agencies, designers, engineers and all groups throughout the value chain.
- **There are a variety of levers in-use and immediately available to lower concrete's CO₂ emissions**
 - Portland Limestone Cement (Type 1L), Supplementary Cementitious Materials (SCMs), Alternative & Blended Cements / Clinkers, and Aggregate Optimization are just some examples.
 - The industry seeks assistance and leadership from the public sector with implementing these levers.
- **The emissions of the pavement system are the most important**
 - Cement and concrete are not the end products - the concrete pavement is the end-product – so whole pavement LCA is appropriate.
 - Eliminating “over-design,” better pavement management, and selection of where to use concrete because of its inherent properties (i.e., stiffness and maintaining long-term smoothness) will lower the network CO₂.
- **Results from a full life cycle perspective should drive decisions**
 - Concrete's strength, durability, and resilience lower the operational and use phase impacts.
 - Models are available now to assess use phase impacts and account for uncertainty.

Thank You

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