

An Approach to Environmental Justice in Design and Construction

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An Approach to Environmental Justice in Design and Construction

Why radical change is
needed

What we do

Case study of our
work



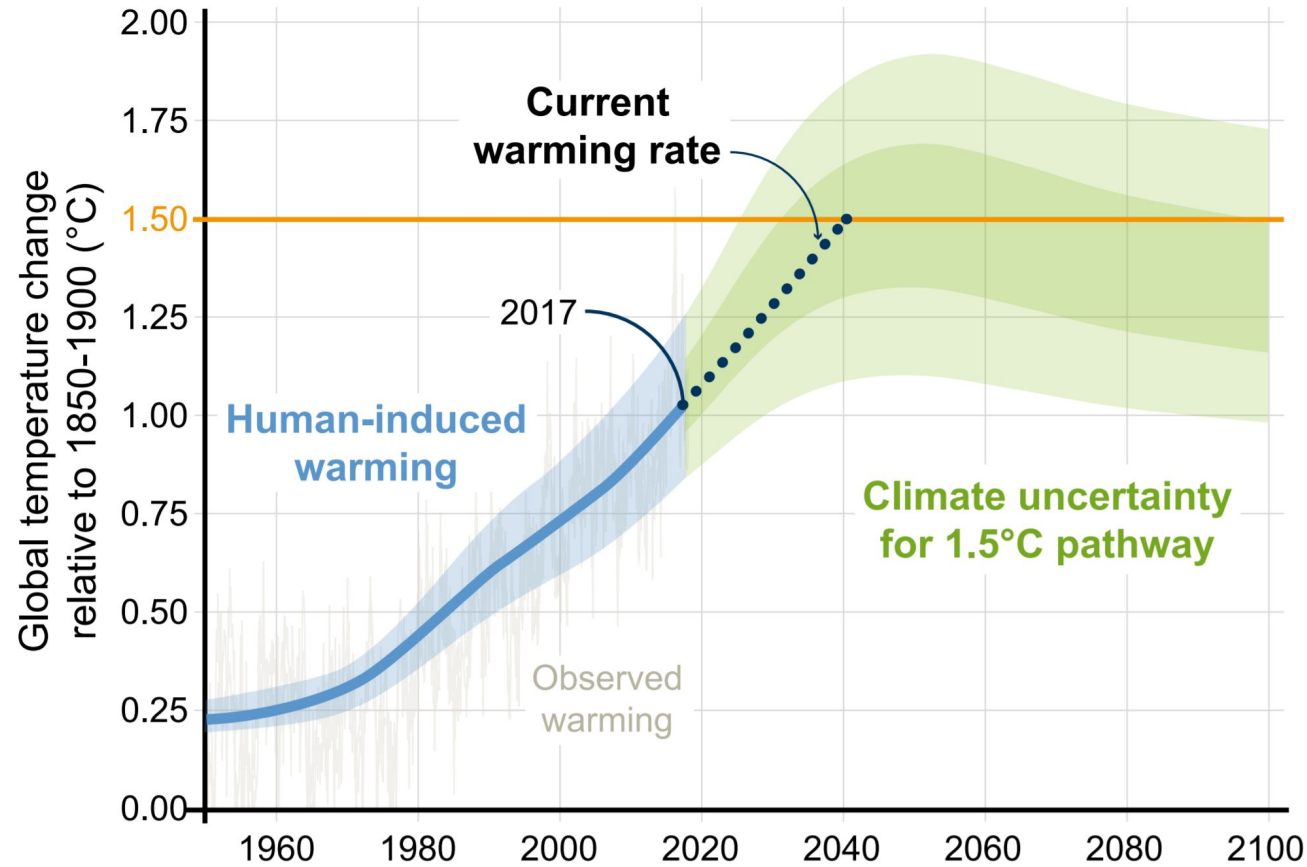
Why radical change is needed



2030 / 2050

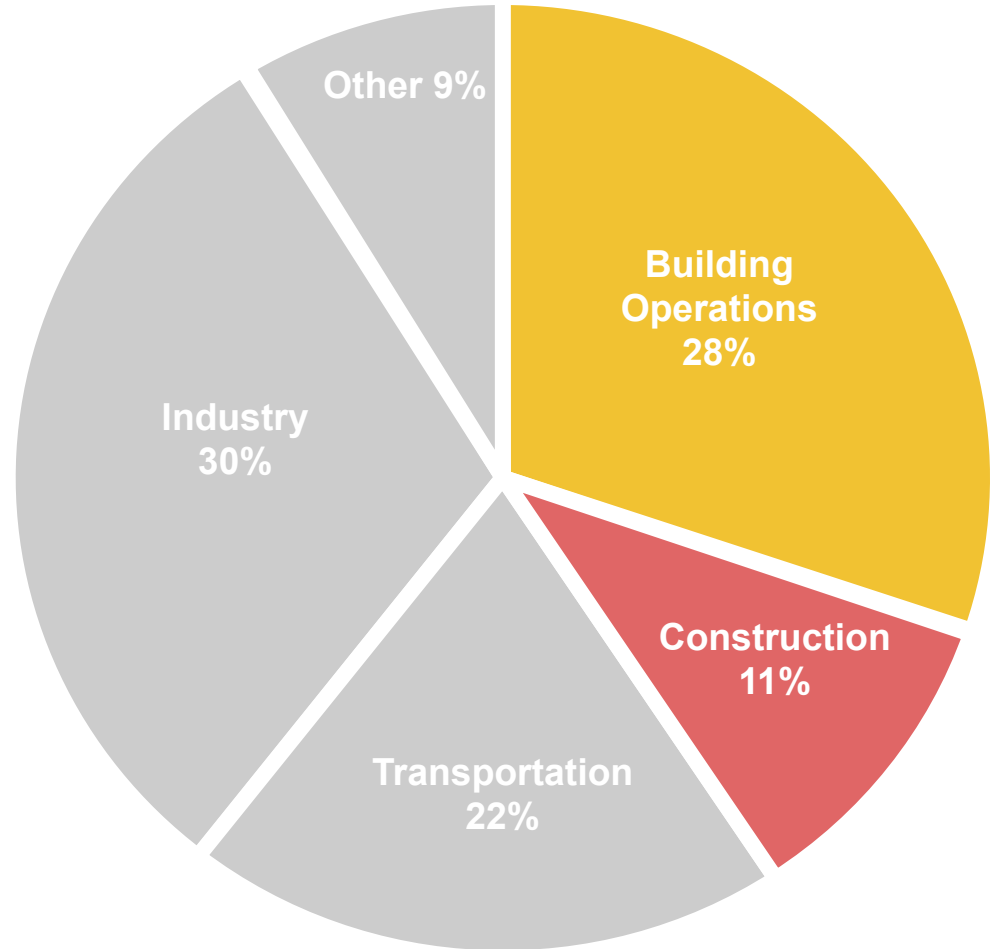
UN: 1/2 current CO₂
levels by 2030

Net zero by 2050



Construction Greenhouse Gas

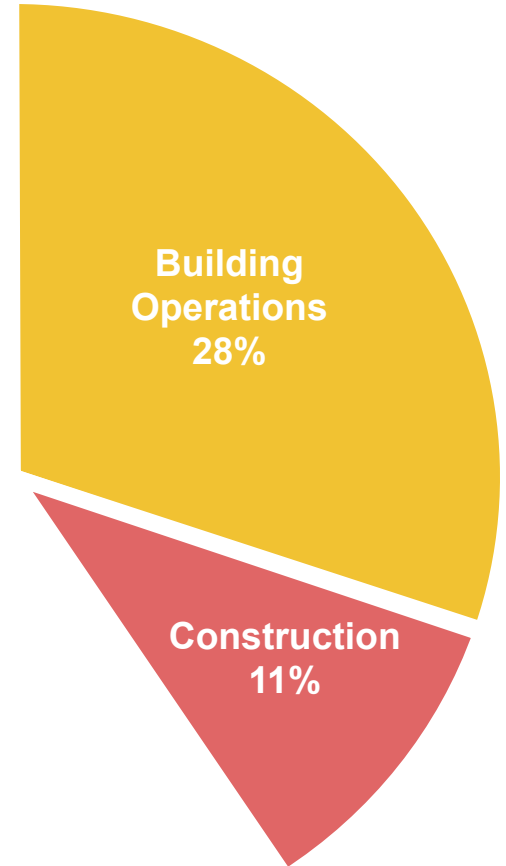
39% of global total
comes from
Building Industry



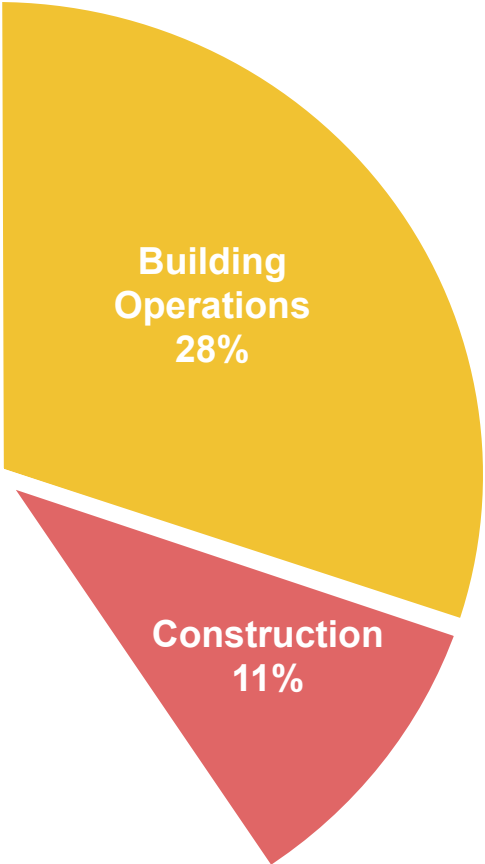
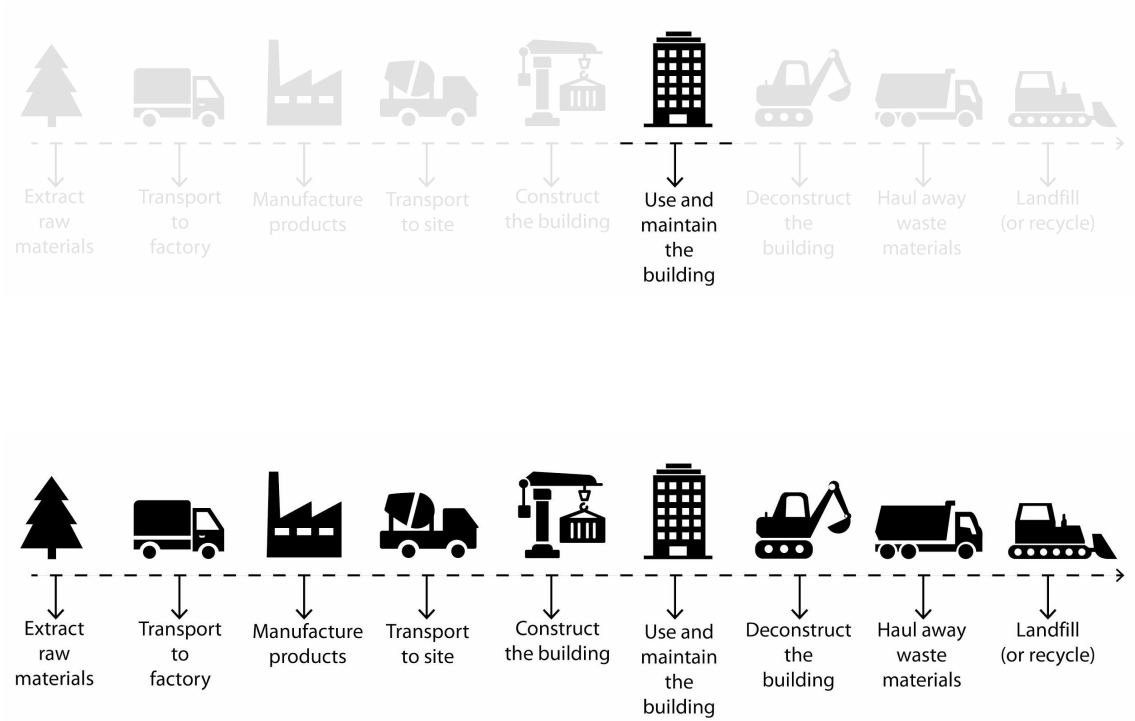
Operational vs Embodied

Operational carbon from heating, cooling and electrifying our existing building stock.

Embodied carbon from extracting, manufacturing, installing, and disposing building materials.



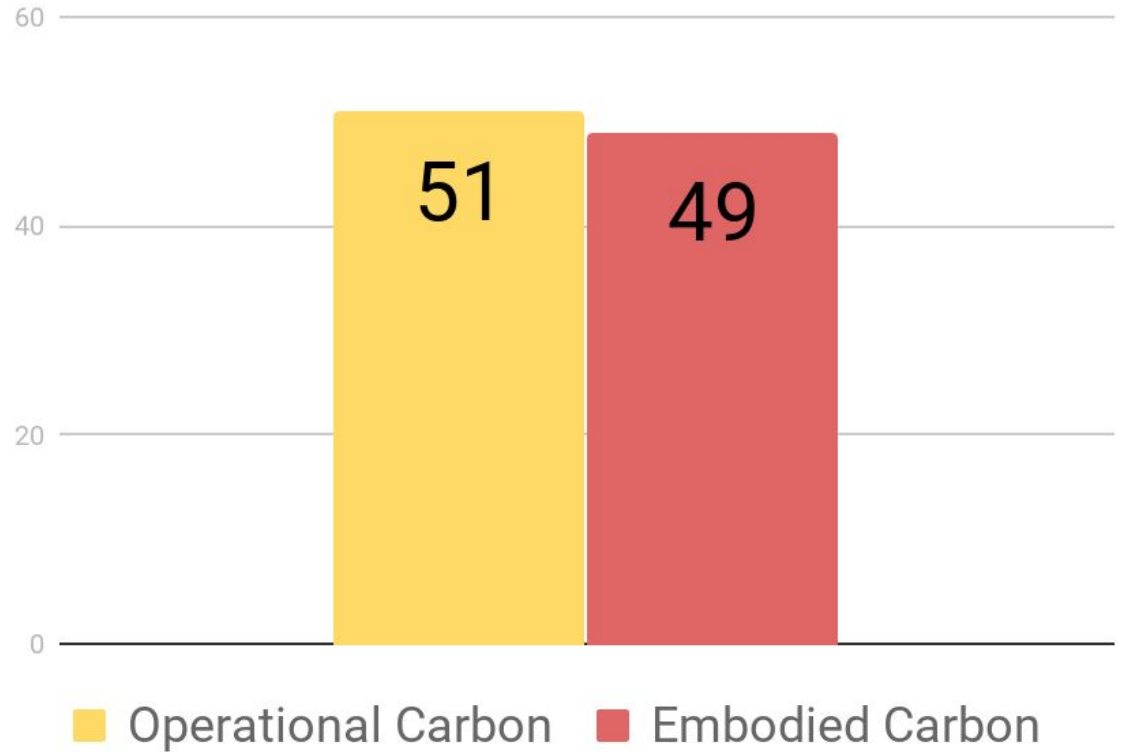
Operational vs Embodied



Source: UN Environment, Global Status Report 2017

Operational vs Embodied

Total Carbon Emissions of Global New Construction from 2020 - 2050

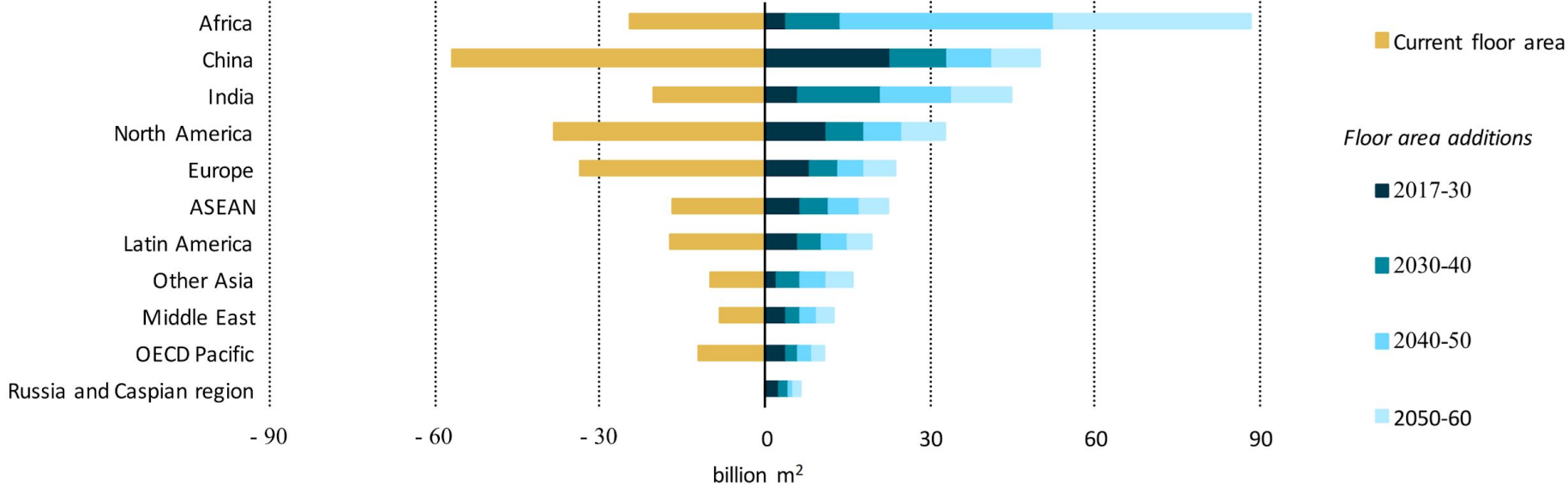


Embodied carbon

A new New York
every month for 40
years



Expected construction by 2060



Source: IEA, Energy Technology Perspectives 2017

**Architecture is never neutral,
It either hurts or it heals.**

**Architecture is never sustainable,
It is either climate negative or climate positive.**

What we do



Organization

■ BOSTON
■ POUGHKEEPSIE

● HAITI

3 Offices

3 Studios

125 Team Members

51% Women

20+ Nationalities

○ LONDON

● MALI

● SIERRA LEONE

● LIBERIA

● GABON

● DRC

○ SOUTH AFRICA

○ ETHIOPIA

○ SOUTH SUDAN

● UGANDA

○ KENYA

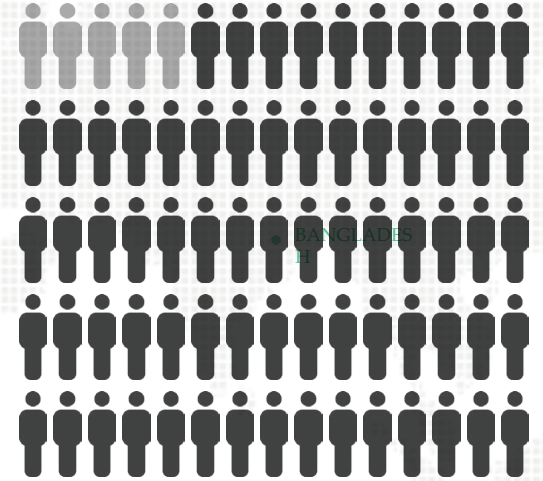
■ RWANDA

● ZAMBIA

● MALAWI

2008

2019



■ BANGLADESH

○ INDONESIA

Over 10 years of delivering projects



Butaro Hospital
2008



Butaro Doctors Share Housing
2015



University of Global Health Equity
2019



GHESKIO Cholera Treatment Center
2015



Ilima Primary School
2015



The National Memorial for Peace and Justice
2018



Partners



The
ATLANTIC
Philanthropies



ARUP



Can a building heal?



Butaro District Hospital
Burera, Rwanda

Can a building help resist an epidemic?

GHEKIO Cholera Treatment Center
Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Can design amplify conservation efforts?



Ilima Primary School

Ilima, Democratic Republic of the Congo



Can a school's design
improve the quality of
education?

Mubuga Primary School
Musanze, Rwanda

MASS.

Good

We believe everyone deserves good design. Good design is beautiful and just. It is essential to delivering human rights, essential services, and the spaces that will build a better world.



Clean

Being climate positive is an imperative. Our projects strive for not only efficient operation, but the design of the entire supply chain to be resilient, restorative and regenerative.



Fair

Looking at the design and construction process holistically—from material extraction to assembly and operation—ensures we have safe and equitable labour practices.



Butaro District Hospital

Rwanda, 2008



Operational Carbon

Natural ventilation

Daylight



Lo-Fab

Volcanic stone
walling



Embodied Carbon

$\frac{1}{2}$

240kgCO₂e/m²

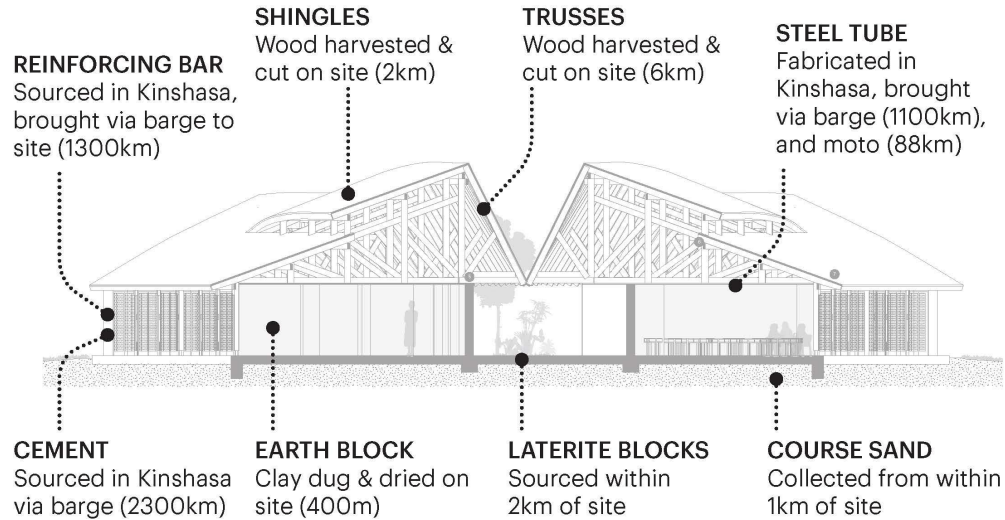


Ilima Primary School

Democratic
Republic of Congo,
2015



Material Sourcing



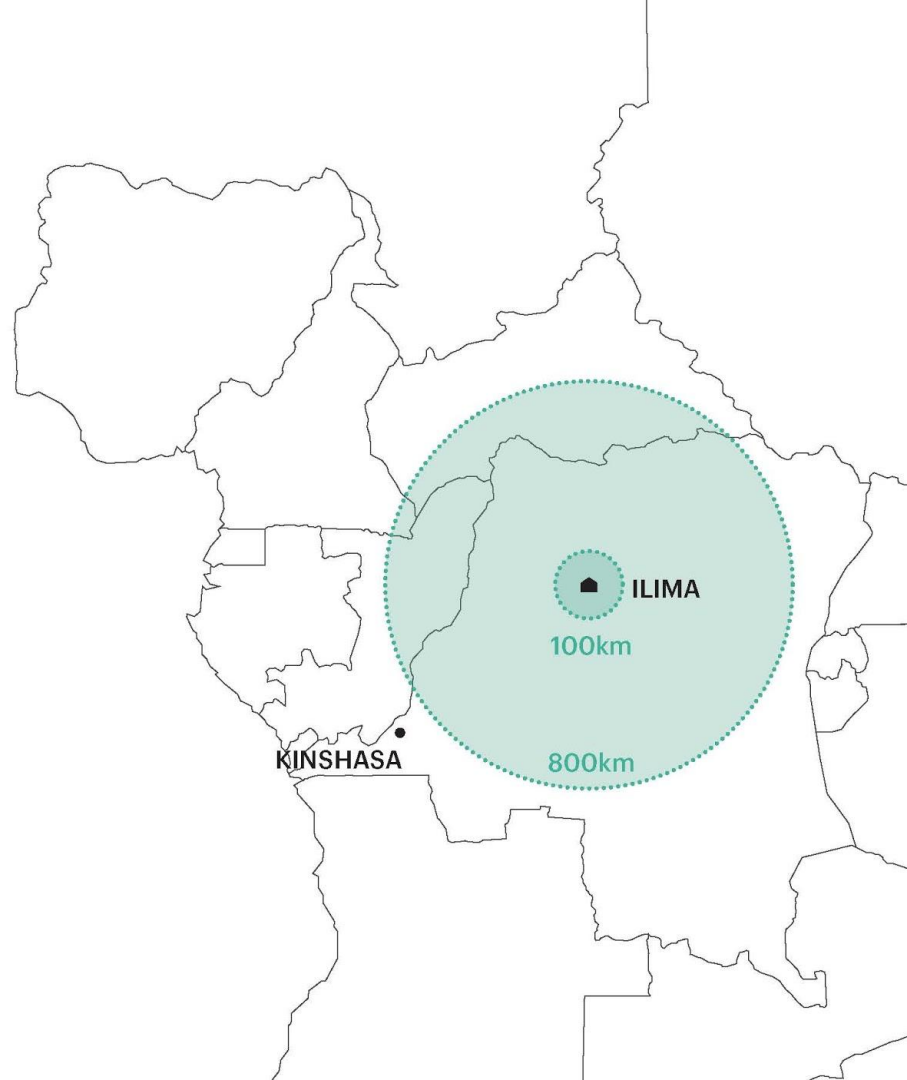
Local investment

84% spent locally

\$317,420 spent within 100km radius

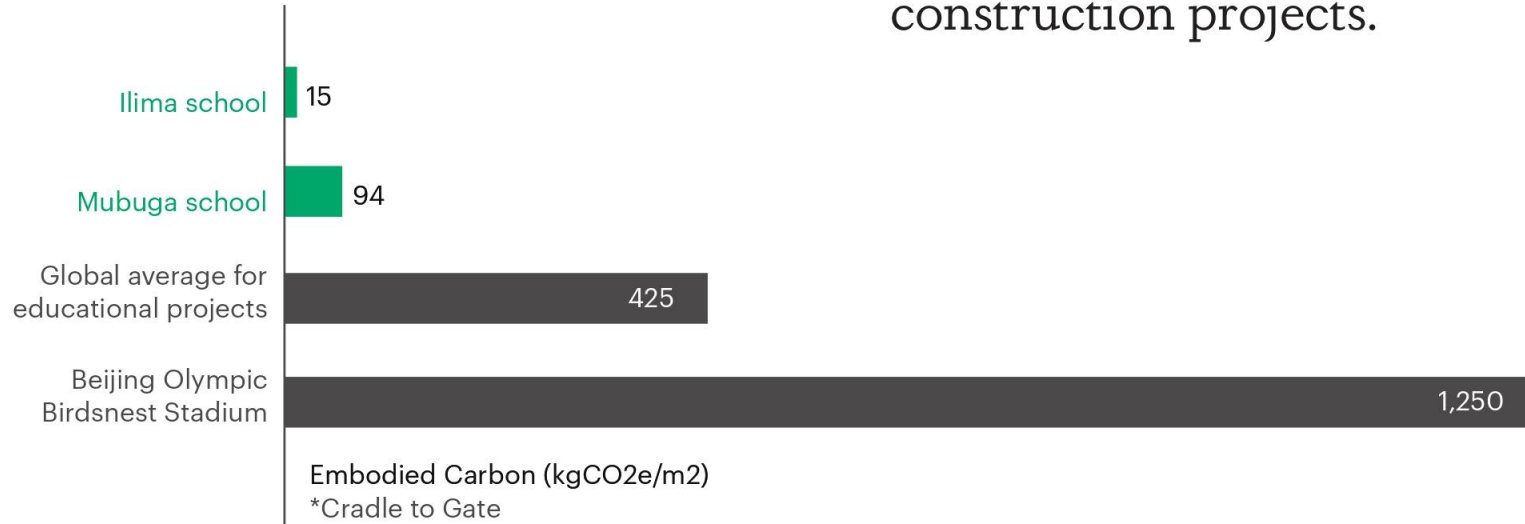
95% spent regionally

\$359,690 spent within 800km radius or country



Embodied carbon

The construction of Ilima emitted **28 times** less carbon/m² than the global average for educational construction projects.



Ilima Primary School

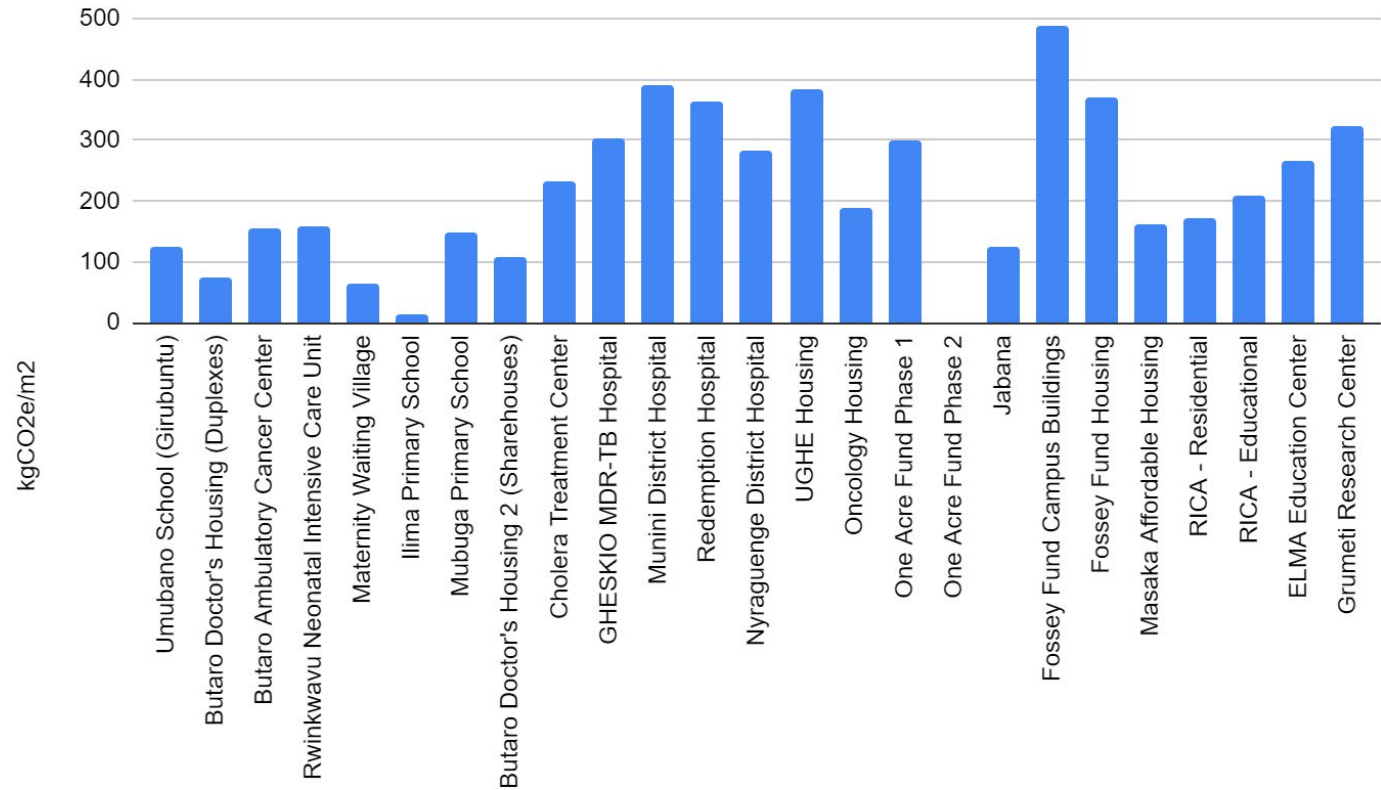
Wooden shingles

Timber trusses

Earth blocks



Project embodied carbon



Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture: Good, Clean, Fair at scale

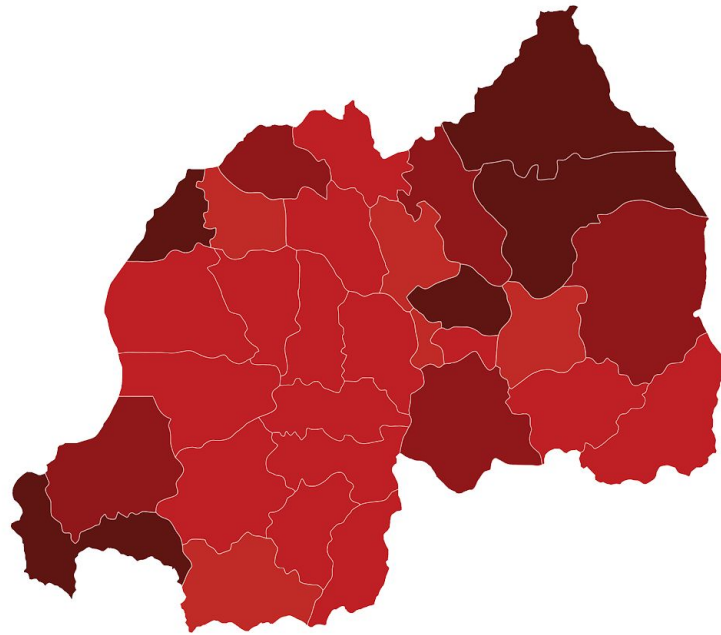


Location



Population

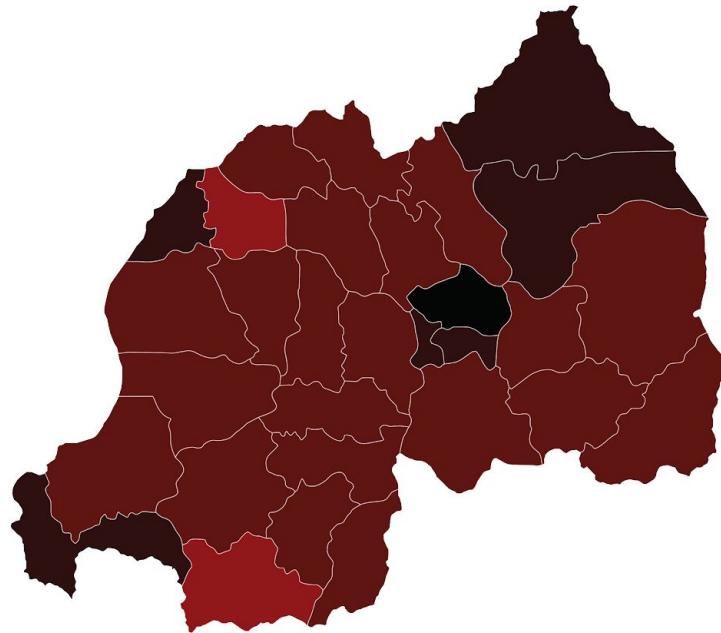
12.6 million



2019

Population

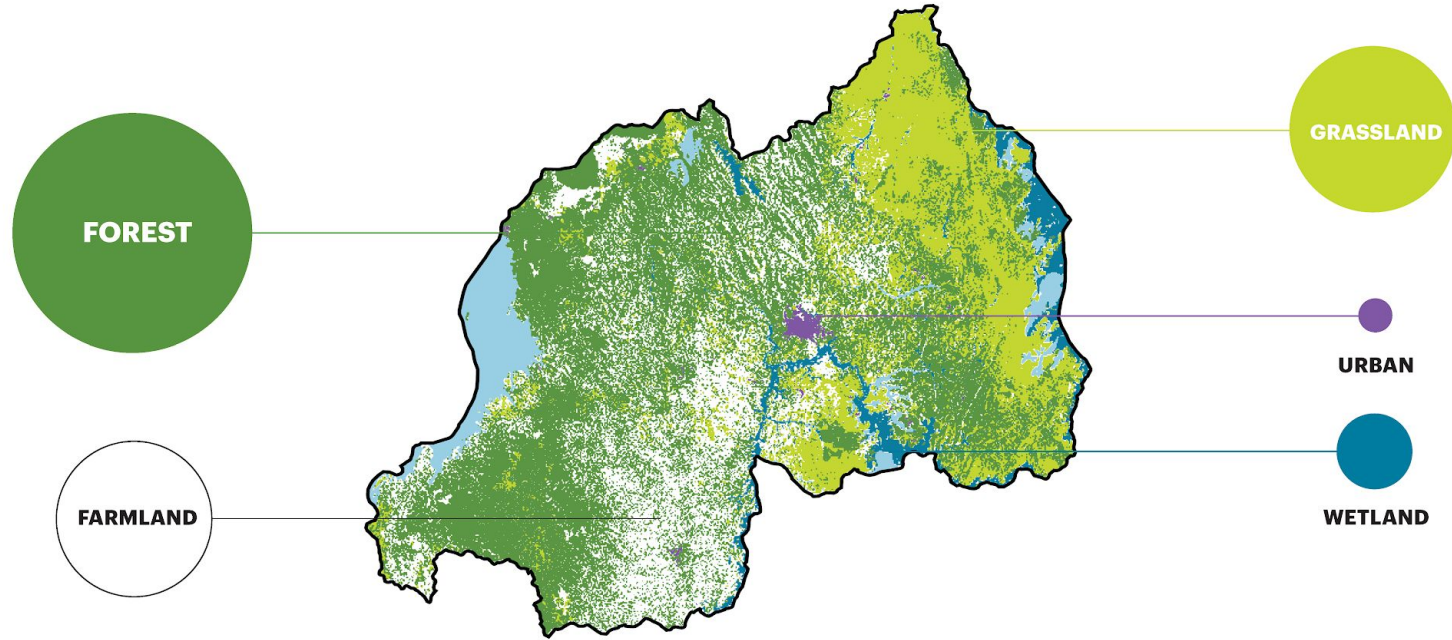
25 million



2050

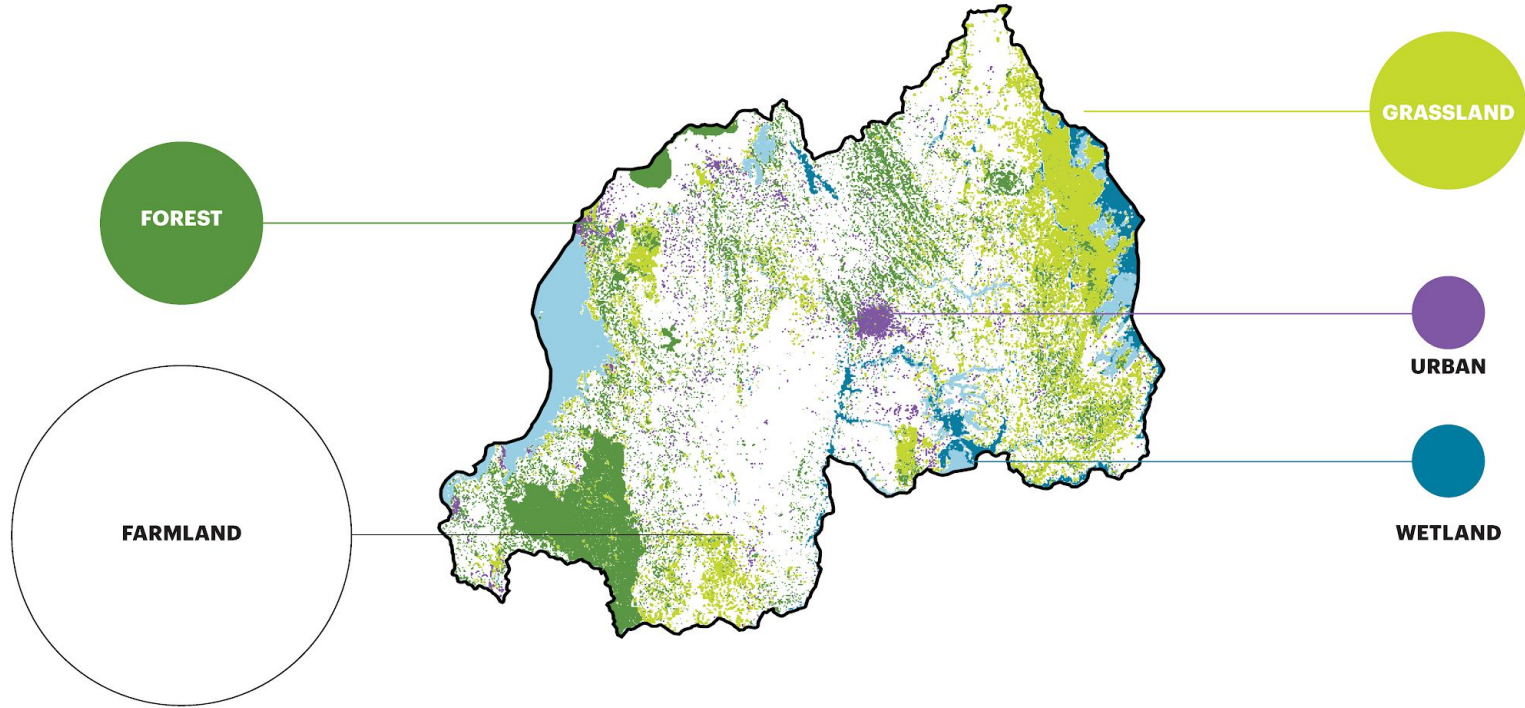
MASS.

Land type



1990

Land type



2016

An aerial architectural rendering of a sustainable farm complex. The scene features several buildings with red-tiled roofs, including a large central structure and smaller units. Greenhouses and rows of crops are visible in the foreground. A winding path leads through the landscape, which is lush with greenery and trees. In the background, a large body of water reflects the bright sunlight, creating a shimmering effect. The overall atmosphere is bright and hopeful, suggesting a vision of sustainable agriculture.

Can design improve human,
ecological, and animal
health?

RICA
Bugesera, Rwanda

Rwanda Institute for Conservation Agriculture (RICA)



One Health

Existing Conditions

Degraded soil, food insecurity, deforestation

One Health Conditions

Ecological, Human, Economic Health

Existing

Monoculture crops,
livestock grazing

Native Ornamental Landscapes

Native species builds biodiversity, a seed bank, ecological stability.

Silviculture

Providing biomass, natural resources, livelihoods

Agroforestry

Soil improvement, biodiversity, food security

Water Resources Protection

Erosion prevention, filtration of
nutrients, sediment

First Year Farms



Enterprise buildings



Campus Centre



Embodied Carbon

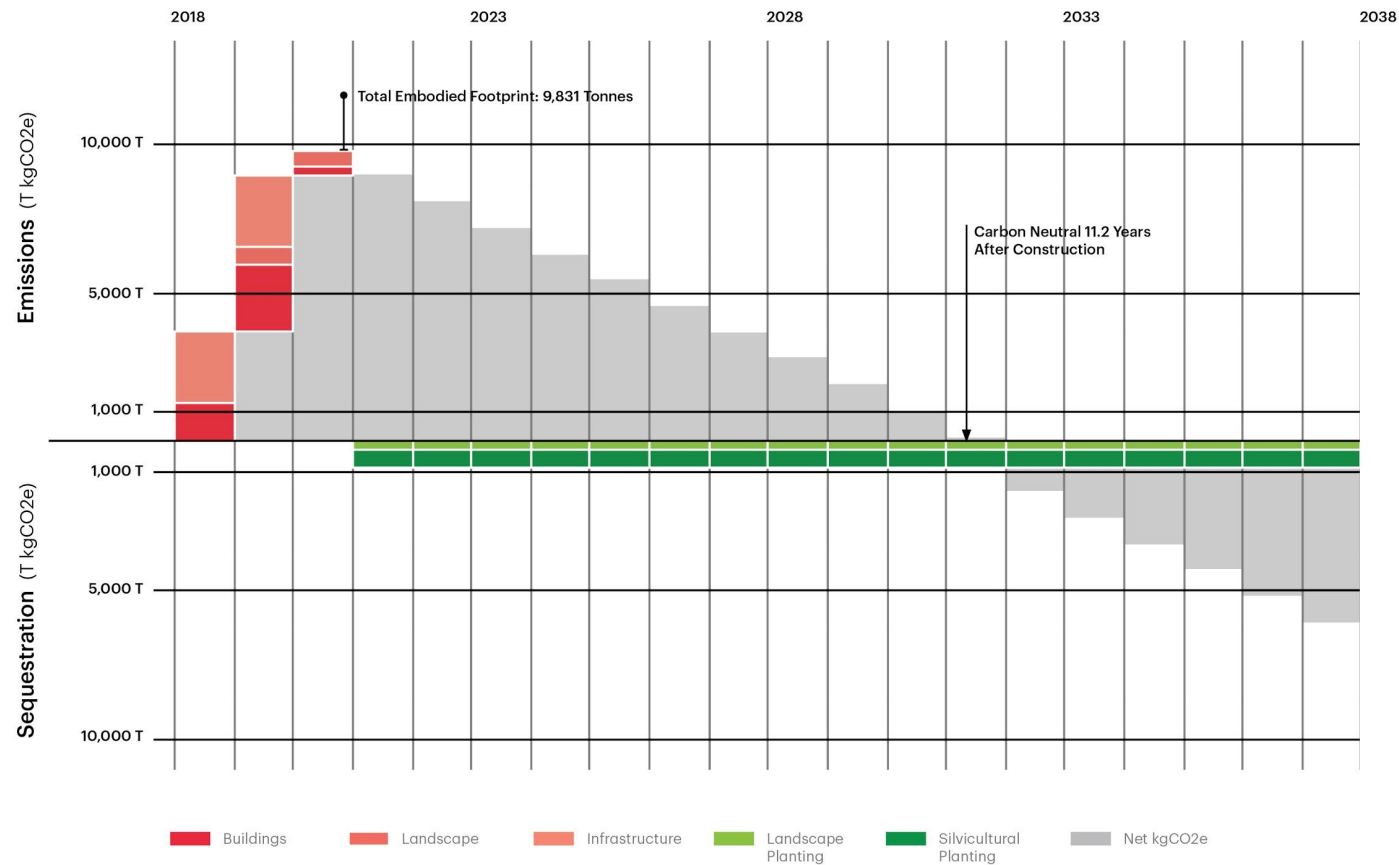
$\frac{2}{5}$

175 kgCO₂e/m²



Climate Positive

12 years



How we reduced carbon at RICA



Influence the brief

Upstream with
client



Masterplan



Natural Ventilation, Cooling and Daylight



Solar

Carbon payback
period:

3 years



Local materials

96% of RICA's
materials
excavated,
harvested, and
sourced in Rwanda



RICA | <1 Mile

Sources:

- 1. Timber**
- 2. Soil (Laterite)**
- 3. Water**



RICA | 1-10 Miles

Sources:

1. Stone
2. Aggregate
3. Sand



RICA | 10-100 Miles

Sources:

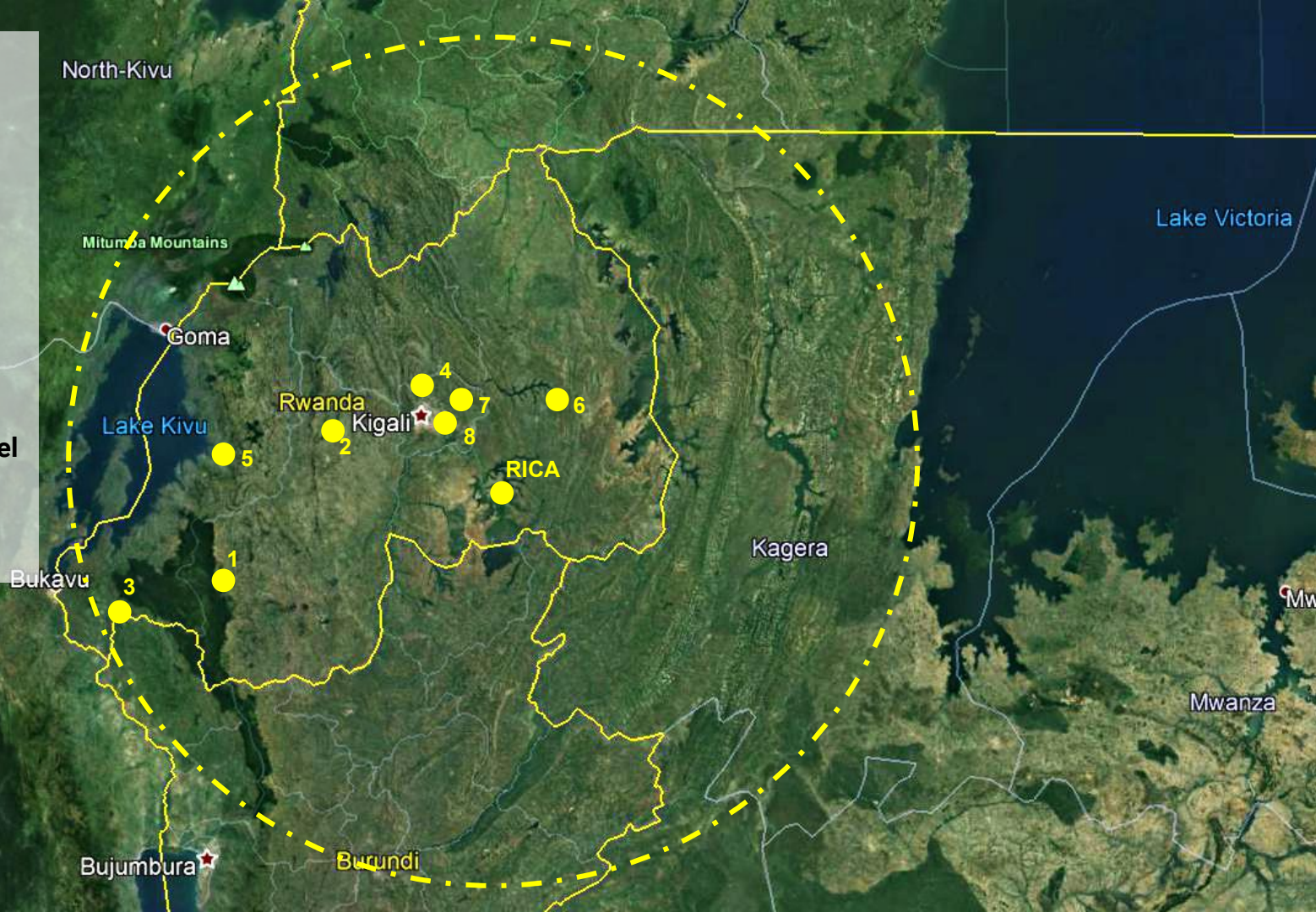
1. Timber
2. Sand

Manufacturers:

3. Cement
4. Terra Cotta
5. Ceramics

Suppliers:

6. Reinforcing Steel
7. Structural Steel
8. Windows and Doors



RICA | 100-1000 Miles

Sources:

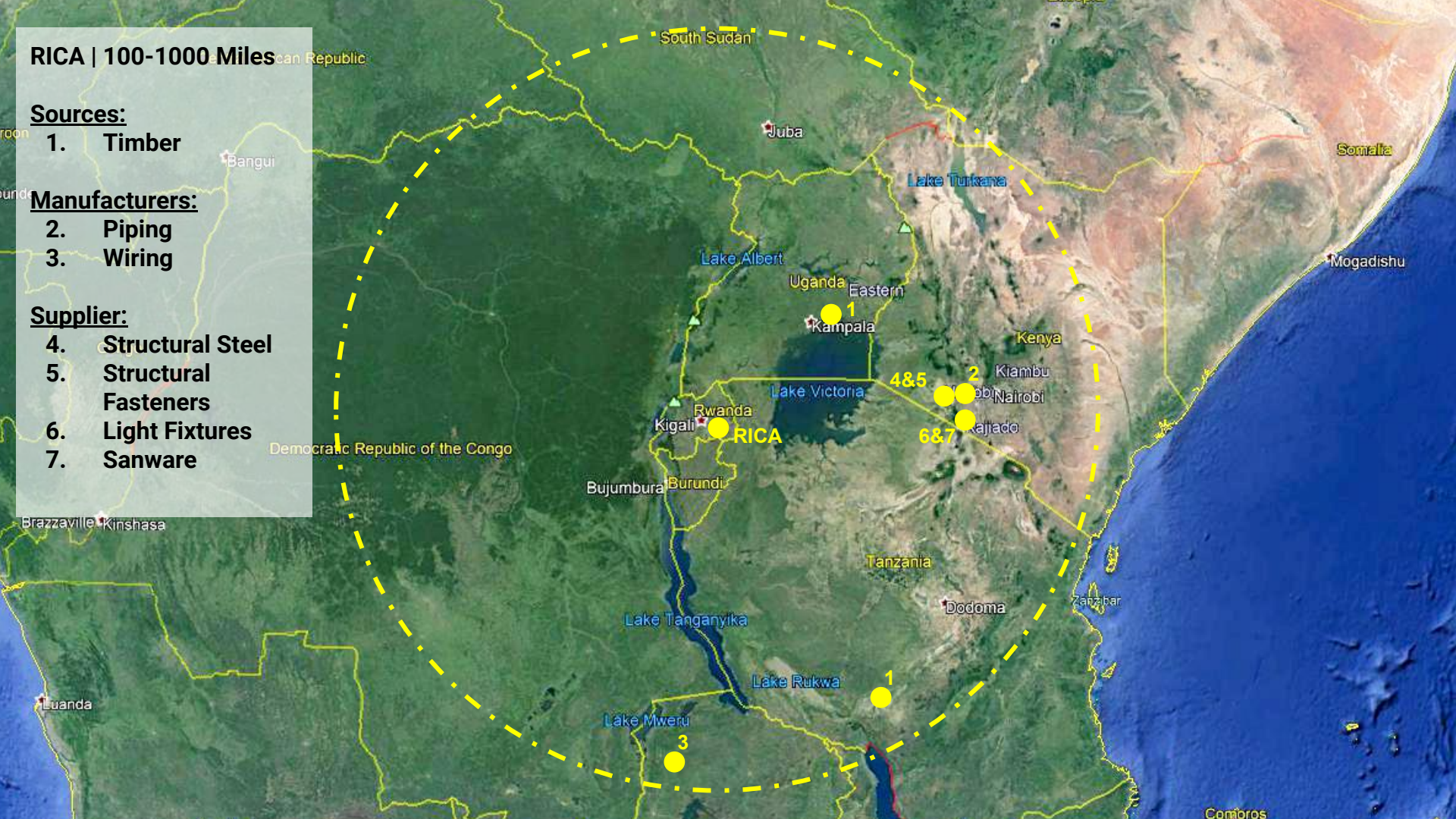
1. Timber

Manufacturers:

2. Piping
3. Wiring

Supplier:

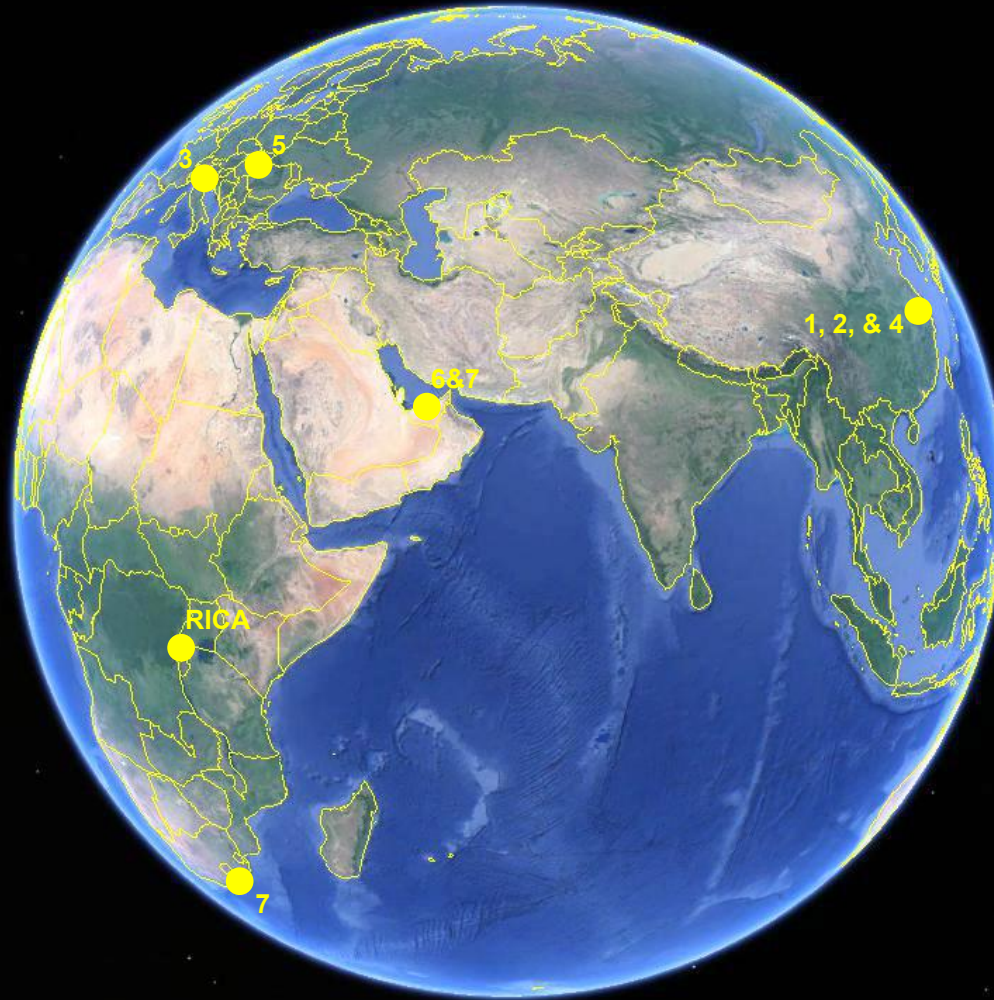
4. Structural Steel
5. Structural Fasteners
6. Light Fixtures
7. Sanware



RICA | > 1000 miles

Manufacture:

1. Solar Panels
2. Batteries
3. Water Treatment Plant
4. Wastewater Treatment Plant
5. Pumps
6. Gypsum Board
7. Fasteners



Low embodied
carbon materials



Timber

Sourced in Rwanda
and Tanzania

From forests with
growing stock



Clay tiles

Sourced 60km away

Coffee husks used
to fire the clay



Stone foundations

Alternative to
concrete
foundations



Swales

Natural
infrastructure
instead of buried
concrete culverts



Earth construction

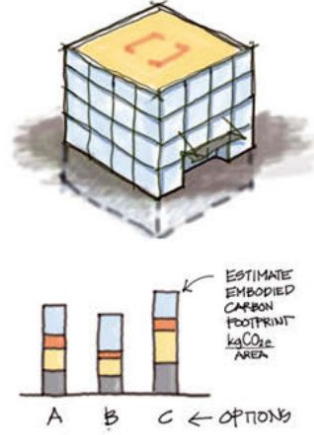
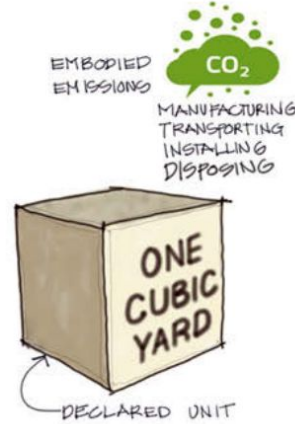
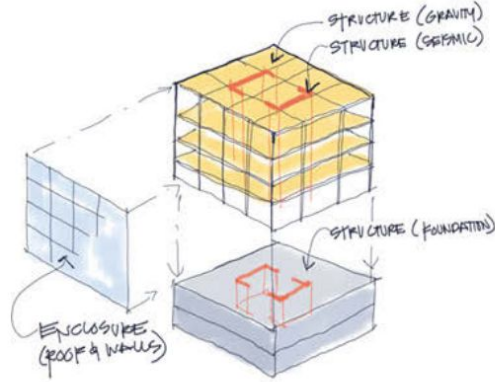
Sourced from site

25% of all building
materials by weight



Calculating embodied carbon

How to calculate product stage embodied carbon



**MATERIAL
QUANTITY
ESTIMATE**



**EMBODIED
CARBON
PER UNIT
MATERIAL**



**BUILDING
EMBODIED
CARBON (EC)
ESTIMATE**

Environmental Product Declaration

EPDs contain
environmental
impact data for
products

Nutrition Facts

16 servings per container

Serving size 1 Tbsp. (21g)

Amount per serving

Calories 60

% Daily Value*

Total Fat 0g **0%**

Saturated Fat 0g **0%**

Trans Fat 0g

Cholesterol 0mg **0%**

Sodium 0mg **0%**

Total Carbohydrate 17g **6%**

Dietary Fiber 0g **0%**

Total Sugars 17g

34%†

Protein 0g

Vitamin D 0mcg 0%

Calcium 0mg 0%

Iron 0mg 0%

Potassium 0mg 0%

* The % Daily Value (DV) tells you how much a nutrient in a serving of food contributes to a daily diet. 2,000 calories a day is used for general nutrition advice.

† One serving adds 17g of sugar to your diet and represents 34% of the Daily Value for Added Sugars.

Environmental Product Declaration

Little data where the
most construction
is happening



Generic documents

	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	
5	ICE (Inventory of Carbon & Energy)								
6									
7									
8									
9									
10	Authors: Dr Craig Jones* Professor Geoffrey Hammond								
11	Affiliation:  								
12									
13									
14	*corresponding author. Contact details: http://www.circular ecology.com/contact.html								
15	Version Control								
16	Version: V3.0 Beta - 9 August 2019								
17	Is this version still valid? Check link below, to see if a newer version is available.								
18	Check if this copy is up to date at: http://www.circular ecology.com/embodied-energy-and-carbon-footprint-database.html								
19									



AUROVILLE EARTH INSTITUTE



EMBODIED ENERGY OF VARIOUS MATERIALS AND TECHNOLOGIES

COMPILATION AND CALCULATIONS
May 2005
Revision November 2013

Satprem Maini
Varun Thautam

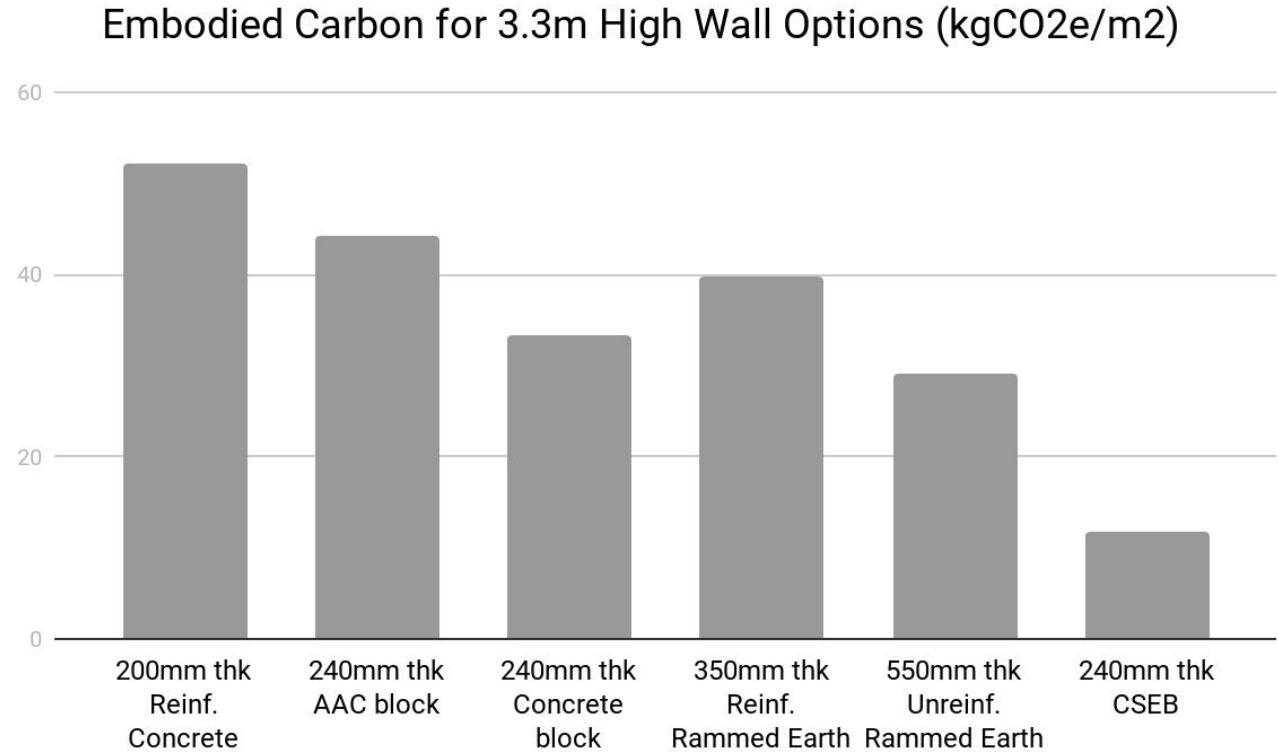
Auroshipam, Auroville 605 101 Auroville TN India
Email: earthinstitute@auroville.org.in

Tel: +91 (0) 413 - 262 3064 / 262 3330

Fax: +91 (0) 413 - 262 2886
Web: <http://www.earth-auroville.com>

Earth construction

Embodied carbon
drove design
decisions



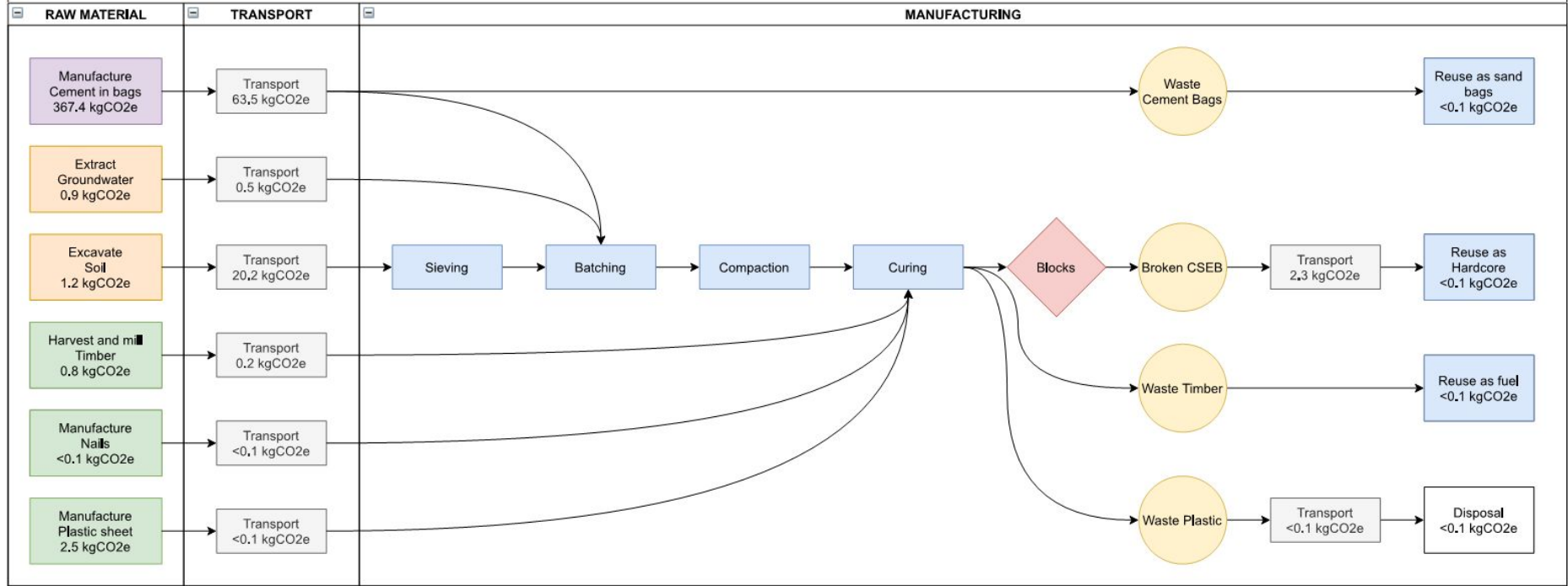
Design



Manufacturing



Measured Coefficient

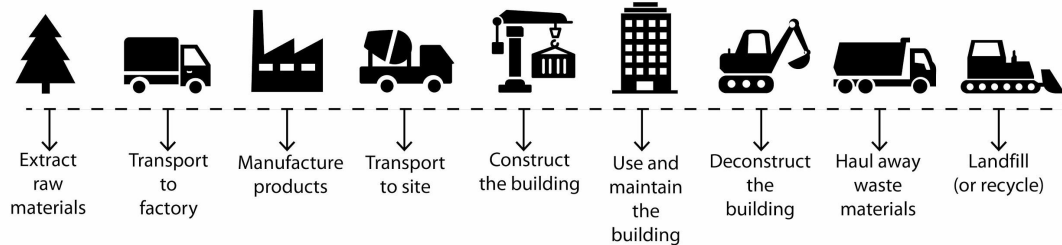
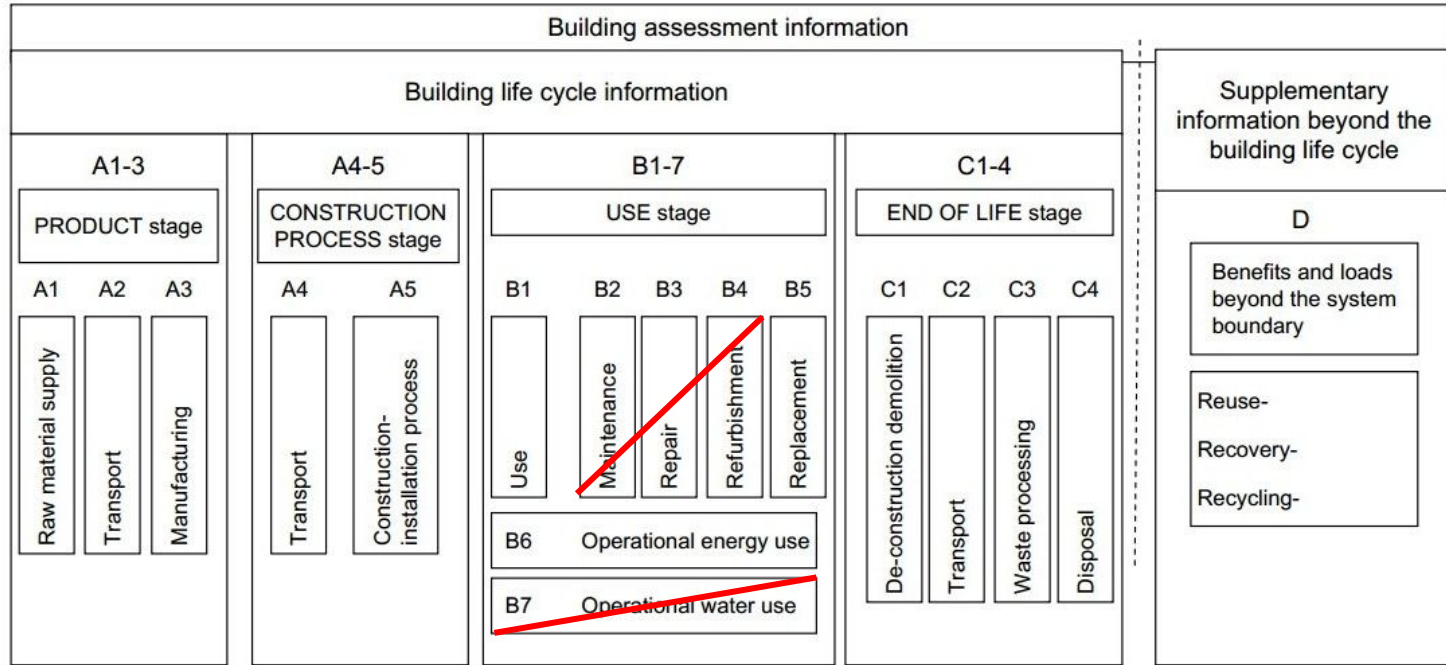


A1-3: **0.046** kgCO₂e/kg of CSEB

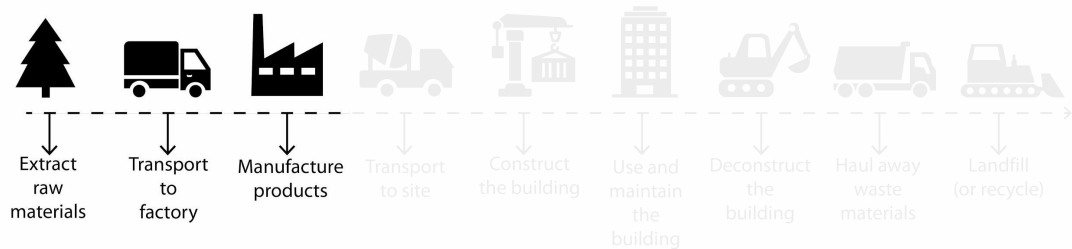
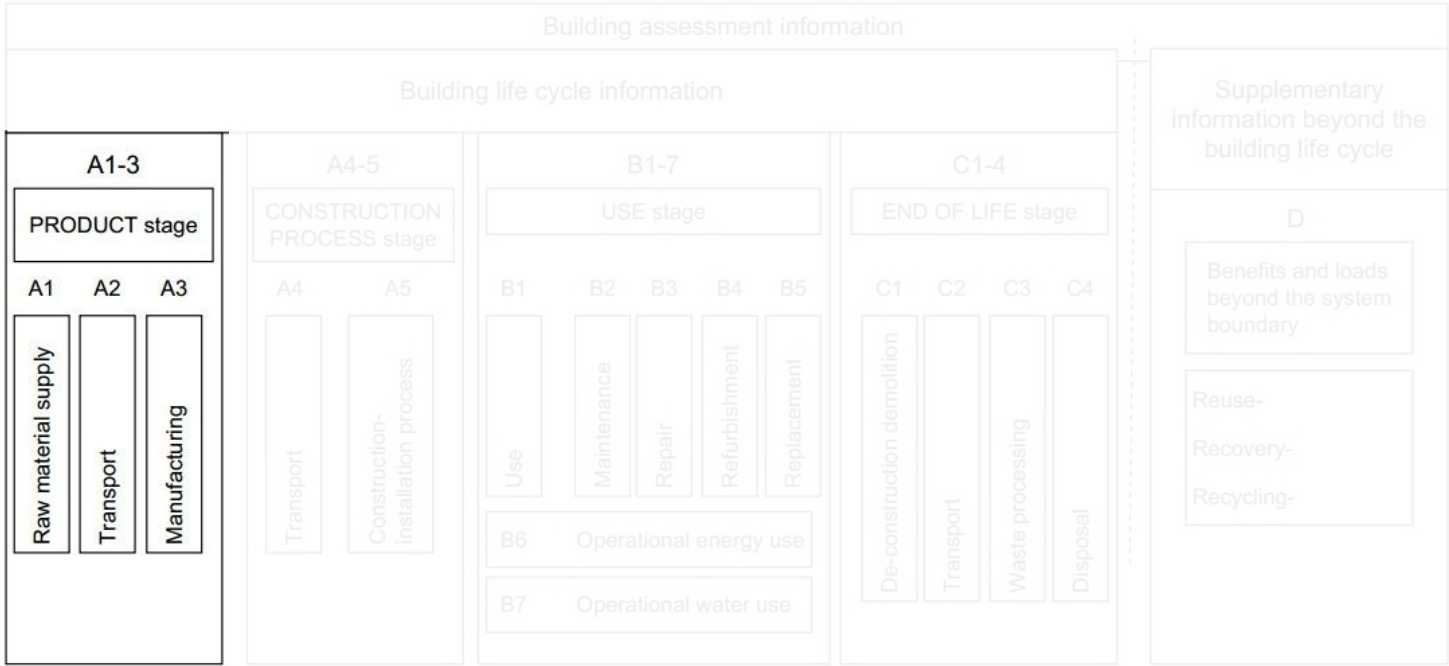
How we perform whole campus life cycle analysis



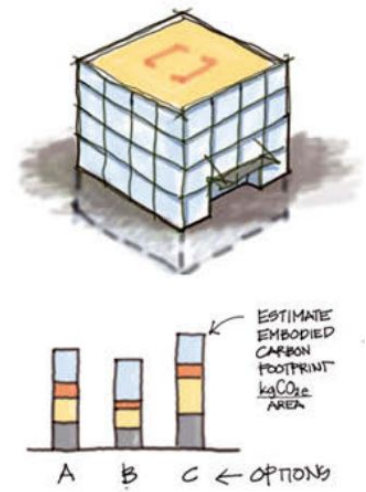
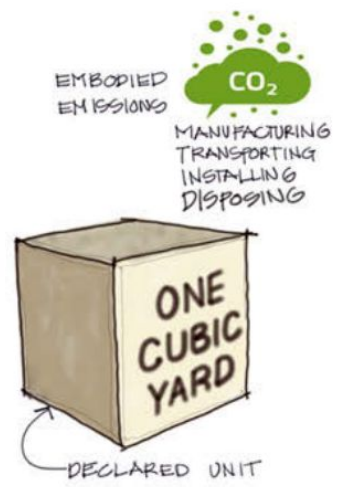
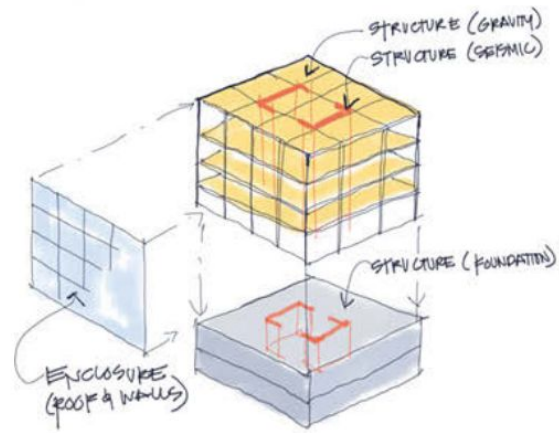
System boundary



A1-3 Product stage



A1-3 Product stage



MATERIAL QUANTITY ESTIMATE

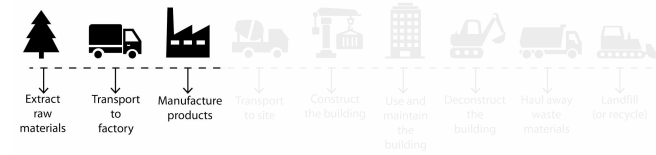
×

EMBODIED CARBON PER UNIT MATERIAL

=

BUILDING EMBODIED CARBON (EC) ESTIMATE

A1-3 Product stage



Reinforced 240mm Thk CSEB wall with earth plaster (Declared unit = 1m²)

Earth	365kg x 0.00438 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 1.60 kgCO ₂ e
Cement	20kg x 0.798 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 15.96 kgCO ₂ e
Sand for mortar	90kg x 0.00438 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 0.39 kgCO ₂ e
Cement for mortar	15kg x 0.798 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 11.97 kgCO ₂ e
Reinforcement	6kg x 1.99 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 11.94 kgCO ₂ e
Earth for plaster	40kg x 0.00438 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 0.18 kgCO ₂ e
Cement for plaster	2kg x 0.798 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 1.60 kgCO ₂ e

A1 - A3 Sum = 44 kgCO₂e/m² of wall area

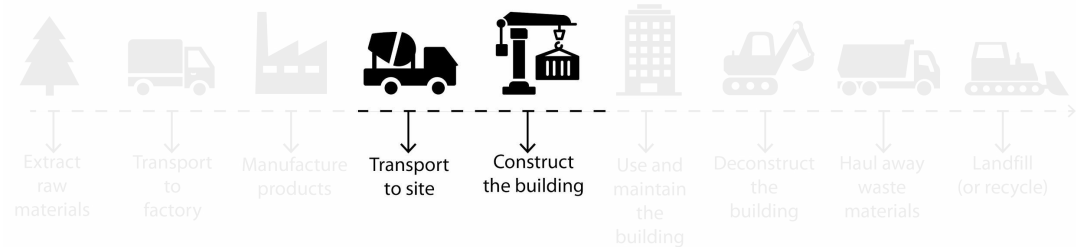
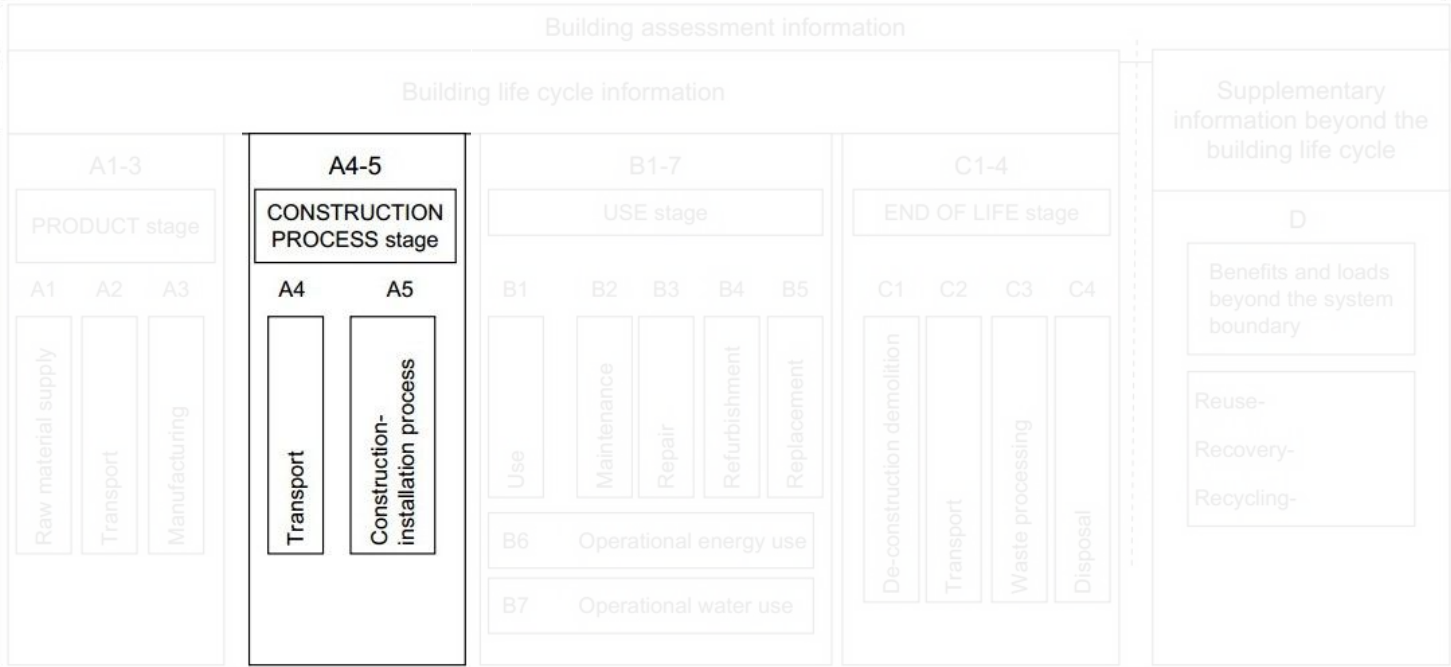
Sources and assumptions

Sand and earth: ICE v3: from virgin land won resources, bulk, loose

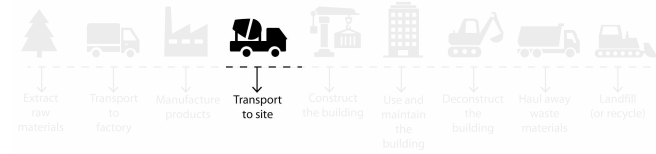
Reinforcement: ICE v3: Steel, Rebar

Cement: ICE v3: CEM II/A-P - 13% natural pozzolanic ash

A4-5 Construction process



A4 - Transport

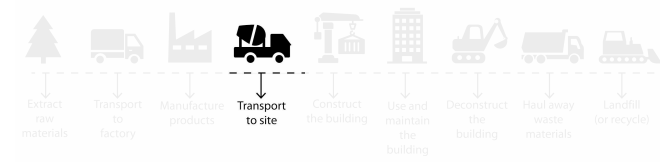


Transport scenario	Km by road	Km by sea
Locally manufactured e.g. concrete, aggregate, earth	50	-
State manufactured e.g. plasterboard, blockwork, insulation	300	-
Nationally manufactured e.g. timber, carpet	1,500	-
Globally manufactured.	200	10,000

Transport Types	kgCO2e/kgkm	Source
Motorbike	0.001647	Motorbike average
Van	0.0008115	Vans petrol average
HGV (rigid)	0.00021334	HGV All rigids average laden
HGV (articulated)	0.00008525	HGV All artics average laden (Assume for road transport)
Air Freight	0.00123205	Freight flights international with radiative factors
Rail	0.00003351	Freight train
Cargo ship	0.00001614	Container ship Average



A4 - Transport



Reinforced 240mm Thk CSEB wall with earth plaster (Declared unit = 1m²)

Earth	365kg x 5km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.39 kgCO ₂ e
Cement	20kg x 150km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.64 kgCO ₂ e
Sand for mortar	90kg x 50km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.96 kgCO ₂ e
Cement for mortar	15kg x 150km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.48 kgCO ₂ e
Reinforcement	6kg x 75km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.10 kgCO ₂ e
Earth for plaster	40kg x 5km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.04 kgCO ₂ e
Cement for plaster	2kg x 150km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.06 kgCO ₂ e

A4 Sum = 2.67 kgCO₂e/m² of wall area

Sources and assumptions

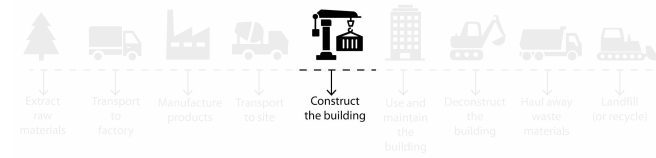
Rigid HGV used for transportation

Actual distances from manufacturers known

RICA Campus Summary

Buildings	3,848 tonnes CO ₂ e
Infrastructure	4,861 tonnes CO ₂ e
Landscape	1,123 tonnes CO ₂ e
A1-A4 Sum	9,831 tonnes CO ₂ e

A5 - Construction

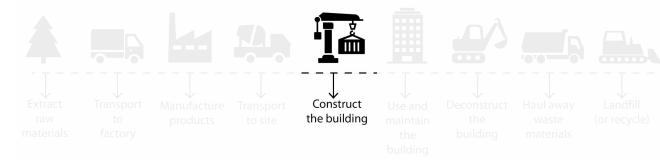


Consider electricity,
fuel, waste and
transportation
impacts

Activity	Rate
Excavation	1.39 kgCO ₂ e/m ³



A5 - Construction



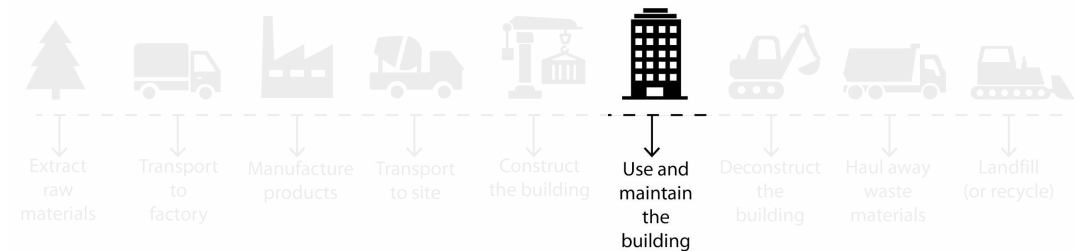
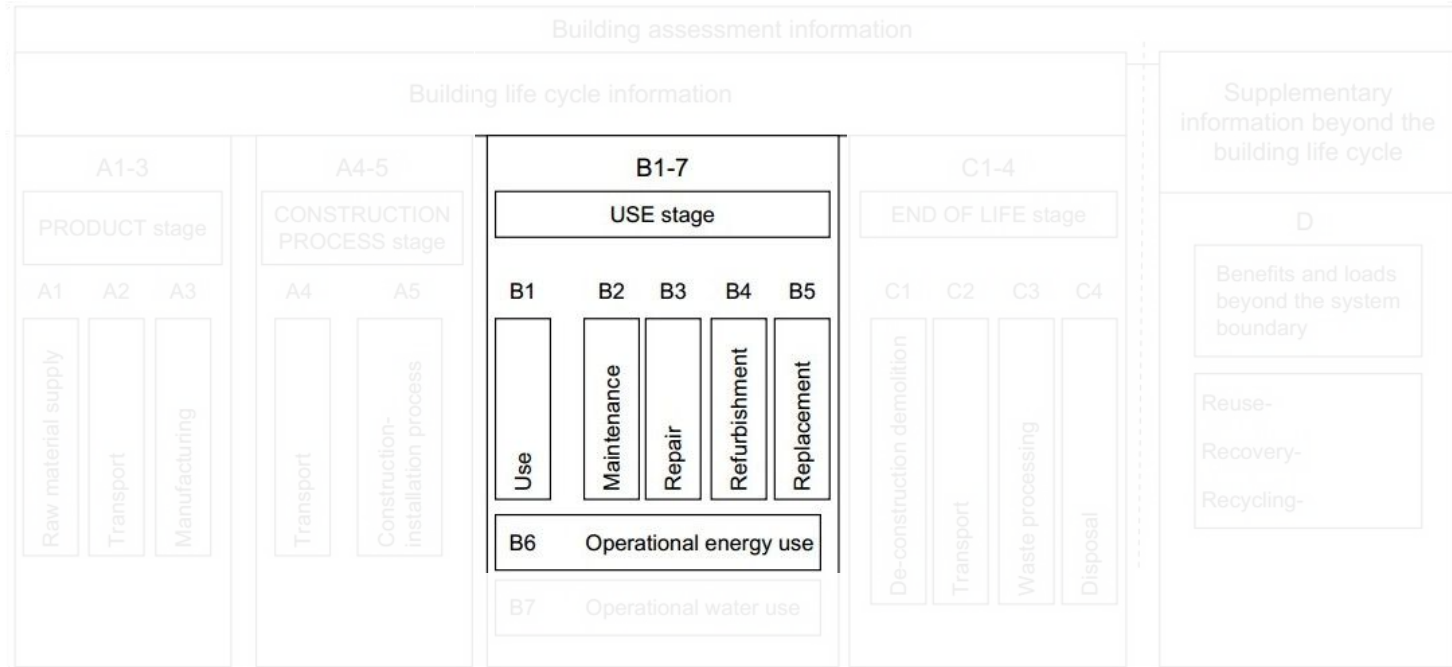
RICA Campus Construction

Buildings = 18,267m² x 20kgCO₂e/m² = 365 tonnes CO₂e

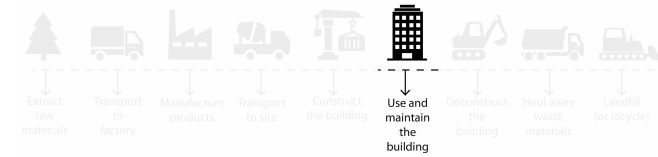
Excavation = 250,000m³ x 1.39kgCO₂e/m³ = 348 tonnes CO₂e

A5 Sum = 712 tonnes CO₂e

B1-7 Use stage



B1 - Use

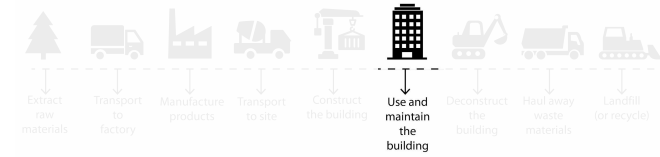


Use EPDs if B1 is relevant e.g. GHG from HFC blown insulation

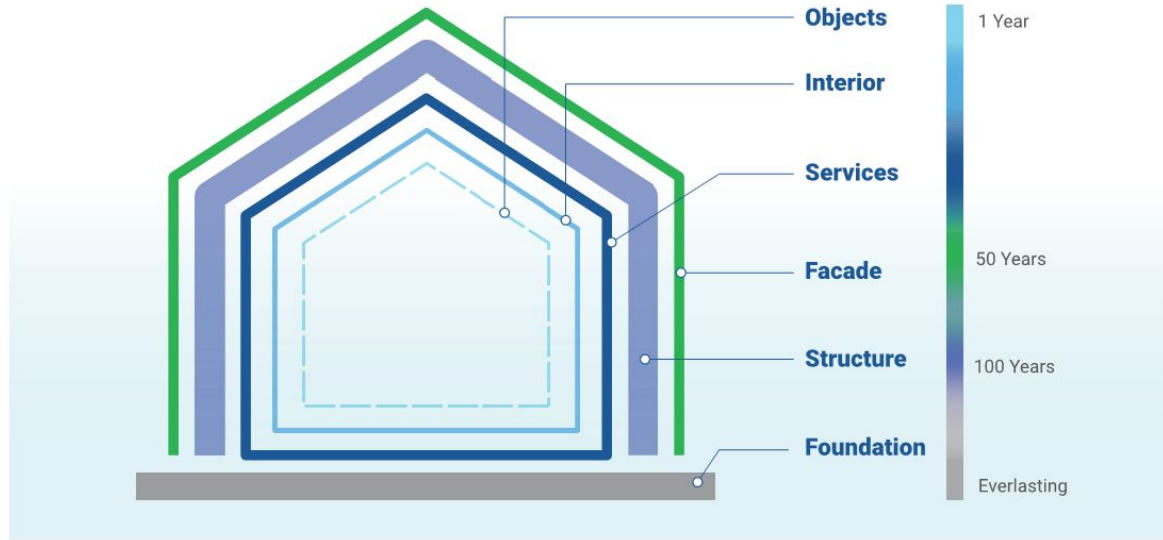
Table 12. 2K-LP, HFC results

TRACI v2.1	A1-A3	A4	A5	B1	C2	C4	D
GWP 100 [kg CO ₂ eq]	3.21E+00	9.80E-02	7.05E+00	1.52E+01	2.72E-03	1.02E+01	-1.41E-04
GWP 100, IPCC AR5 [kg CO ₂ eq]	3.24E+00	9.83E-02	5.93E+00	1.27E+01	2.73E-03	8.50E+00	-1.41E-04
ODP [kg CFC-11 eq]	5.37E-08	2.82E-15	2.20E-13	-	7.87E-17	6.03E-15	-4.51E-16
AP [kg SO ₂ eq]	1.03E-02	4.40E-04	2.81E-03	-	1.23E-05	1.52E-04	-8.24E-07
EP [kg N eq]	7.11E-04	3.64E-05	2.09E-04	-	1.02E-06	7.68E-06	-3.14E-08
POCP [kg O ₃ eq]	1.41E-01	1.45E-02	9.29E-02	1.11E-05	4.05E-04	3.01E-03	-3.64E-06
ADP _{fossil} [MJ, LHV]	7.19E+00	1.93E-01	6.71E-01	-	5.39E-03	6.57E-02	1.80E-04

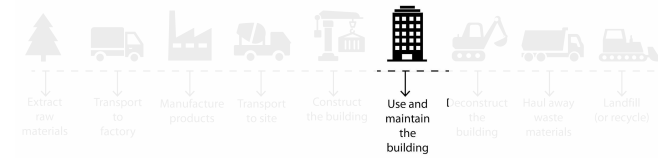
B5 - Replacement



Building element/ component	Expected lifespan (years)
Structure and foundations	Service life
Roof coverings	30
Internal partitioning and dry lining	30
Wall renders	30
Paint	10
Raised floor finishes	30
Floor finish layers	10
Substrate to ceiling finishes	20
FFE	10
Mechanical services	20
Electrical installations	30
Lighting and communications	15
Water and disposal installations	25
Sanitaryware	20
Lift installation	20
Opaque cladding	30
Glazed cladding	35
Windows and doors	30



B5 - Replacement



Earth plaster replacement (Declared unit = 1m²)

Plaster service life: 11 years

Number of replacements: 60 years/11 years -1 = 4.5, this is rounded up to 5

Earth for plaster = (0.18 [A1-3]+ 0.04 [A4]+ 0.51 [C2]+ 0.52 [C3-4] kgCO₂e) x 5 = 6.25 kgCO₂e

Cement for plaster = (1.60 [A1-3]+ 0.06 [A4]+ 0.03 [C2]+ 0.03 [C3-4] kgCO₂e) x 5 = 8.60 kgCO₂e

B5 Sum = 14.85 kgCO₂e/m² of wall area

Sources and assumptions

Refer to other LCA stages to understand how numbers in calculation were developed

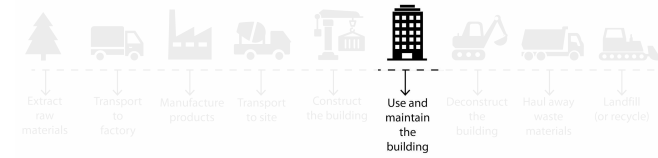
11 years has been used because it doesn't fit evenly into 60 years for demonstration only

RICA Campus Replacements

Buildings	770 tonnes CO ₂ e
Infrastructure	6,567 tonnes CO ₂ e
Landscape	224 tonnes CO ₂ e

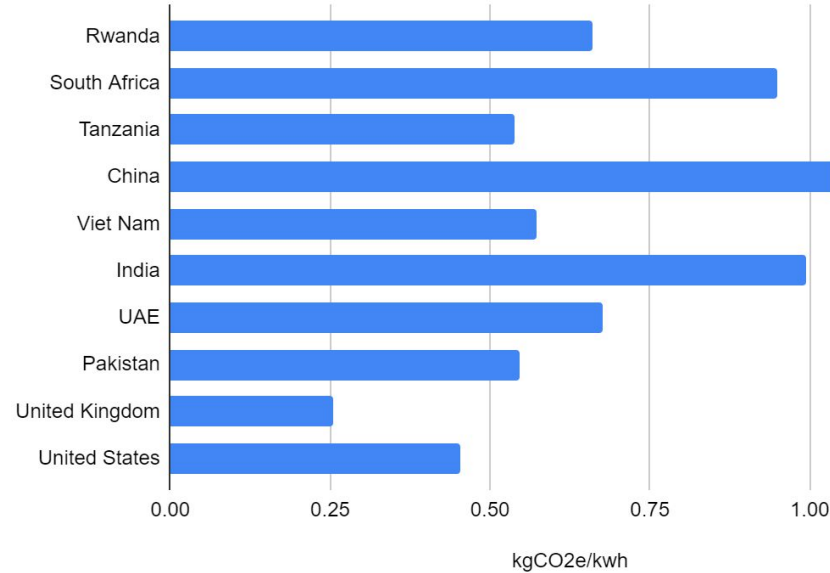
B5 Sum 7,562 tonnes CO₂e

B6 - Operational



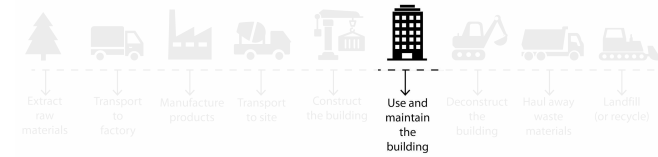
Energy use x
carbon intensity
of source

Export to grid
reported in
module D



Fuel	Global warming potential, kgCO2e
Natural gas	2.26 per m3
Diesel fuel	3.24 per litre
Petrol	2.80 per litre
Coal	2.96 per kg
Wood logs	67.63 per m3
Biogas	0.46 per m3
Wood pellets	0.19 per kg

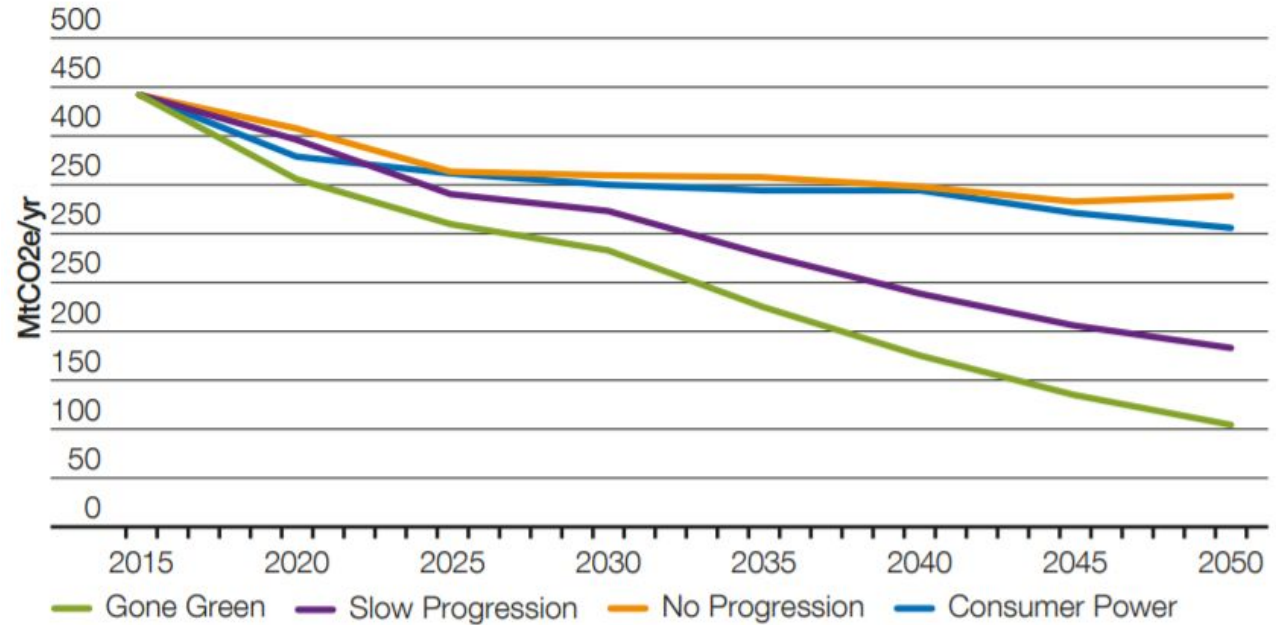
B6 - Operational



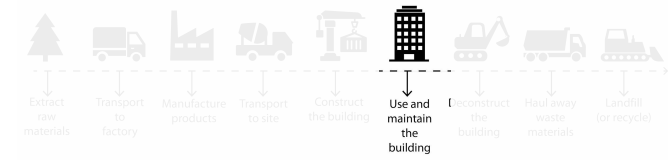
Can consider decarbonisation of grid if there is evidence

Can also be used for other B, C and D modules

Figure 5.2.4
Total UK carbon emissions from energy



B6 - Operational



RICA Camus Operational Energy

PV Panels meet majority of the need and generator used as back up.

Diesel generator: $15,000 \text{ kWh/year} \times 60 \text{ years} / 3 \text{ kWh/litre} \times 3.24 \text{ kgCO}_2\text{e/litre} = 97 \text{ tonnes CO}_2\text{e}$

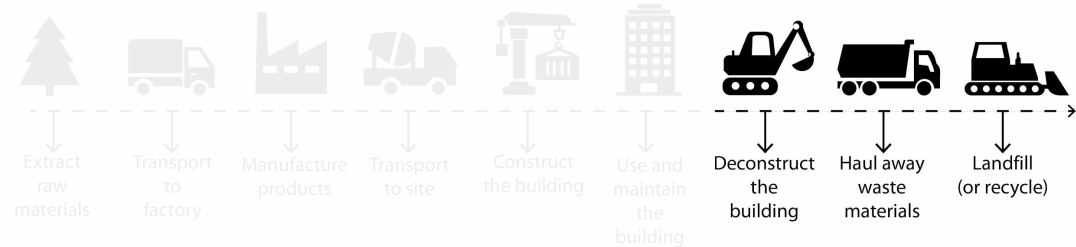
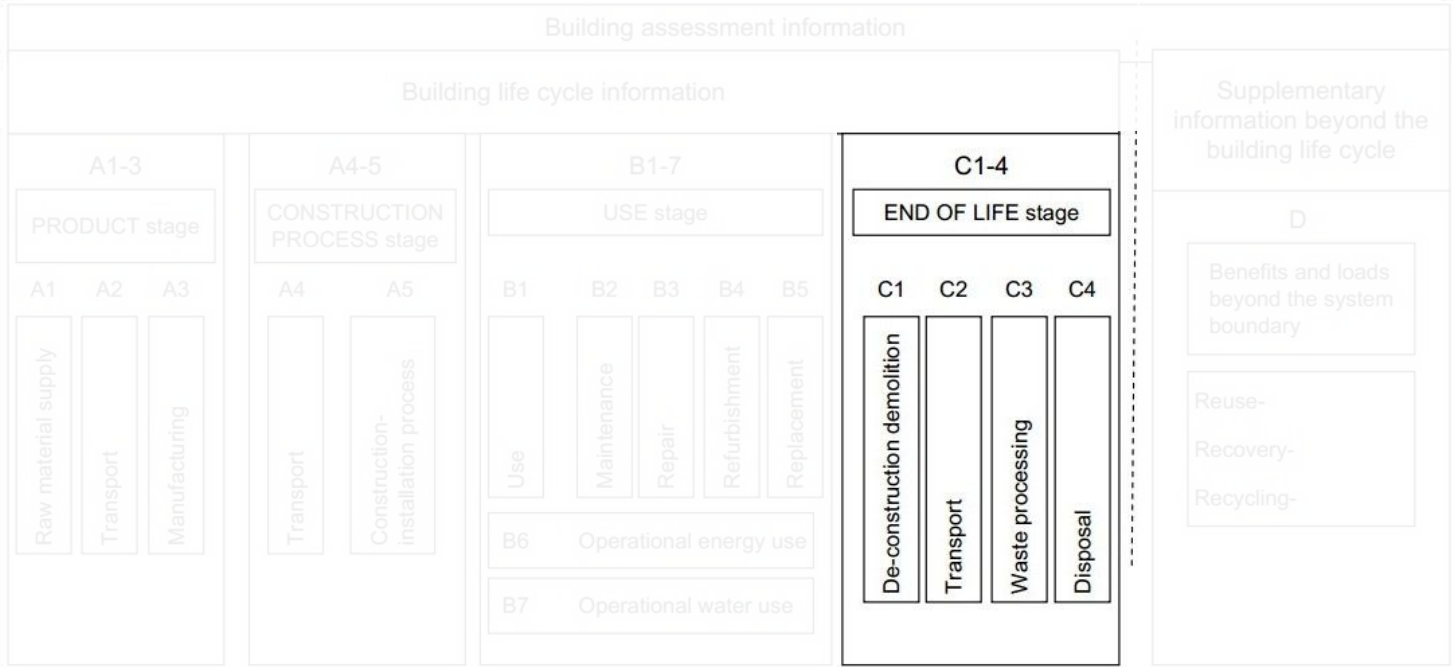
B6 Sum = 97 tonnes CO₂e

Sources and assumptions

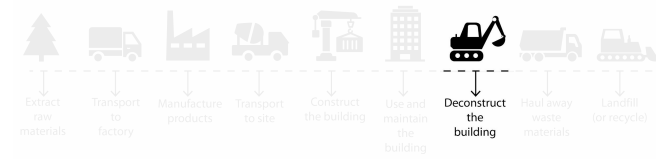
Generator produces 3 kWh/litre of diesel

Generator energy use is from actual data

C1-4 End of Life



C1 - Deconstruction

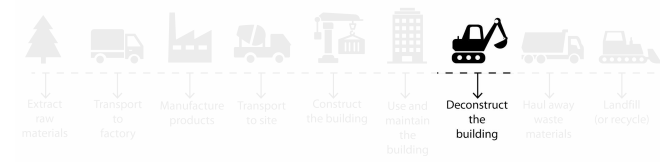


Generic demolition
rate from central
London:

3.4 kgCO₂e/GFA



C1 - Deconstruction



RICA Camus Deconstruction

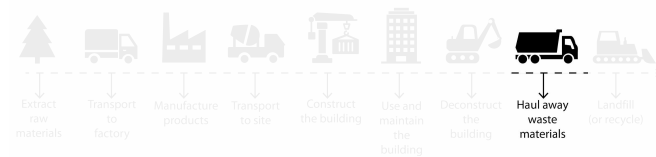
Buildings = 18,267m² x 3.4kgCO₂e/m² = 62 tonnes CO₂e

C1 Sum = 62 tonnes CO₂e

Sources and assumptions

Deconstruction of infrastructure is not included because it is assumed this will remain operational and buildings may be replaced

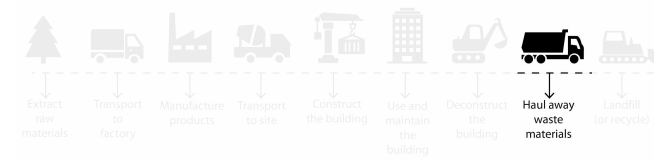
C2 - Transport



End of Life Scenario	Transport distance
Reuse/ recycling on site	0km
Reuse/ recycling elsewhere	50km
Landfill/ incineration	Average between 2 closest landfill/incineration sites



C2 - Transport



Reinforced 240mm Thk CSEB wall with earth plaster (Declared unit = 1m²)

Earth	365kg x 5km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.39 kgCO ₂ e
Cement	20kg x 5km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.02 kgCO ₂ e
Sand for mortar	90kg x 60km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 1.15 kgCO ₂ e
Cement for mortar	15kg x 60km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.19 kgCO ₂ e
Reinforcement	6kg x 5km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.01 kgCO ₂ e
Earth for plaster	40kg x 60km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.51 kgCO ₂ e
Cement for plaster	2kg x 60km	x 0.00021334 kgCO ₂ e/kgkm	= 0.03 kgCO ₂ e

C2 Sum = 2.30 kgCO₂e/m² of wall area

Sources and assumptions

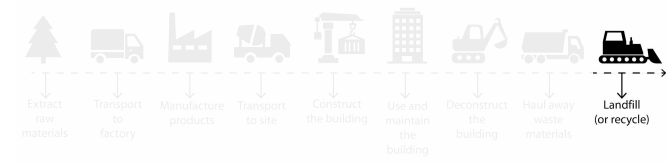
Articulated truck used for transportation

Assumed reinforcement and CSEBs are recycled/ reused

RICA Campus Summary

C2 sum 232 tonnes CO₂e

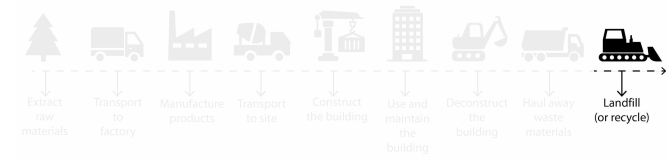
C3-4 - Waste processing and disposal



Use EPDs for C3 if waste
is processed before
disposal, reuse or recycle

Construction waste	kgCO2e/kg waste
Typical to landfill	0.013
Timber to landfill without gas recovery	2.15
Timber incinerated	biogenic
Energy recovery from timber	biogenic (reported in module D)

C3-4 - Waste processing and disposal



Reinforced 240mm Thk CSEB wall with earth plaster (Declared unit = 1m²)

Earth	365kg	x 0 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 0 kgCO ₂ e
Cement	20kg	x 0 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 0 kgCO ₂ e
Sand for mortar	90kg	x 0.013 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 1.17 kgCO ₂ e
Cement for mortar	15kg	x 0.013 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 0.20 kgCO ₂ e
Reinforcement	6kg	x 0 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 0 kgCO ₂ e
Earth for plaster	40kg	x 0.013 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 0.52 kgCO ₂ e
Cement for plaster	2kg	x 0.013 kgCO ₂ e/kg	= 0.03 kgCO ₂ e

C3-4 Sum = 1.92 kgCO₂e/m² of wall area

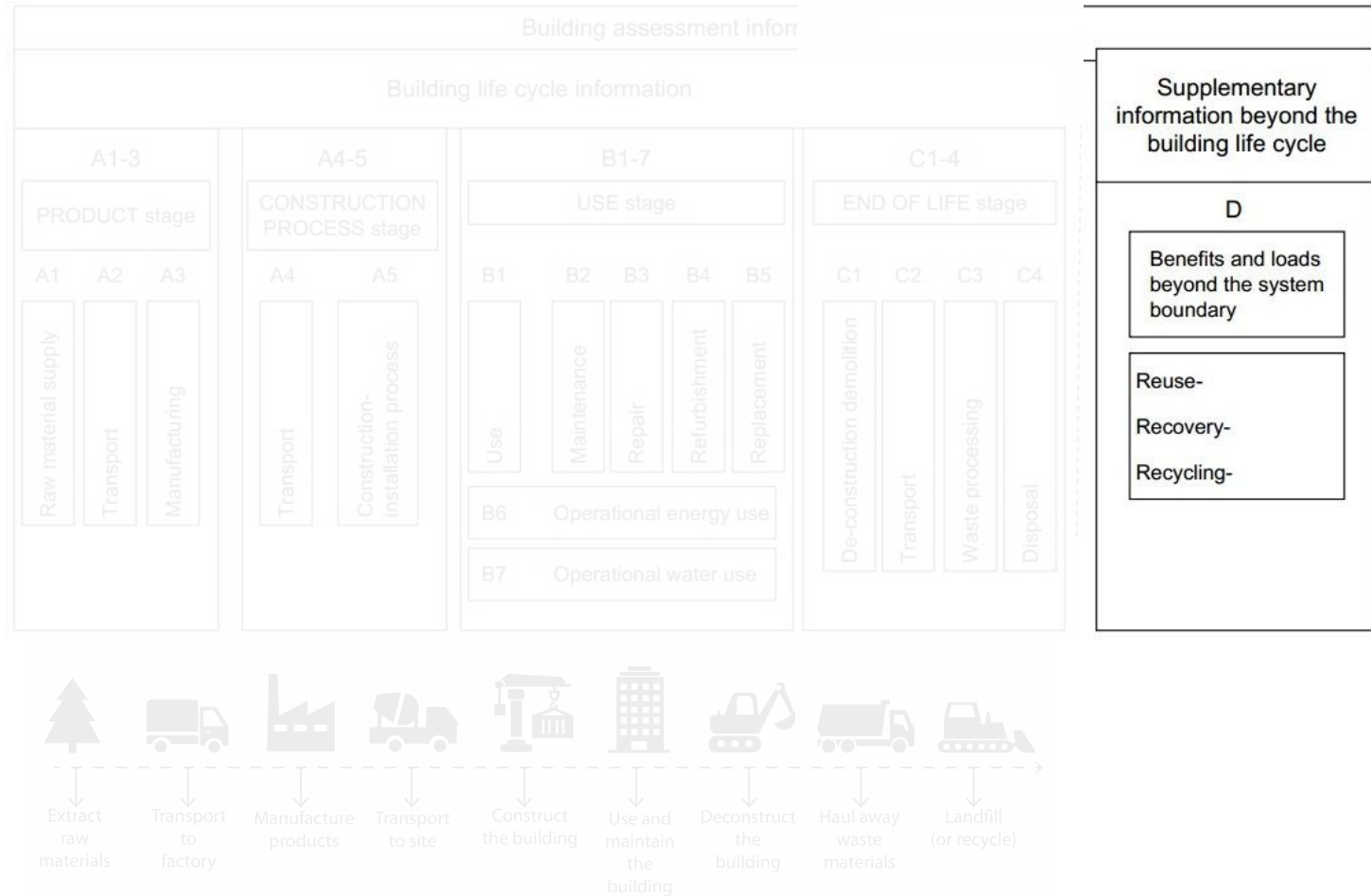
Sources and assumptions

Assumed reinforcement and CSEBs are recycled/ reused and processed by hand

RICA Campus Summary

C3-4 sum 191 tonnes CO₂e

D - Benefits and loads beyond system boundary



D - Benefits and loads beyond system boundary

Accounts for all
building benefits

- Reuse and recycle
- Biogenic carbon
- Exporting energy



D - Benefits and loads beyond system boundary

RICA Campus Sequestration

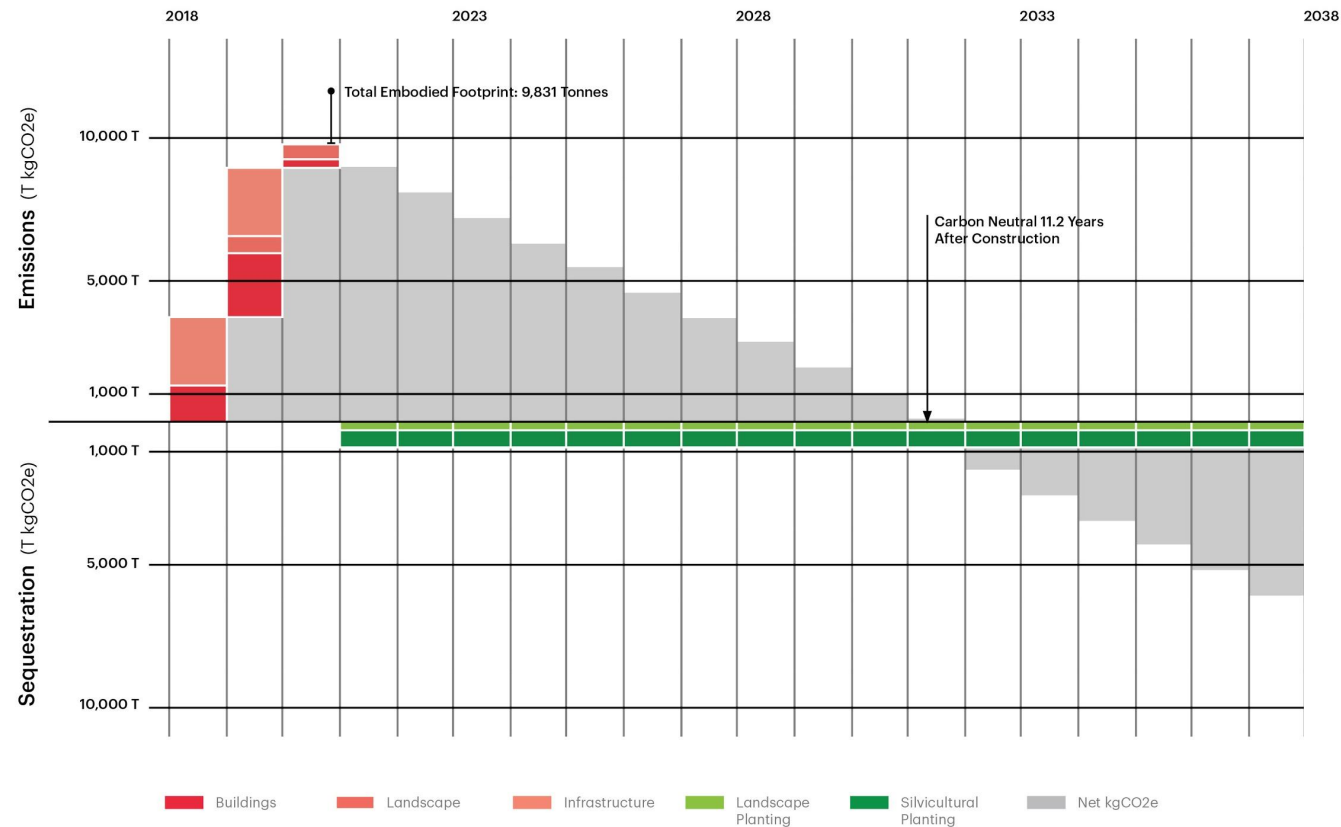
Farmland	128Ha x 800 kgCO ₂ e/year x 60 years	= 6,144 tonnes CO ₂ e
Savanna Woodland	20Ha x 1400 kgCO ₂ e/year x 60 years	= 1,680 tonnes CO ₂ e
Silviculture	20Ha x 15000 kgCO ₂ e/year x 60 years	= 18,000 tonnes CO ₂ e
Other		= 27,048 tonnes CO ₂ e
	D Sum	= 52,872 tonnes CO ₂ e

Climate Positive

A-C: 19,000 tCO₂e

A-D: - 34,000 tCO₂e

12 years



Great. You can do that in Rwanda,
but how could you do it in

_____?

(insert country here)



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