



Notre Dame University (NDU)  
Shouf Campus  
Ramez G.Chagoury Faculty of  
Architecture, Art, and Design

# Future Technologies for Achieving Net-Zero Carbon Buildings

Lebanon | April 09, 2025



**Prof. Dr. Shady Attia**

*Sustainable Building Design Lab, UEE,  
Applied Sciences, University of Liège, Belgium*  
***shady.attia@uliege.be***



/in/shady-attia-14352a7  
/www.shadyattia.org



# Acknowledgment

Al Shouf 09/04/2025

CLAUDINE CHAMOUN

Senior Lecturer  
FAAD Coordinator, Shouf Campus.  
Ramez G.Chagoury Faculty of  
Architecture, Art, and Design



To realise these gains  
the industry needs to work together

Global consensus  
on sustainability in the built environment

- High level policy advice
- More than 150 nations
- 5000+ experts
- 50+ years of expert networks
- Standards and guidelines
- Research and education
- Innovation



[www.globe-consensus.com](http://www.globe-consensus.com)



# Content

## 1. Cause of Climate Change

1. Climate Disruptions in India
2. Global Climate Change
3. Carbon Neutral Communities
4. What cause climate change?
5. Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## 2. Why Whole-Life Carbon Buildings

1. 'Embodied' and 'operational' impacts
2. Reducing 'embodied' impacts
3. Lifecycle Stages of Buildings: ISO 14040

## 3. Net-Zero Whole-Life Carbon Buildings

1. EU Carbon Neutrality 2050
2. Operational vs Embodied emissions
3. GHG Emissions
4. Corporate ESG strategies
5. Embodied GHG Emissions
6. Building Stock Renovation
7. Building Example for New Construction

## 4. Pathways and Solutions

1. IEQ, Energy Efficiency and RES Balance
2. Decarbonization of Heating & Cooling
3. All Electric with Heat Pumps
4. District Heating & Cooling
5. The Neutral Grid: Centralized Heat Pumps
6. Storage and Batteries
7. Refrigerants
8. Smart Meters and Grid's Energy Mix
9. Carbon Neutral Communities

## 5. Conclusion

1. The transition towards zero-emission buildings
2. Framework for Building Modelling
3. Recommendations

# Cause of Climate Change





# Climate Disruptions in Lebanon



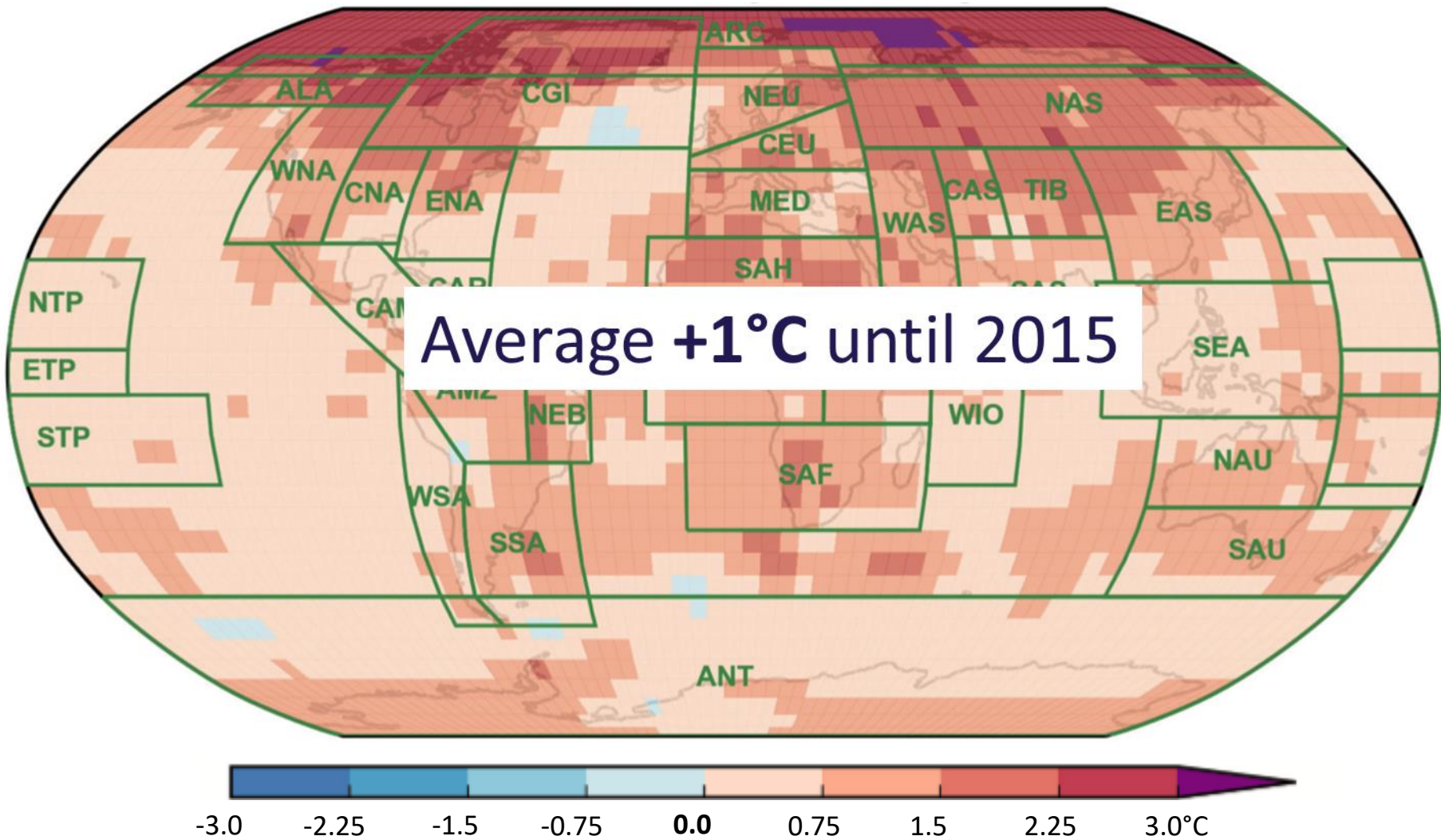
Al-Shouf Cedar Reserve

- Floods
  - Sea Level Rise
  - Windstorms
  - Heat Waves
  - Fires
  - Power outages
  - Earthquakes
  - Water Shortages
  - Air Pollution
  - Pandemics
- 
- 2024 Dubai
  - 2023 Darna
  - 2021 Beirut
  - 2019 Shouf (Storm Norma)
  - 2018 Jeddah
  - 2016 Kuwait



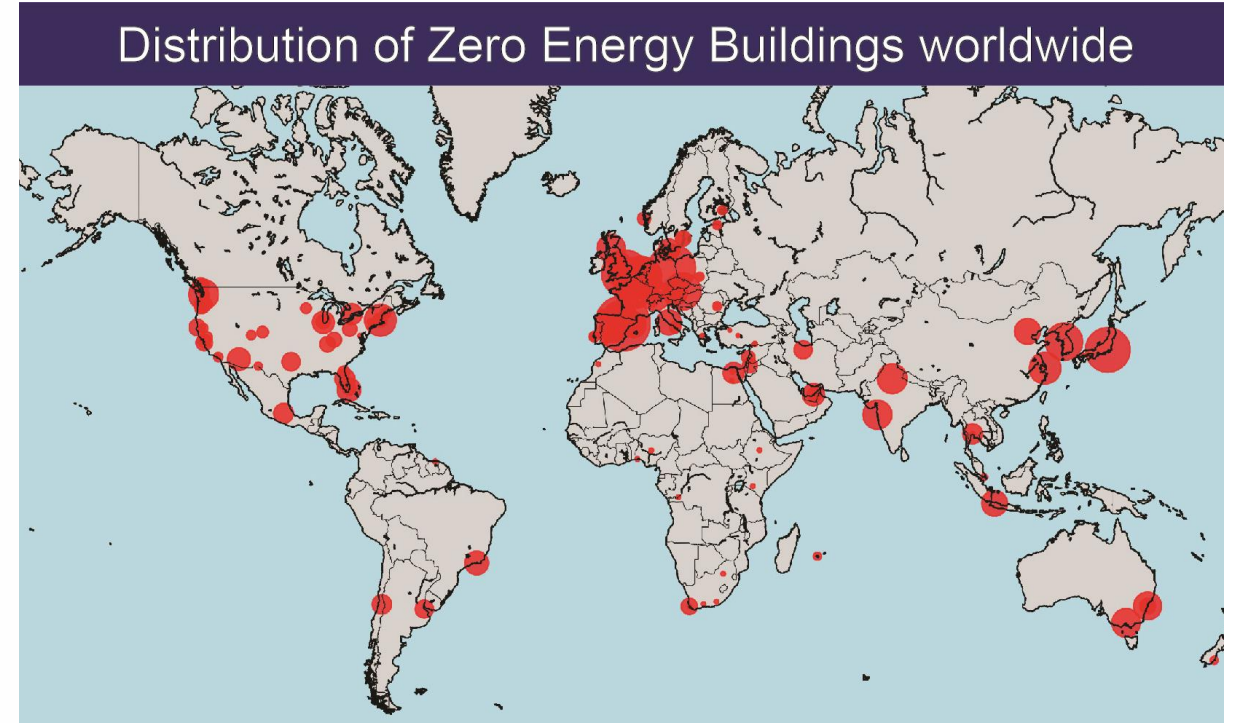
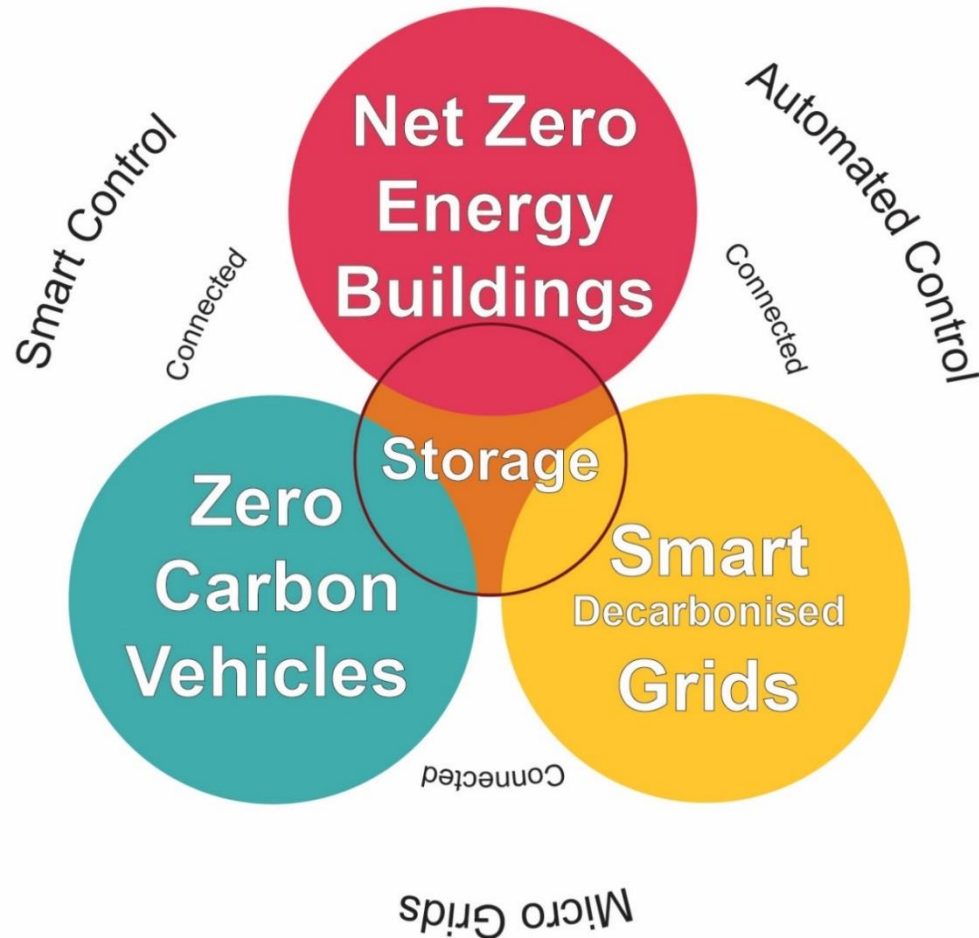
# Global Climate Change

## Paris Agreement 2015 Targets Compatibility



# Carbon Neutral Communities

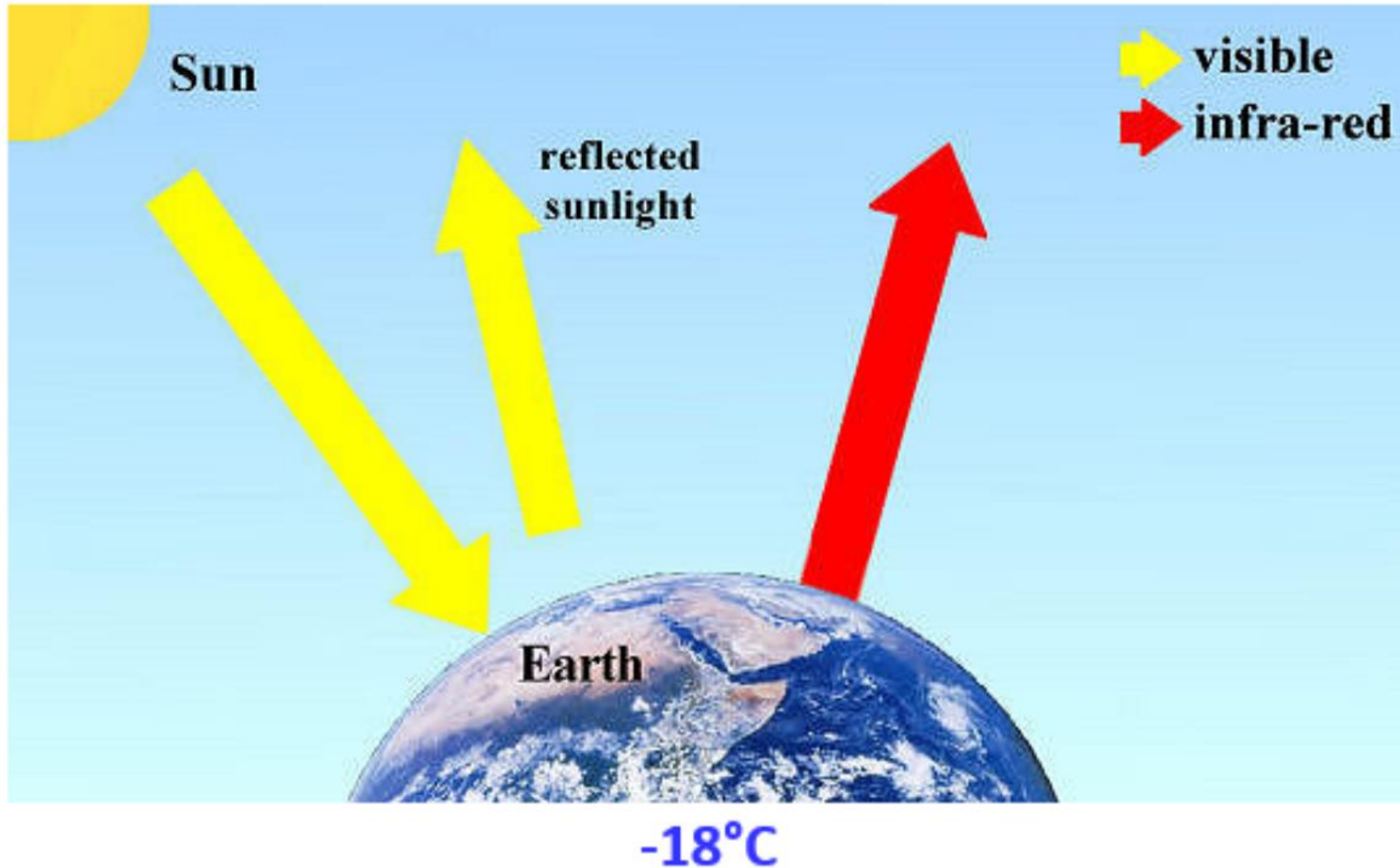
## Storage & Scale the Core of Carbon Neutrality



Source: Attia, S. (2025) **Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB)**, Elsevier, 2nd

# What cause climate change?

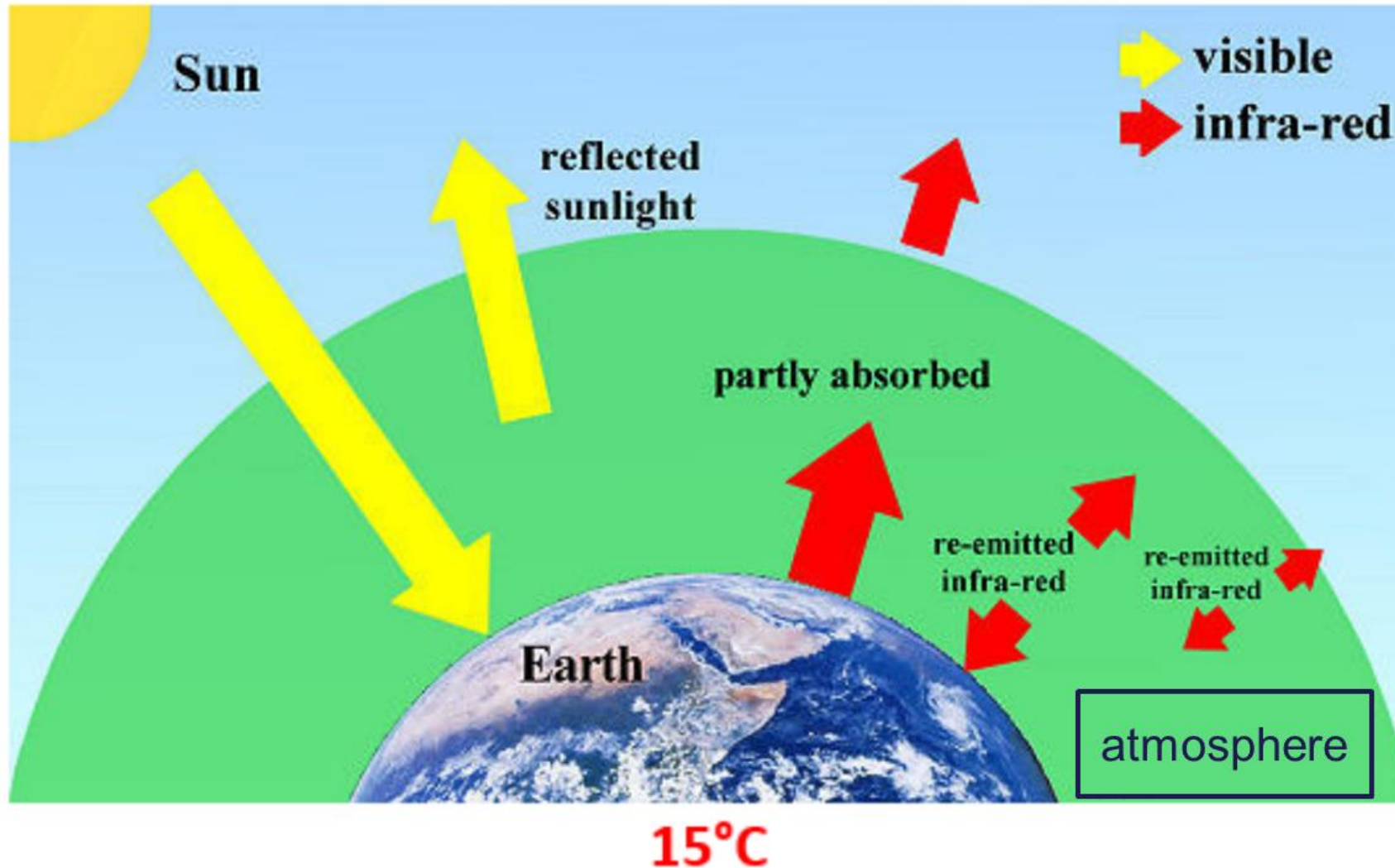
No greenhouse gases



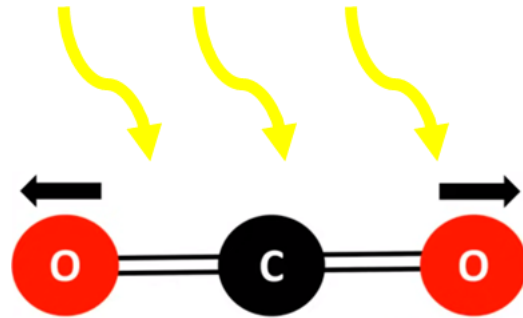


# What cause climate change?

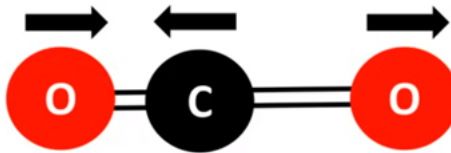
With greenhouse gases



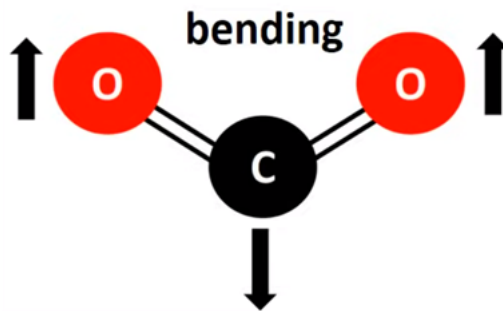
# What cause climate change?



symmetrical stretching

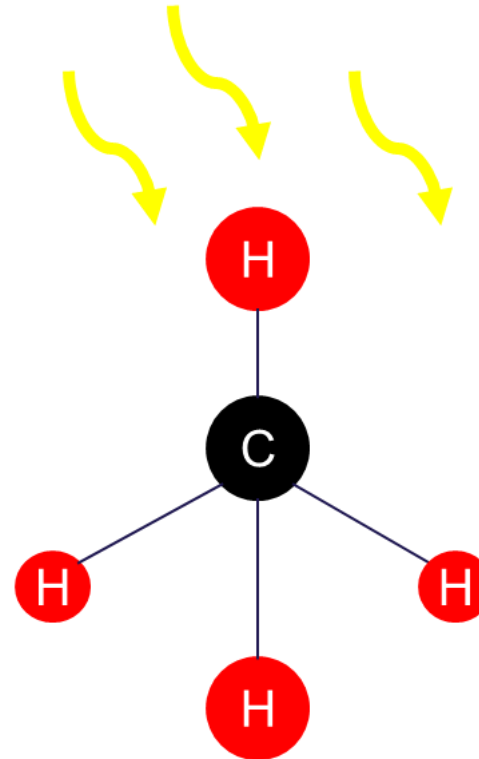


asymmetrical stretching

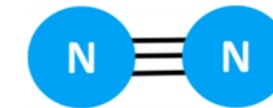
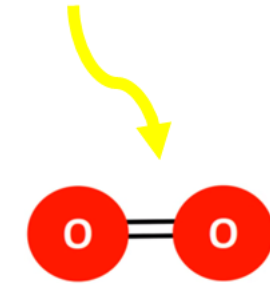


bending

burning of fossil fuels such as coal, oil, natural gas, and deforestation



Methane is emitted by livestock, agricultural practices, decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills and during processing of coal, oil, and natural gas. It traps the heat.



No GHG

# What cause climate change?

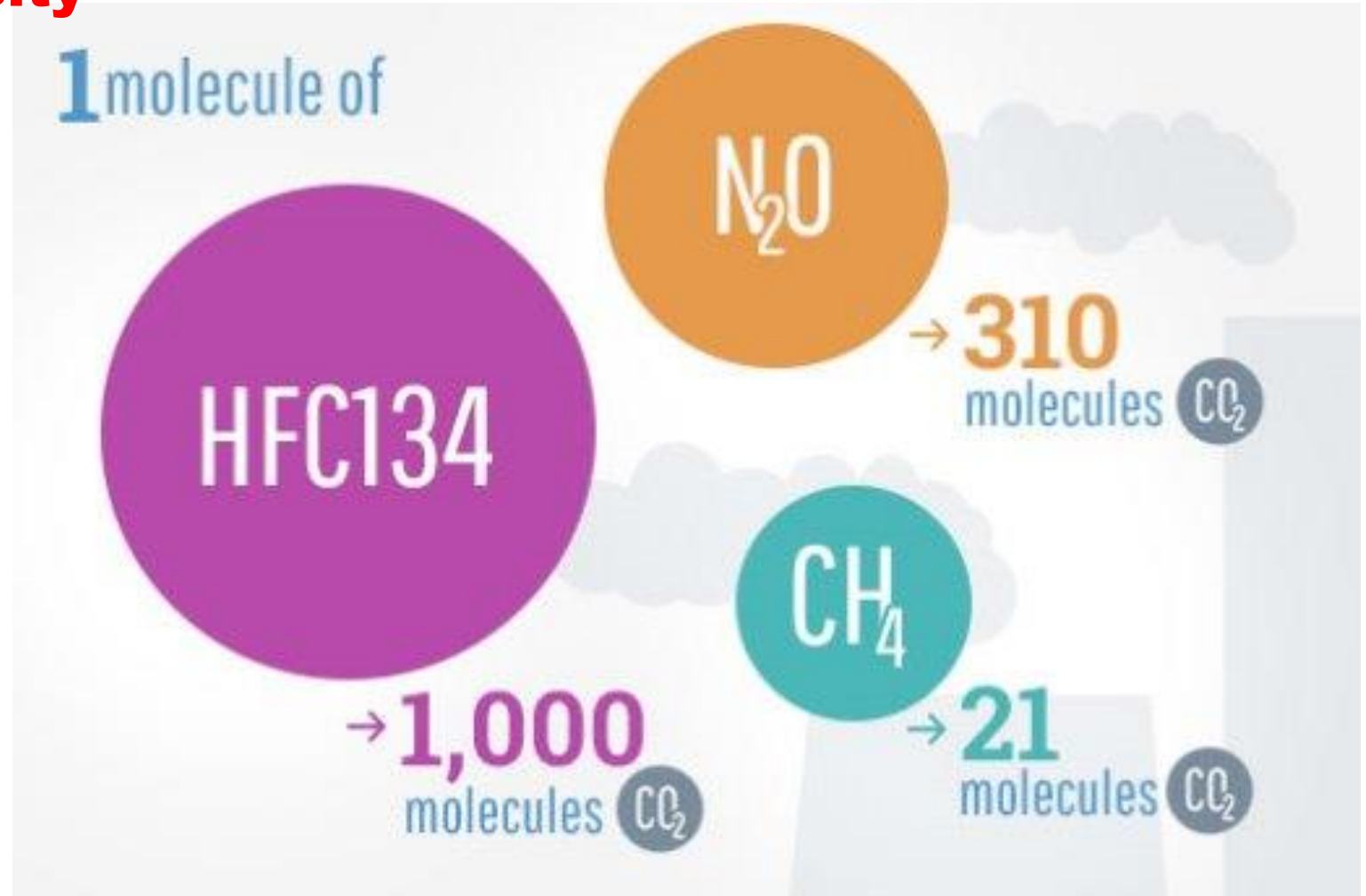
Molecule	x or %	$\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ (ppmv) <sup>a</sup> (2014)	$\mu\text{mol mol}^{-1}$ (ppmv) (1750)
N <sub>2</sub>	0.78 or 78%	780 900	780 900
O <sub>2</sub>	0.21 or 21%	209 400	209 400
H <sub>2</sub> O	0.03 (100% humidity, 298 K)	30 000	31 000
H <sub>2</sub> O	0.01 (50% humidity, 298 K)	10 000	16 000
Ar	0.01 or 1%	9300	9300
CO <sub>2</sub>	$3.8 \times 10^{-4}$ or 0.038%	393	280
Ne	$1.8 \times 10^{-5}$ or 0.002%	18	18
CH <sub>4</sub>	$1.77 \times 10^{-6}$ or 0.0002%	1.80	0.72
N <sub>2</sub> O	$3.2 \times 10^{-7}$ or 0.00003%	0.32	0.27
O <sub>3</sub> <sup>b</sup>	$3.4 \times 10^{-8}$ or 0.000003%	0.034	0.025
All CFCs <sup>c</sup>	$8.7 \times 10^{-10}$ or $8.7 \times 10^{-8}\%$	0.0009	0
All HCFCs <sup>d</sup>	$1.9 \times 10^{-10}$ or $1.9 \times 10^{-8}\%$	0.0002	0
All PFCs <sup>e</sup>	$8.3 \times 10^{-11}$ or $8.3 \times 10^{-9}\%$	0.00008	0
All HFCs <sup>f</sup>	$6.1 \times 10^{-11}$ or $6.1 \times 10^{-9}\%$	0.00006	0

# Climate change indicator?

## 1. GHG Emissions Intensity

~~EUI~~  
~~Energy Use Intensity~~  
~~kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year~~

GWP  
kgCO<sub>2,e</sub>/m<sup>2</sup>/year



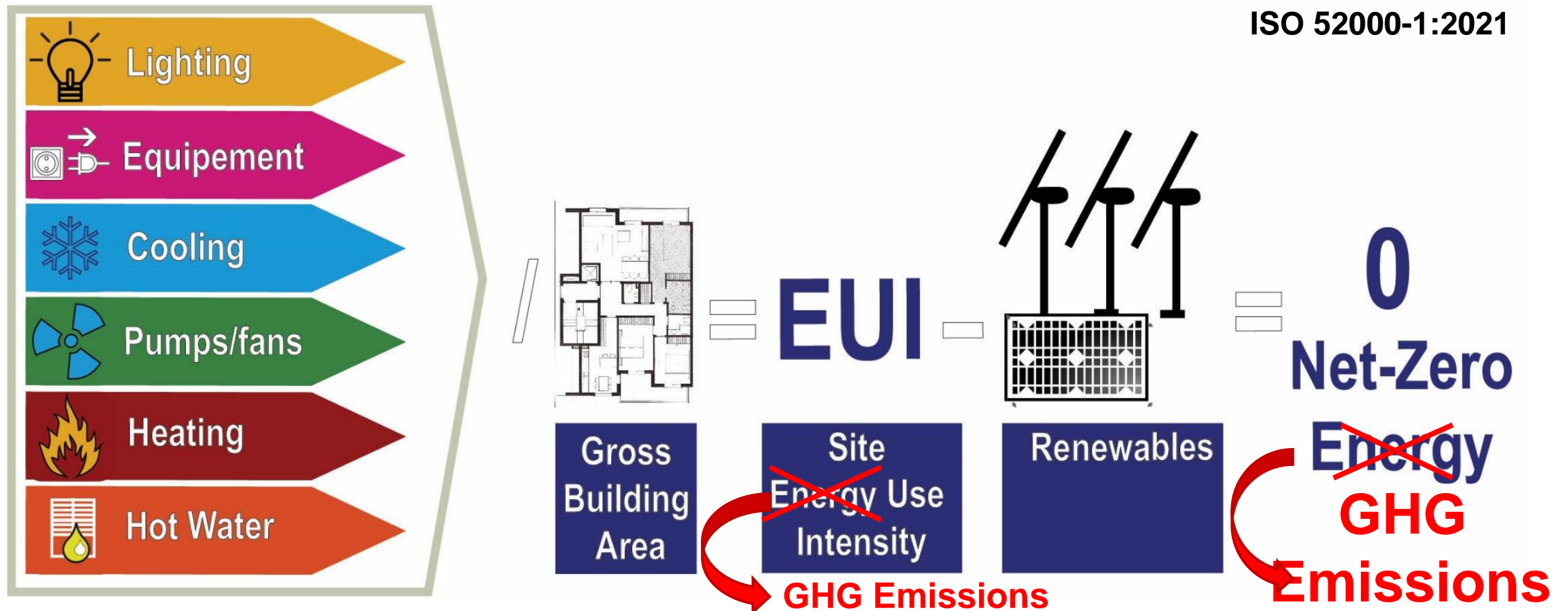


# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## From Energy Use Intensity to GHG Emissions Intensity

### Measuring ~~Energy~~ Emissions

ISO 52000-1:2021

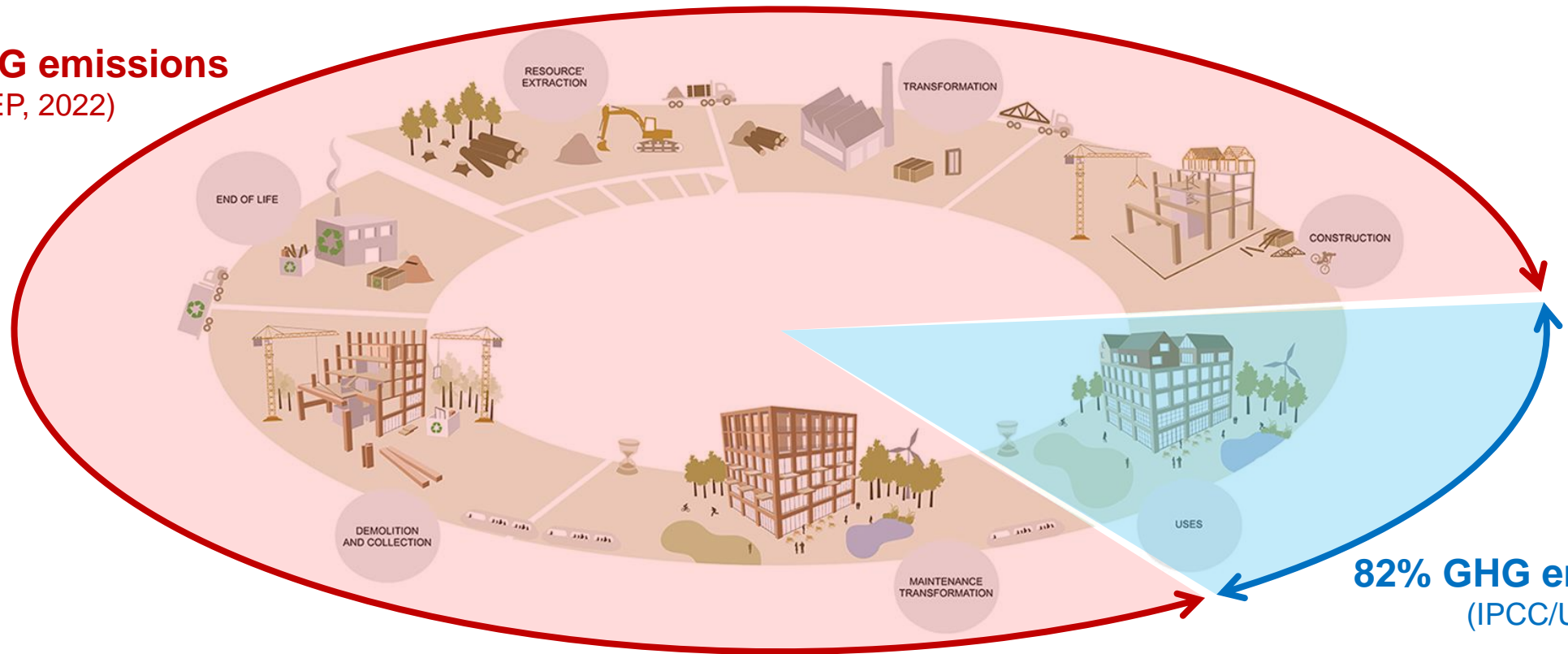


# Why Whole-Life Carbon Buildings



# ‘Embodied’ and ‘operational’ impacts

**18% GHG emissions**  
(IPCC/UNEP, 2022)

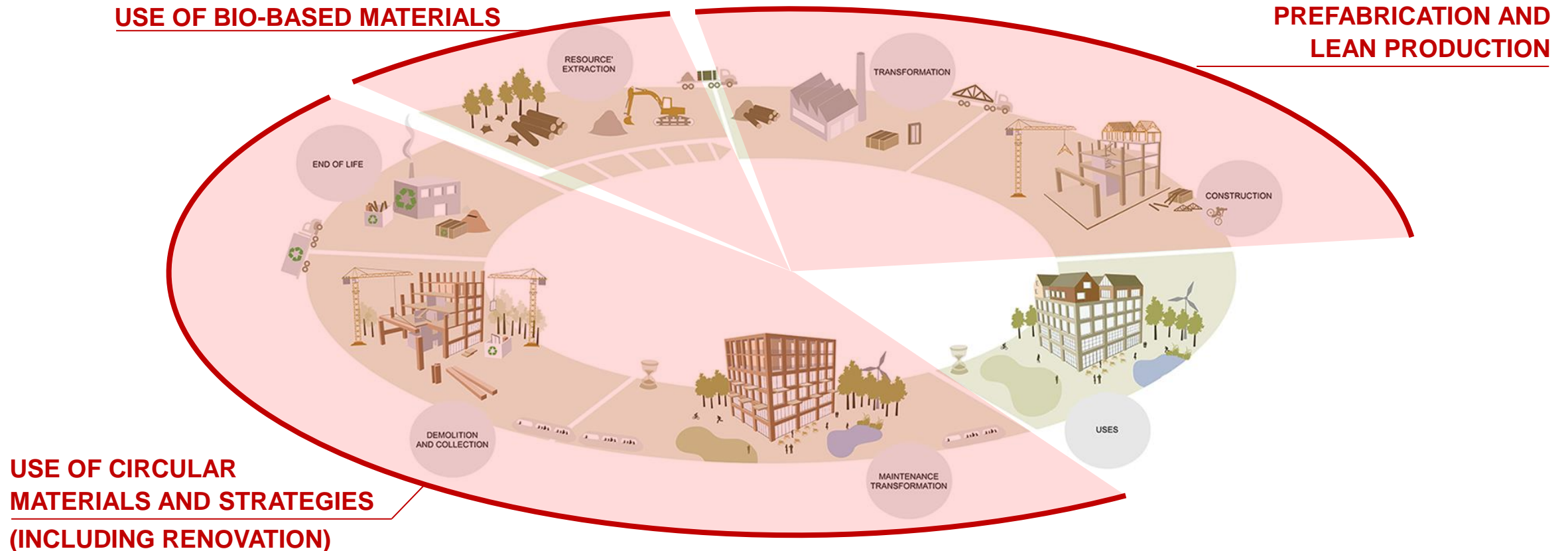


Life cycle phases of buildings

Source: <https://www.smartlivinglab.ch/en/infrastructures/smart-living-building/>



# Reducing 'embodied' impacts

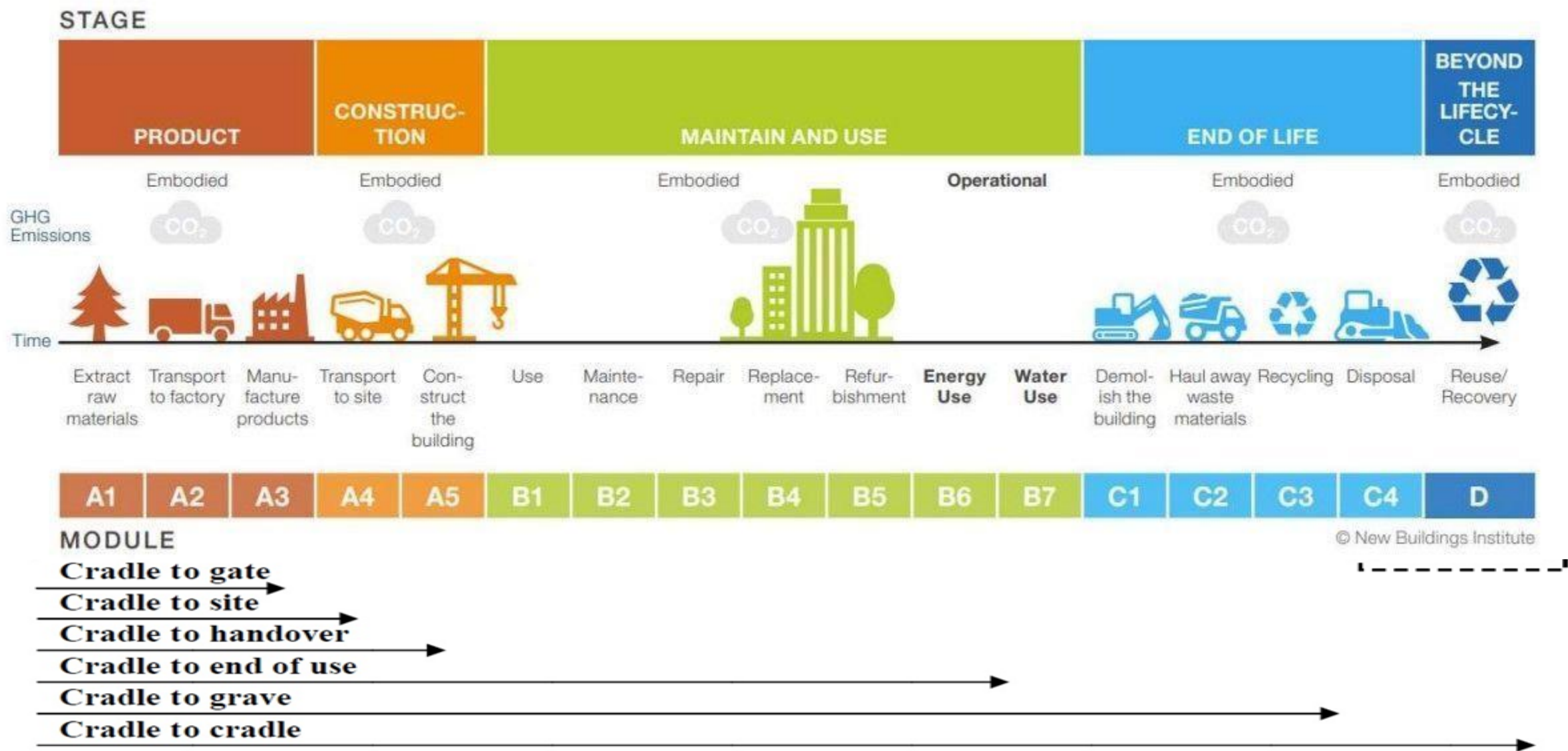


Life cycle phases of buildings

Source: <https://www.smartlivinglab.ch/en/infrastructures/smart-living-building/>



# Lifecycle Stages of Buildings: ISO 14040



# Why whole life cycle carbon?

ISO 14040

1. **Comprehensive Carbon Footprint Assessment**
2. **Long-term Sustainability Goals**  
Climate-neutral by 2050.
3. **Regulatory Efficiency**  
Resources efficiency
4. **Market Transformation**  
accelerate the adoption of green technologies
5. **Holistic Environmental Impact:**  
circular economy

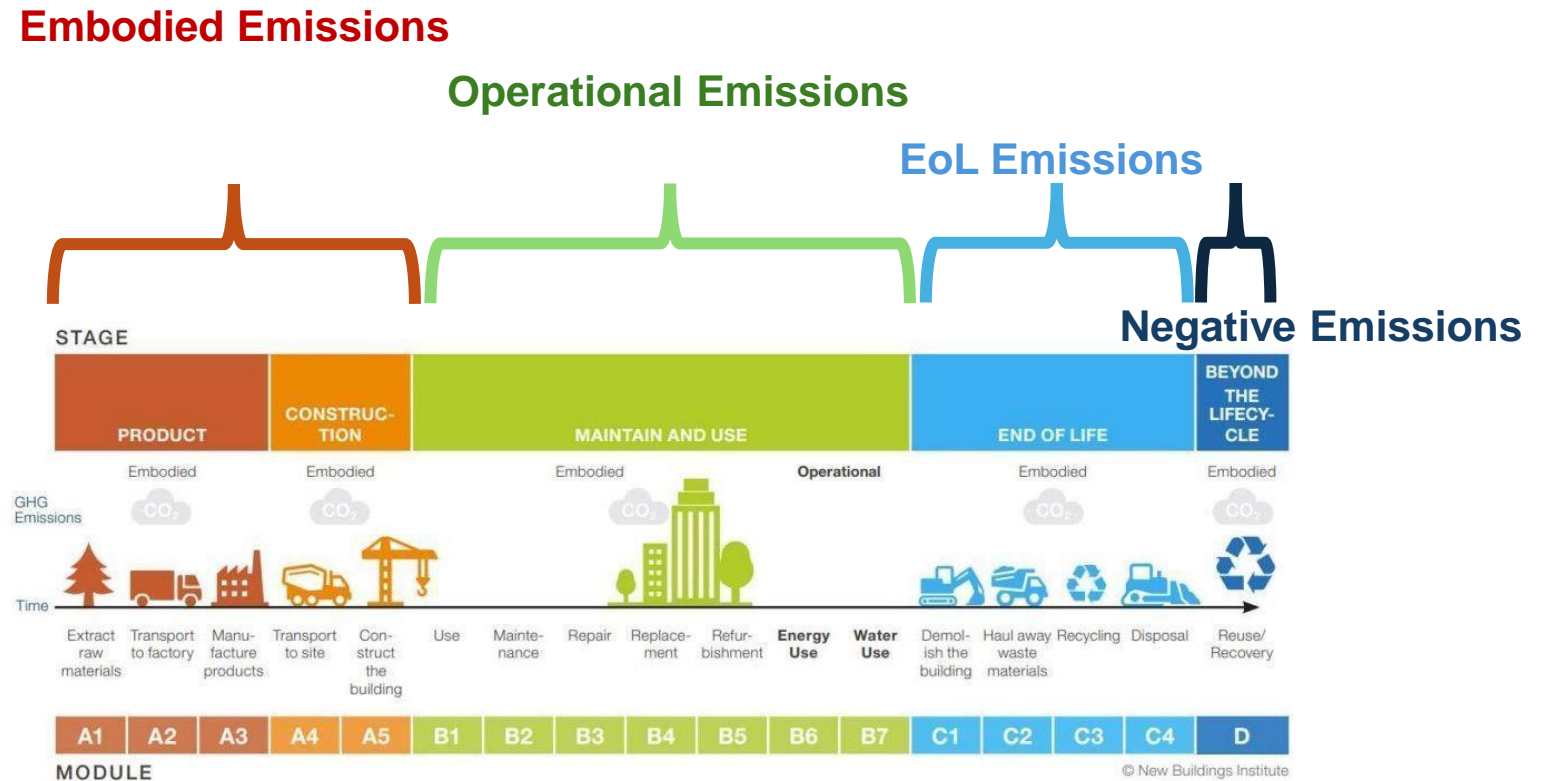
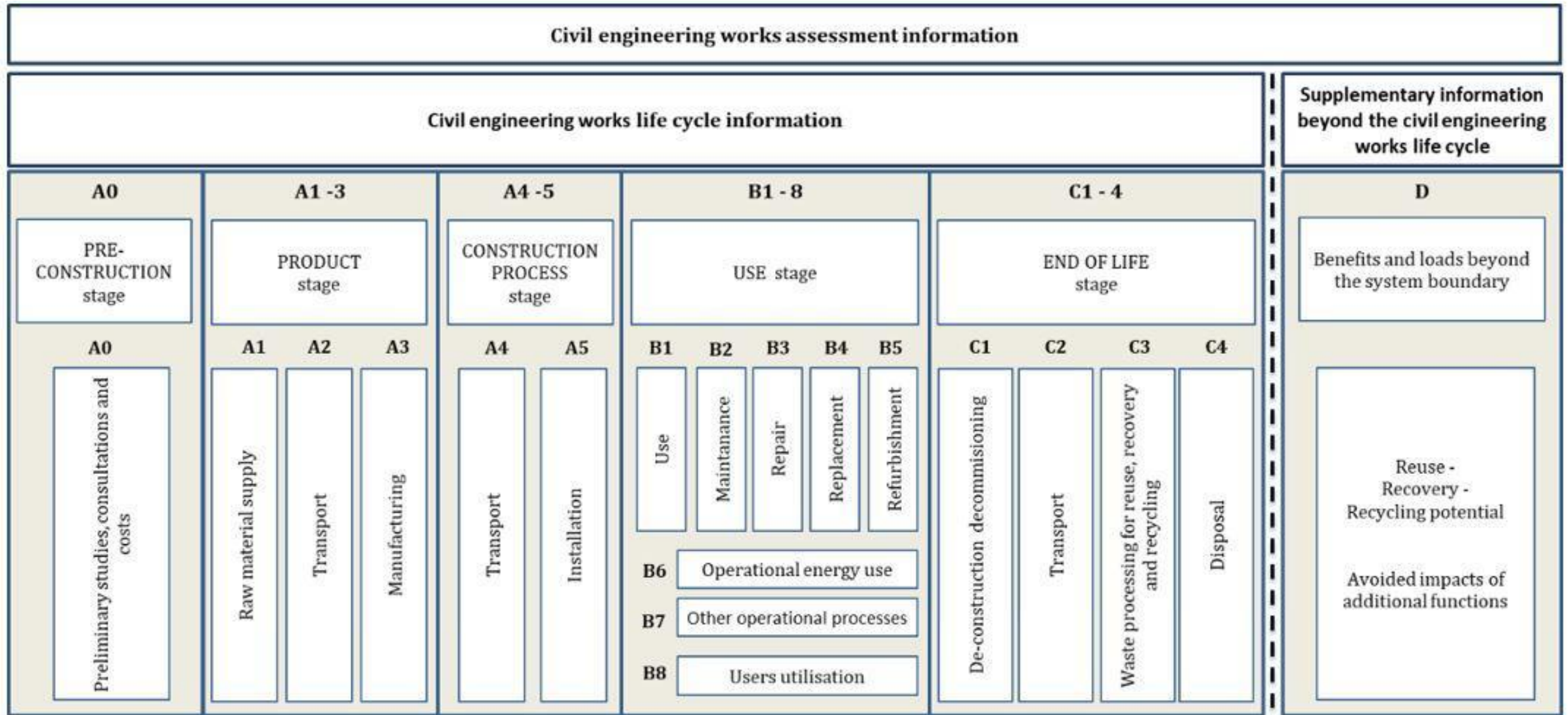


Figure 1: Lifecycle stages of building carbon. Data source: BS EN 15978:2011  
Source: Bowles, Cheslak, and Edelson 2022

# Lifecycle Stages of Buildings: EN 15643





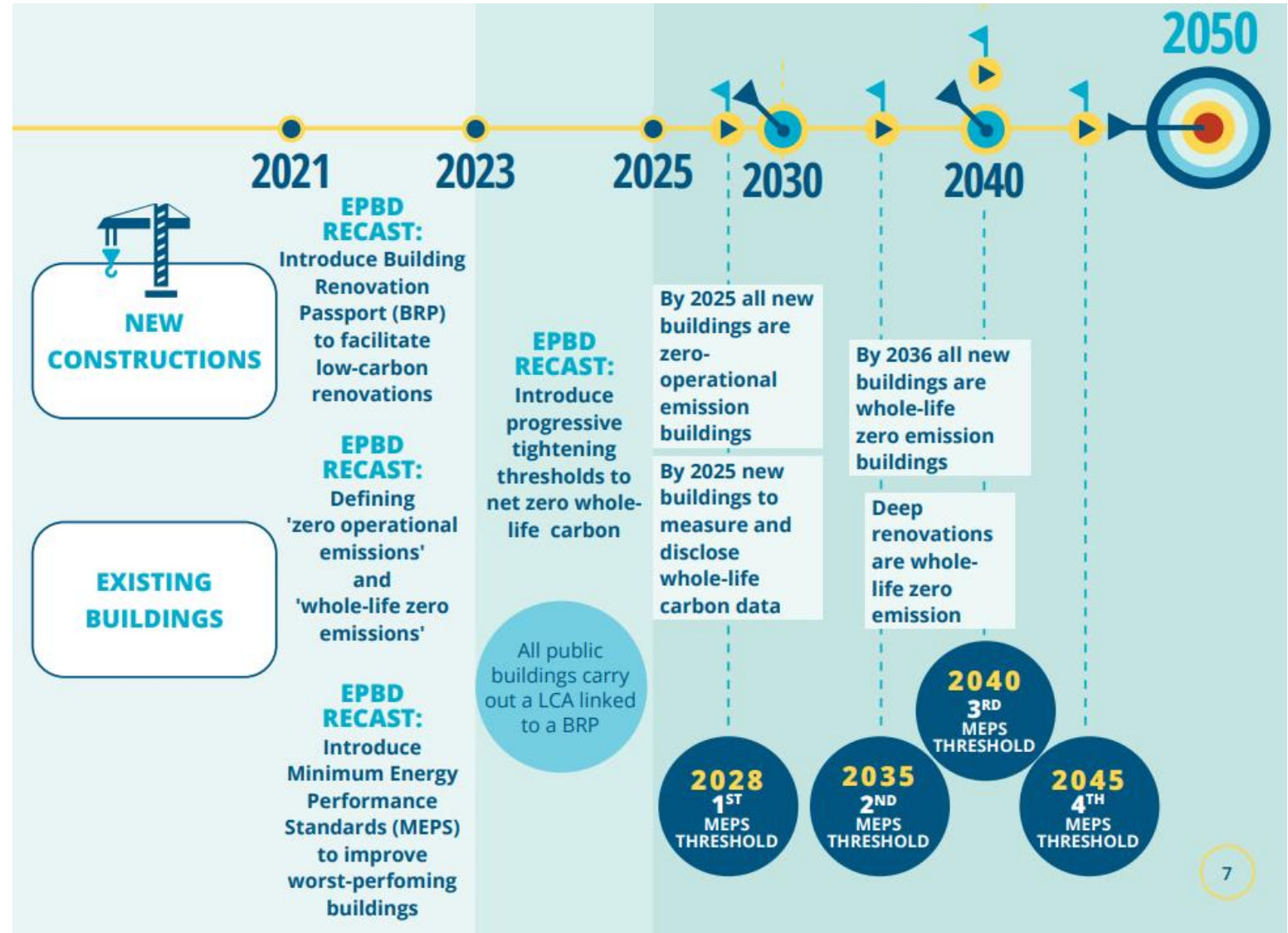
# Net-Zero Whole-Life Carbon Buildings





# EU Carbon Neutrality 2050

1. All-electric buildings
2. Low carbon buildings
3. Decarbonization of heating & cooling
4. Decarbonization of Energy Mix
5. Low carbon building services



# Why whole life cycle carbon?

## Denmark

- regulation year: 2023
- all new buildings > 1000 m<sub>2</sub>
- system boundary: A1-A3, B4, B6, C3-C4
- lifespan: 50 years
- from 2025: max. 7,1 kg CO<sub>2-eq</sub>/m<sub>2</sub>/ year
- 1,5 kg CO<sub>2-eq</sub>/m<sub>2</sub>/ year: A4-A5

## France

- regulation year: 2022
- all new buildings > 50 m<sub>2</sub>
- system boundary: A1-A5
- lifespan: 50 years
- from 2022: max. 640-980 kg CO<sub>2-eq</sub>/m<sub>2</sub>,
- depending on building typology

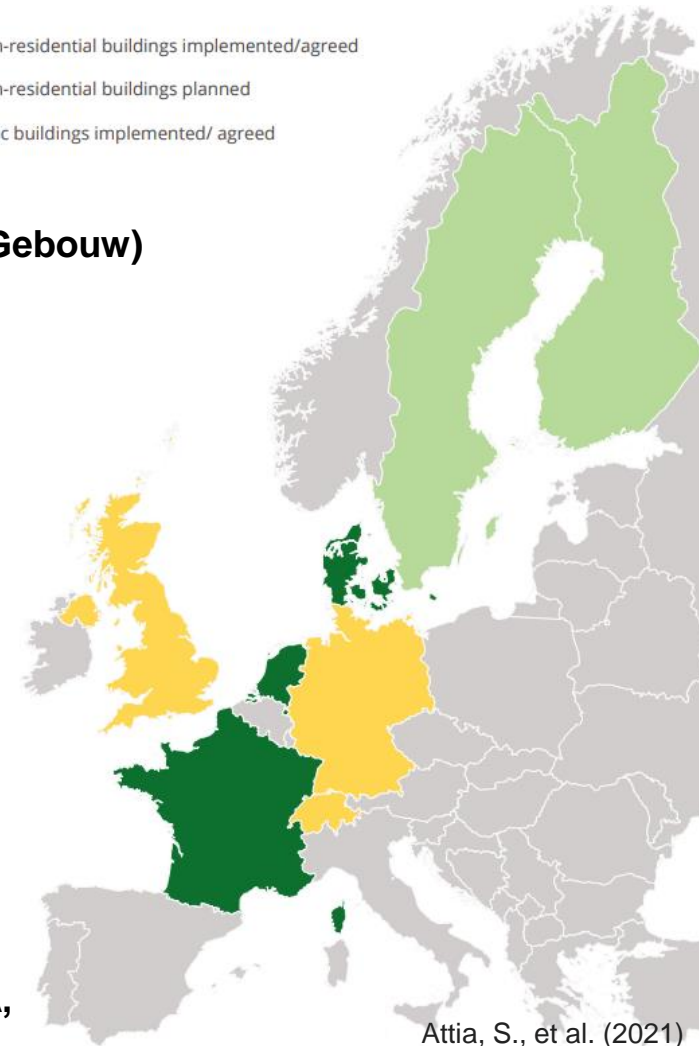
## The Netherlands (MilieuPrestatie Gebouw)

- regulation year: 2017
- all new buildings > 100 m<sub>2</sub>
- system boundary: A1-A5
- lifespan: 75 years (residential)
- from 2021: ≤ 0.8
- ([DGBC](#) max. 200-260 CO<sub>2-eq</sub>/m<sub>2</sub> GFA)

## Sweden

- regulation year: 2022
- all new buildings > 1000 m<sub>2</sub>
- (single-family houses excl.)
- system boundary: A1-A5
- lifespan: 50 years
- from 2025: max. 180-460 CO<sub>2-eq</sub>/m<sub>2</sub> GFA, depending on building typology

- WLC regulation for all/non-residential buildings implemented/agreed
- WLC regulation for all/non-residential buildings planned
- LCA requirement for public buildings implemented/ agreed



# Operational vs Embodied emissions

## Embodied Emissions

## Operational Emissions

## EoL Emissions

## Negative Emissions

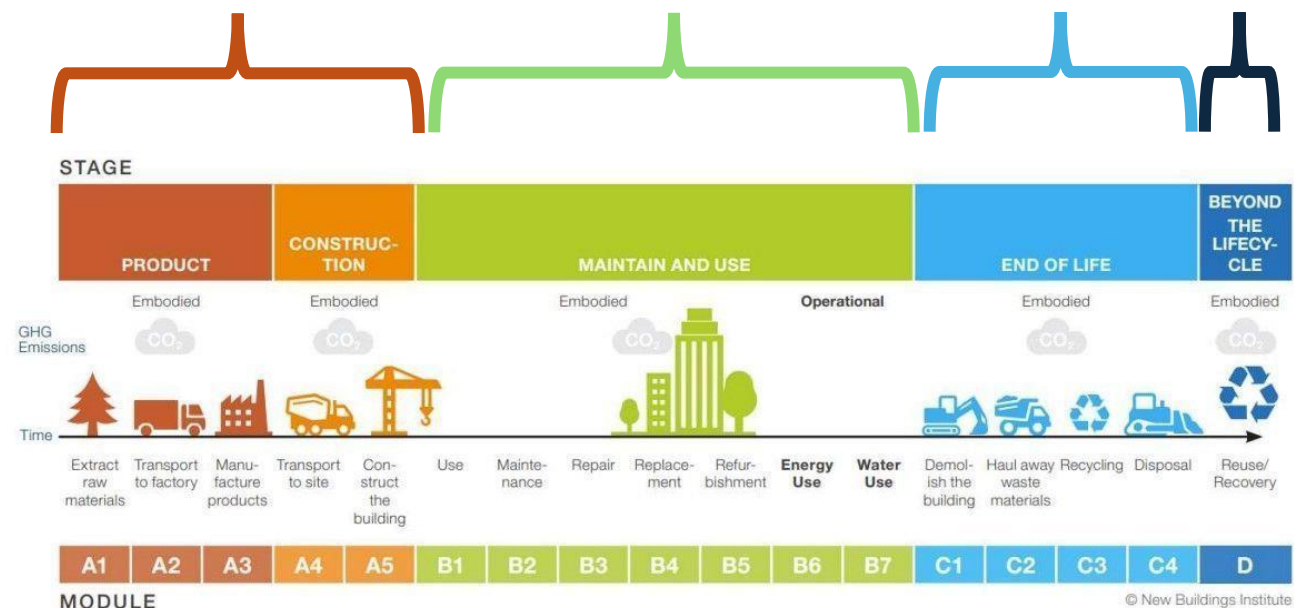
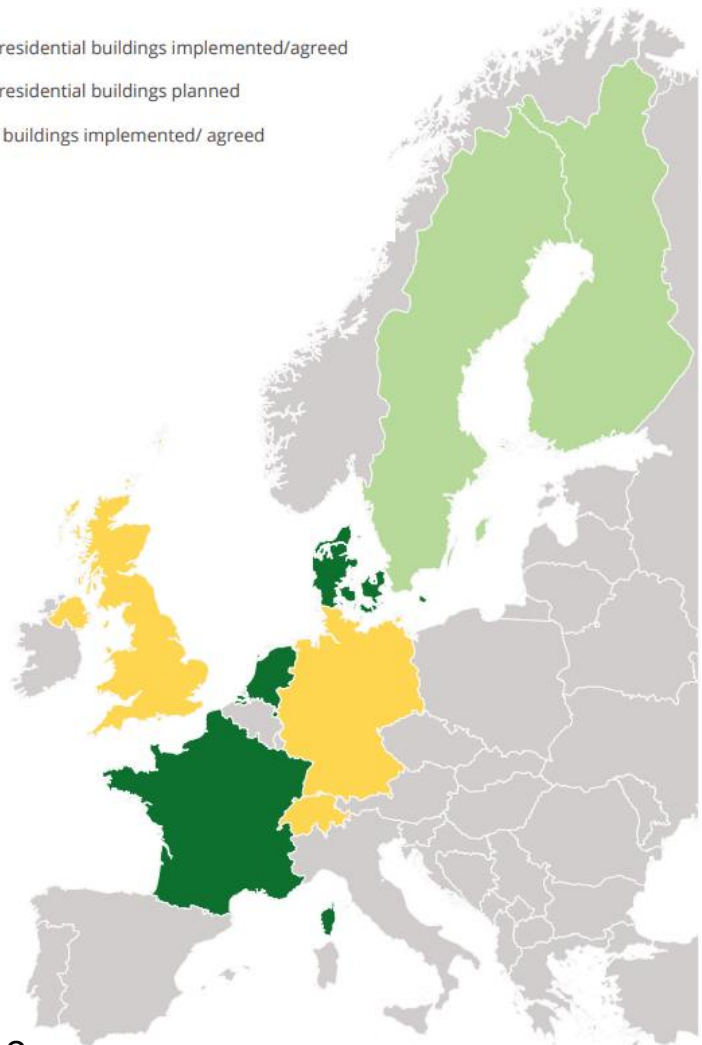


Figure 1: Lifecycle stages of building carbon. Data source: BS EN 15978:2011

Source: Bowles, Cheslak, and Edelson 2022

- RE2020 threshold of 4 kgCO<sub>2</sub>.equiv. operational emissions per m<sup>2</sup> for new residential buildings
- Dynamic LCA calculation method + threshold for embodied carbon emission of 100 kgCO<sub>2</sub>.equiv per m<sup>2</sup>

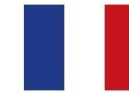
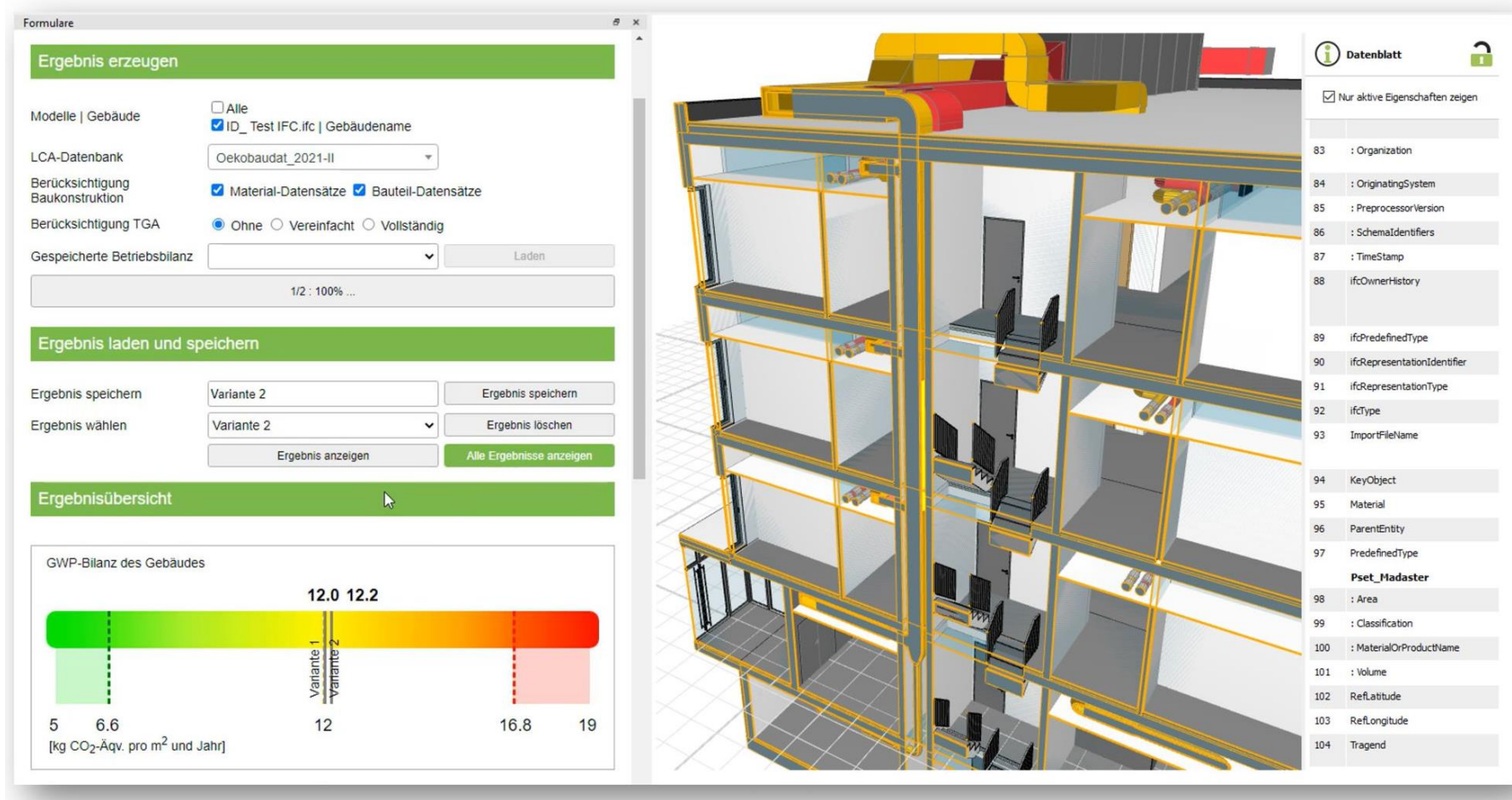


Attia, S., et al. (2021)



# GHG Emissions

## Embodied and Operational Emissions



- 2023, Operational emissions:  
4 kgCO<sub>2</sub>.equiv. per m<sup>2</sup> for new residential buildings
- 2023, Embodied emissions (Office)  
24 kgCO<sub>2</sub>.equiv per m<sup>2</sup>



- 2025 Operational + Embodied emissions:  
7,1 kgCO<sub>2</sub>.equiv. per m<sup>2</sup> for new residential buildings: A1-A3, B4, B6, C3-C4  
1,5 kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq /m<sup>2</sup> / year: A4-A5

Source: DGNB, Sebastian Theißen, BIM-based emissions modeling

# Embodied GHG Emissions

Many of the mostly widely used construction materials are from carbon-intensive heavy industries



## Materials Embodied Energy Content

Amount of energy needed for a material, including mining, production and delivery at construction site per m<sup>3</sup> of material



The length of the bars is proportional.

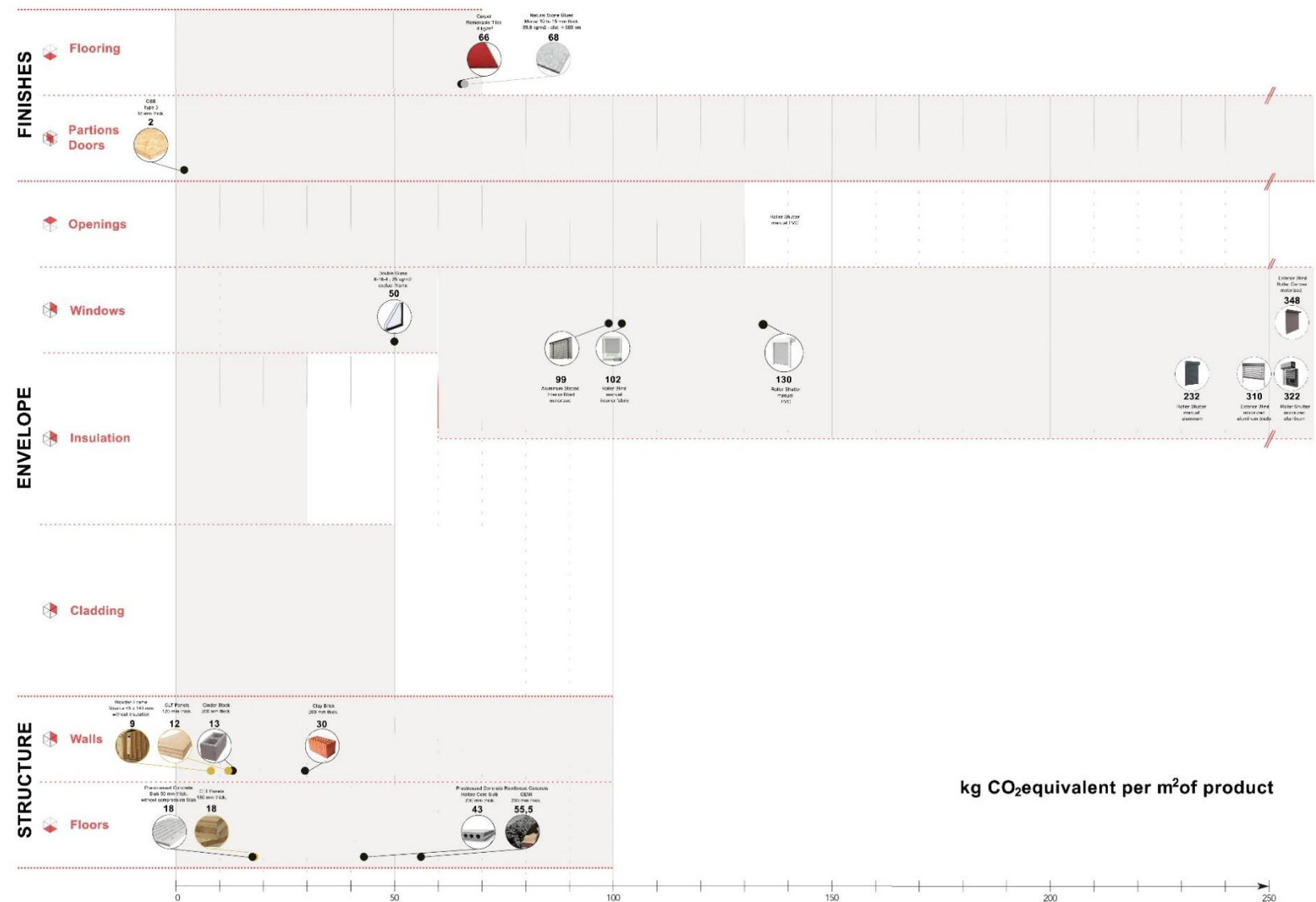
## Key questions to answer

- Does the material fit the purpose?
- To what extent is the material available?
- Can the raw material be mined locally?
- How much energy is needed to produce the material?
- Is the production process happening locally?
- How much waste is produced during the production process?
- Is there environmental contamination or hindrances during the production process?
- What maintenance does the material require?
- Is the product ready for disassembly?
- Can the product be recycled?

Source: <https://materialepyramiden.dk/>

# Embodied GHG Emissions

- Taking a Broader View of Carbon
- Whole life carbon Assessment
- Environmental Product Declarations





# Embodied GHG Emissions

## Categories of carbon negative materials & potential of negative emissions



Timber

Straw

Cork

Hemp



Biochar

Captured carbon

Biomineralization  
(Low carbon  
aggregates)




### Potential of negative emissions

Biobased Materials	10-50%
Charcoal Concrete	2-10%
Carbonized Concrete	2-3%

# Environmental Product Declaration

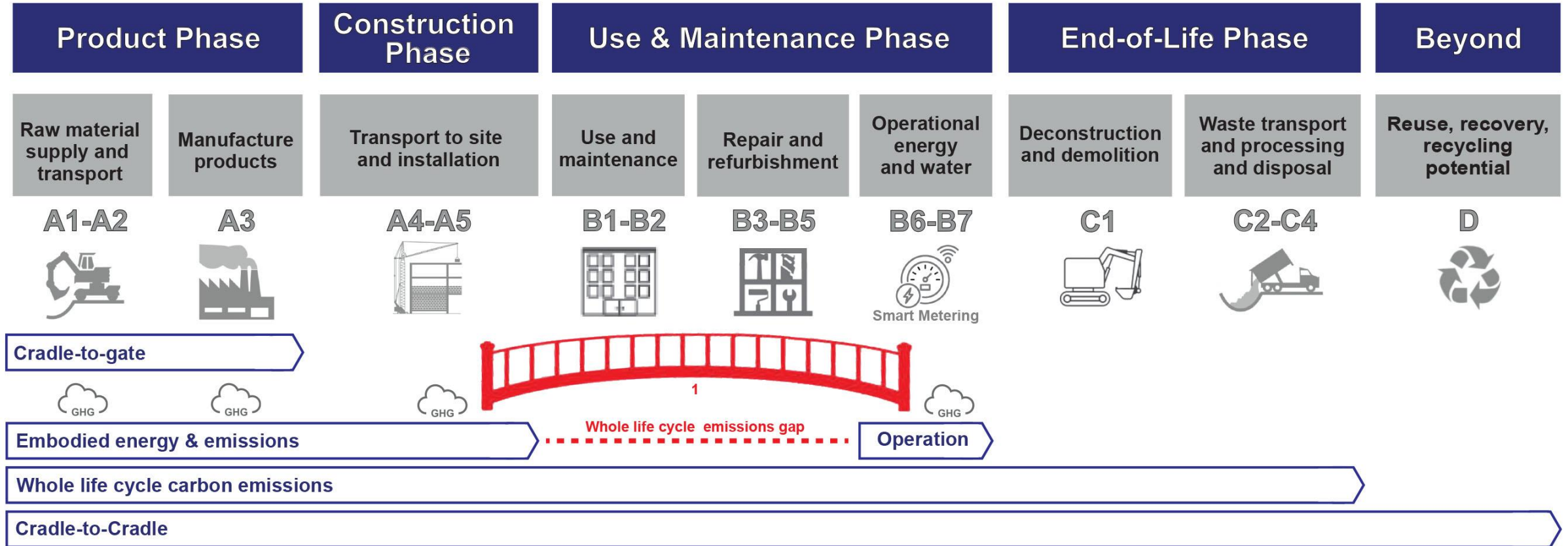
## Life Cycle Impact Assessment of Building Materials and Products



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS																
Parameters		Product stage	Construction process stage		Use stage							End-of-life stage				D Reuse, recovery, recycling
		A1 / A2 / A3	A4 Transport	A5 Installation	B1 Use	B2 Maintenance	B3 Repair	B4 Replacement	B5 Refurbishment	B6 Operational energy use	B7 Operational water use	C1 Deconstruction / demolition	C2 Transport	C3 Waste processing	C4 Disposal	
	Global Warming Potential (GWP 100) - kg CO <sub>2</sub> equiv/FU	2,14E+00	1,24E-01	1,52E-01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,10E-02	1,34E-02	1,54E-03	1,24E-01	-2,18E-02
The global warming potential of a gas refers to the total contribution to global warming resulting from the emission of one unit of that gas relative to one unit of the reference gas, carbon dioxide, which is assigned a value of 1.																
	Ozone Depletion (ODP) kg CFC 11 equiv/FU	5,52E-08	1,90E-17	2,76E-09	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,59E-18	7,03E-15	2,47E-12	6,94E-16	9,80E-05
Destruction of the stratospheric ozone layer which shields the earth from ultraviolet radiation harmful to life. This destruction of ozone is caused by the breakdown of certain chlorine and/or bromine containing compounds (chlorofluorocarbons or halons), which break down when they reach the stratosphere and then catalytically destroy ozone molecules.																
	Acidification potential (AP) kg SO <sub>2</sub> equiv/FU	8,24E-03	4,95E-04	5,54E-04	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,44E-04	5,48E-05	1,74E-05	7,08E-04	1,82E-05
Acid depositions have negative impacts on natural ecosystems and the man-made environment incl. buildings. The main sources for emissions of acidifying substances are agriculture and fossil fuel combustion used for electricity production, heating and transport.																
	Eutrophication potential (EP) kg (PO <sub>4</sub> ) <sup>3-</sup> equiv/FU	1,51E-03	1,21E-04	9,33E-05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,38E-06	1,38E-05	3,2E-06	8,03E-05	-3,45E-01
Excessive enrichment of waters and continental surfaces with nutrients, and the associated adverse biological effects.																
	Photochemical ozone creation (POPC) kg Ethylene equiv/FU	3,03E-04	1,81E-05	5,11E-05	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,68E-06	2,25E-06	2,14E-06	5,84E-05	0
Chemical reactions brought about by the light energy of the sun. The reaction of nitrogen oxides with hydrocarbons in the presence of sunlight to form ozone is an example of a photochemical reaction.																
	Abiotic depletion potential for non-fossil resources (ADP-elements) - kg Sb equiv/FU	1,96E-06	1,65E-09	1,99E-06	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,02E-09	1,15E-09	8,46E-10	4,22E-08	0
	Abiotic depletion potential for fossil resources (ADP-fossil fuels) - MJ/FU	3,66E+01	1,73E+00	2,29E+00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,11E-01	1,81E-01	1,64E-02	1,65E+00	0
Consumption of non-renewable resources, thereby lowering their availability for future generations.																

# Embodied GHG Emissions

## Coupling of Embodied and Operational GHG Emissions Modeling



Source: Attia, S. (2025) **Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB)** , Elsevier, 2nd



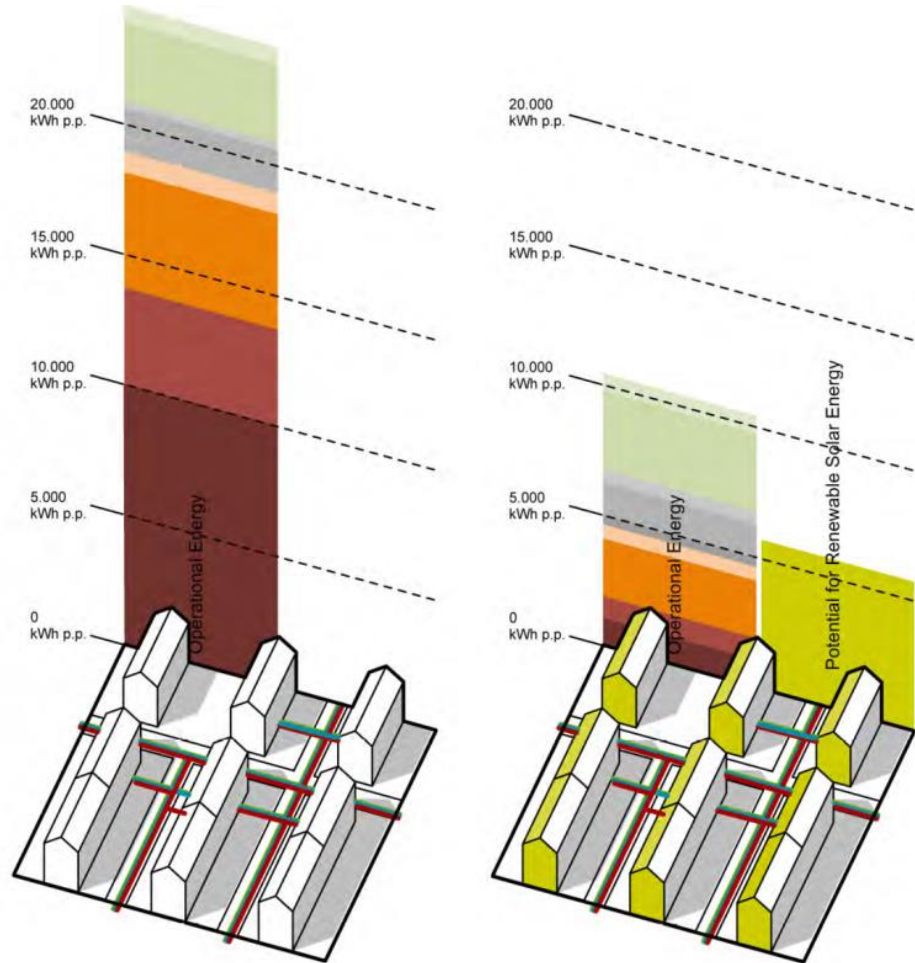
# Embodied GHG Emissions

## Some low carbon solutions

Nr.	Low carbon solutions	Category
1	Renovate instead of building new	Circularity principles and downsizing in the conceptual design stage
2	Design for flexibility, resilience and extended lifespan	
3	Design for disassembly	
4	Re-use existing materials in construction	
5	Optimize the use of space in offices, residential buildings	
6	Design based on light construction method instead of massive construction	
7a	Use industry by-products instead of cement	Carbon reduction in material selection and sourcing
7b	Use recycled concrete and other by-products as aggregate for new concrete	
8	Reduce concrete demand through material use optimization in (structural) design	
9	Offsite construction and design for less waste on-site	
10	Use of locally sourced materials and clean transportation	Carbon reduction in material selection and sourcing – bio-based materials
11	Use timber structures in new construction	
12	Use hybrid (concrete + timber) structures in new construction	
13	Use timber roof elements in standard structure	
14	Use other bio-based materials	

# Building Stock Renovation

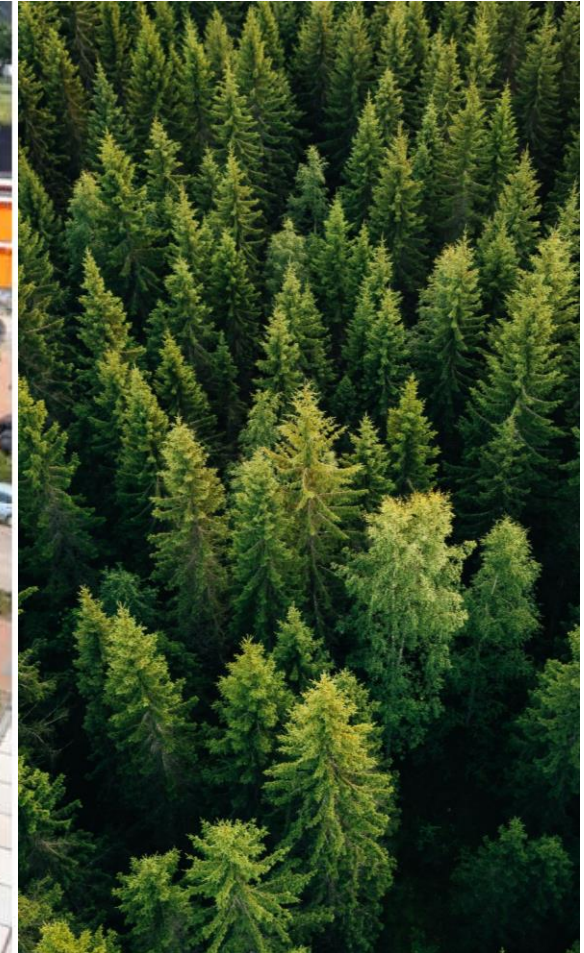
Evaluate systematic strategies to increase the deep renovation rate before implementation to gain time, money and energy.





# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

**De Tippe Zwolle (F6), The Netherlands**





# Zero Net Carbon Tall Buildings

**HAUT, Arup, Amsterdam, The Netherlands**

Jannes Linders





# Pathways and Solutions



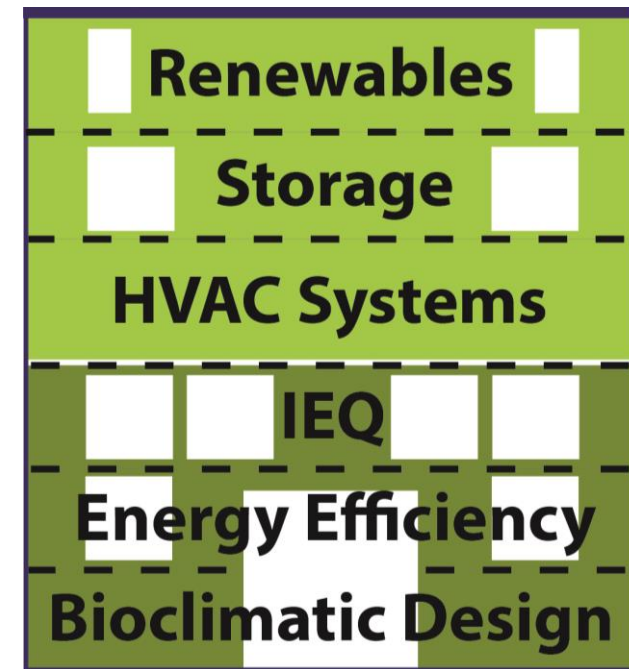


# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## Definition

An ZNC is a grid-connected, carbon-efficient building **that balances its total annual carbon emissions by on-site generation.**

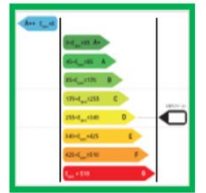
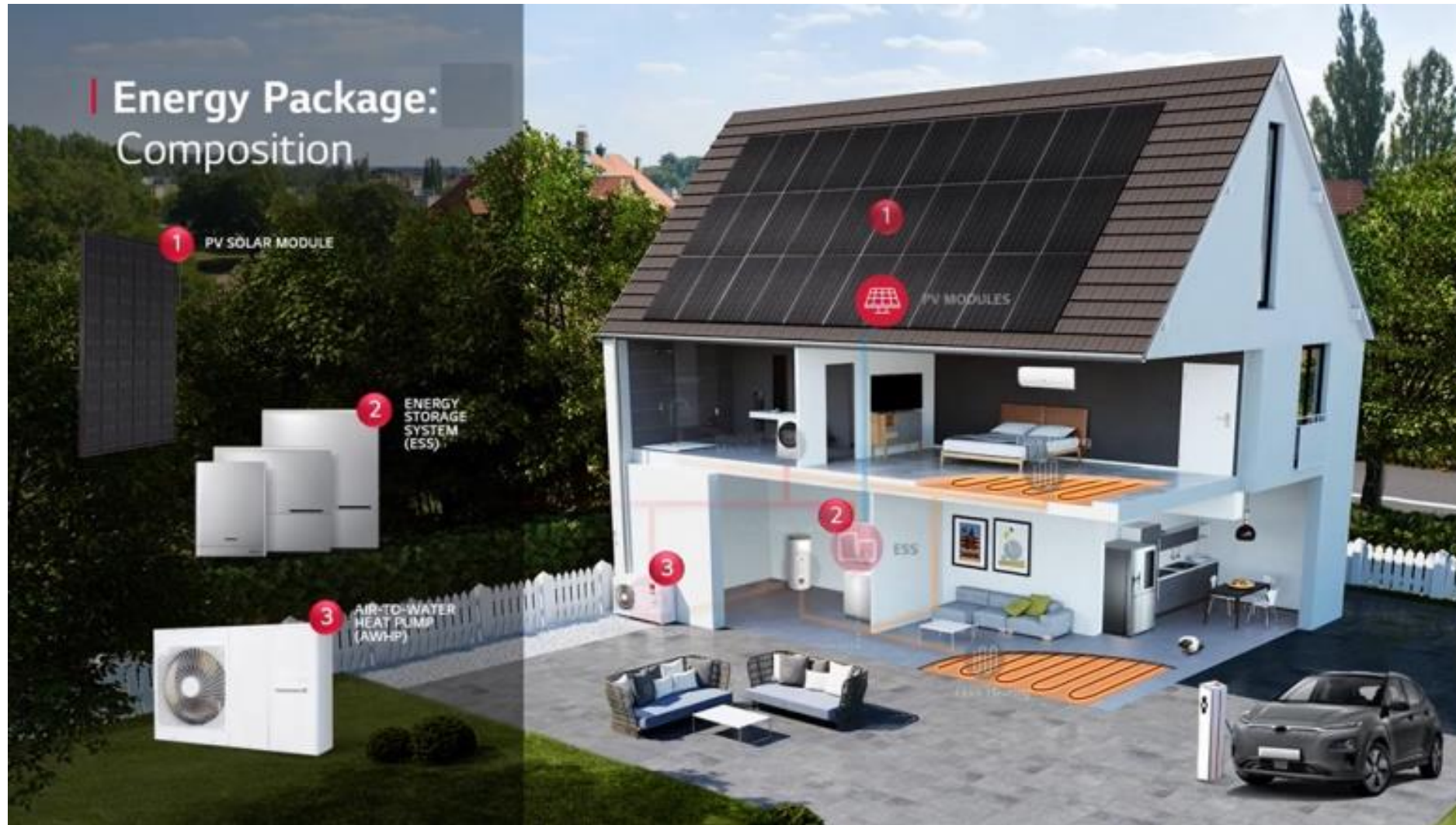
A ZNC building is a **highly energy efficient** building that produces on-site, or **procures, enough carbon-free renewable energy** to meet building operations energy consumption annually.



Source: Attia, S. (2025) **Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB)** , Elsevier, 2nd



# Technology Portfolio in 2050

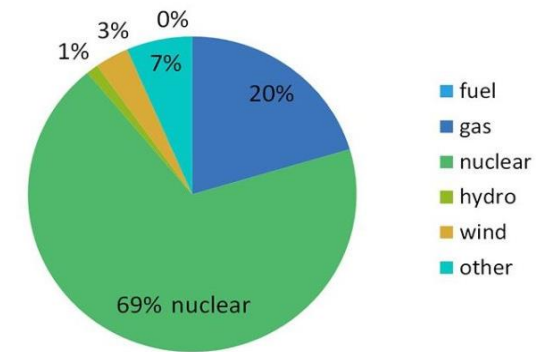


**Carbon Neutral Buildings**

**AC unit with environmental  
Friendly refrigerant**

**PV with increase efficiency**

**Belgian Energy Mix:  
Current and Future Scenarios**



*De Belgische energiemix van februari 2017 (bron : ELIA)*

# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## Electrification + Decarbonization

ASHRAE Standard 189.1, 2020

### Electrification and efficiency key strategies for achieving zero carbon buildings



Improve efficiency



Building envelope



Lighting



Appliances



Electrify everything



Heating & cooling



Cooking



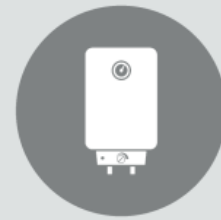
Renewable energy



Phase out fossil fuels



Space heating



Hot water



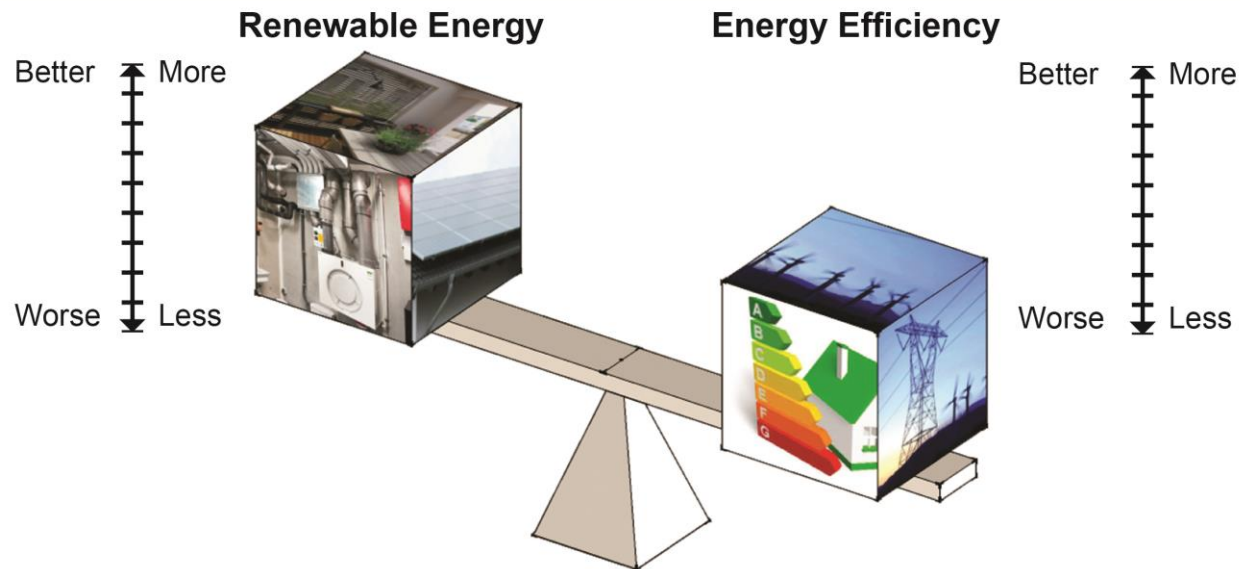
Cooking



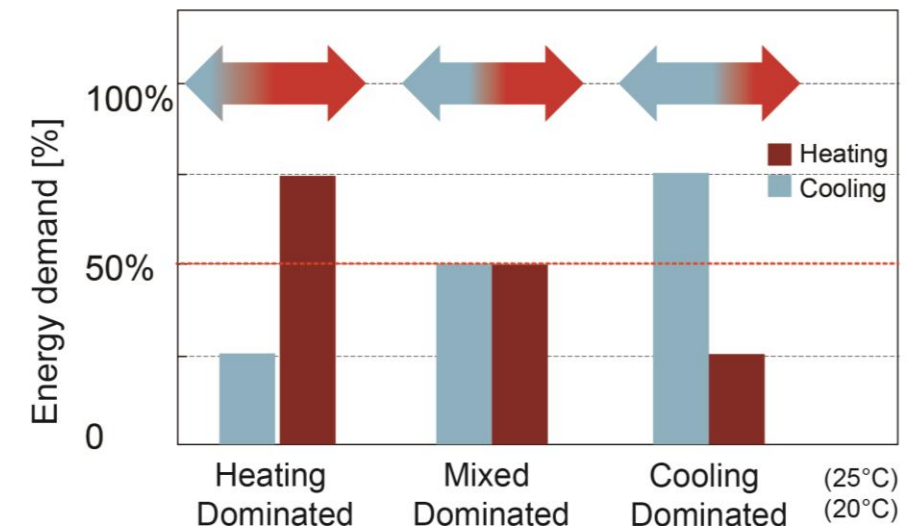
# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## IEQ, Energy Efficiency and RES Balance

### Challenge of Finding the Optimal Balance



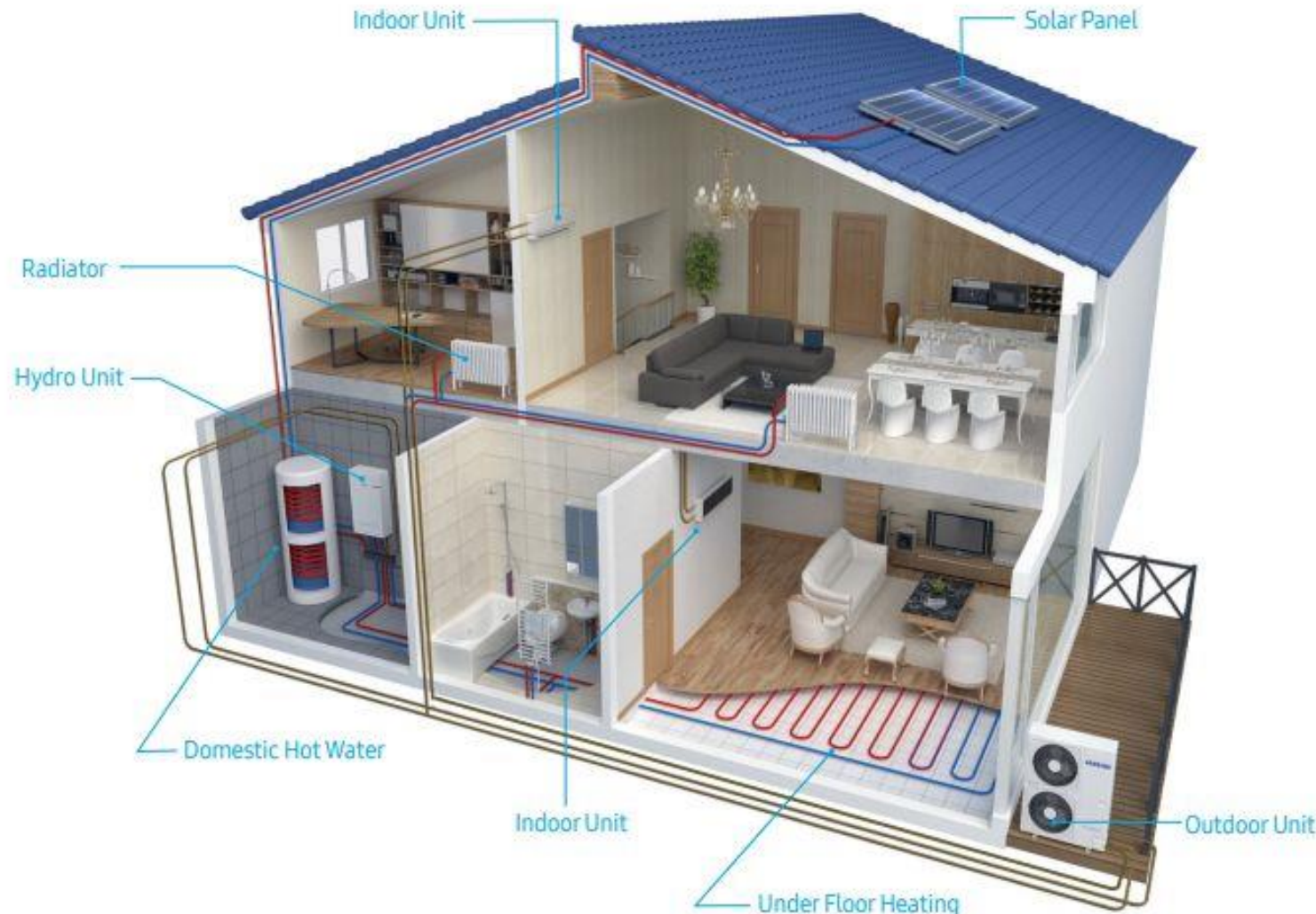
### Cooling, Heating and Mixed Energy Demand Balance





# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## Decarbonization of Heating



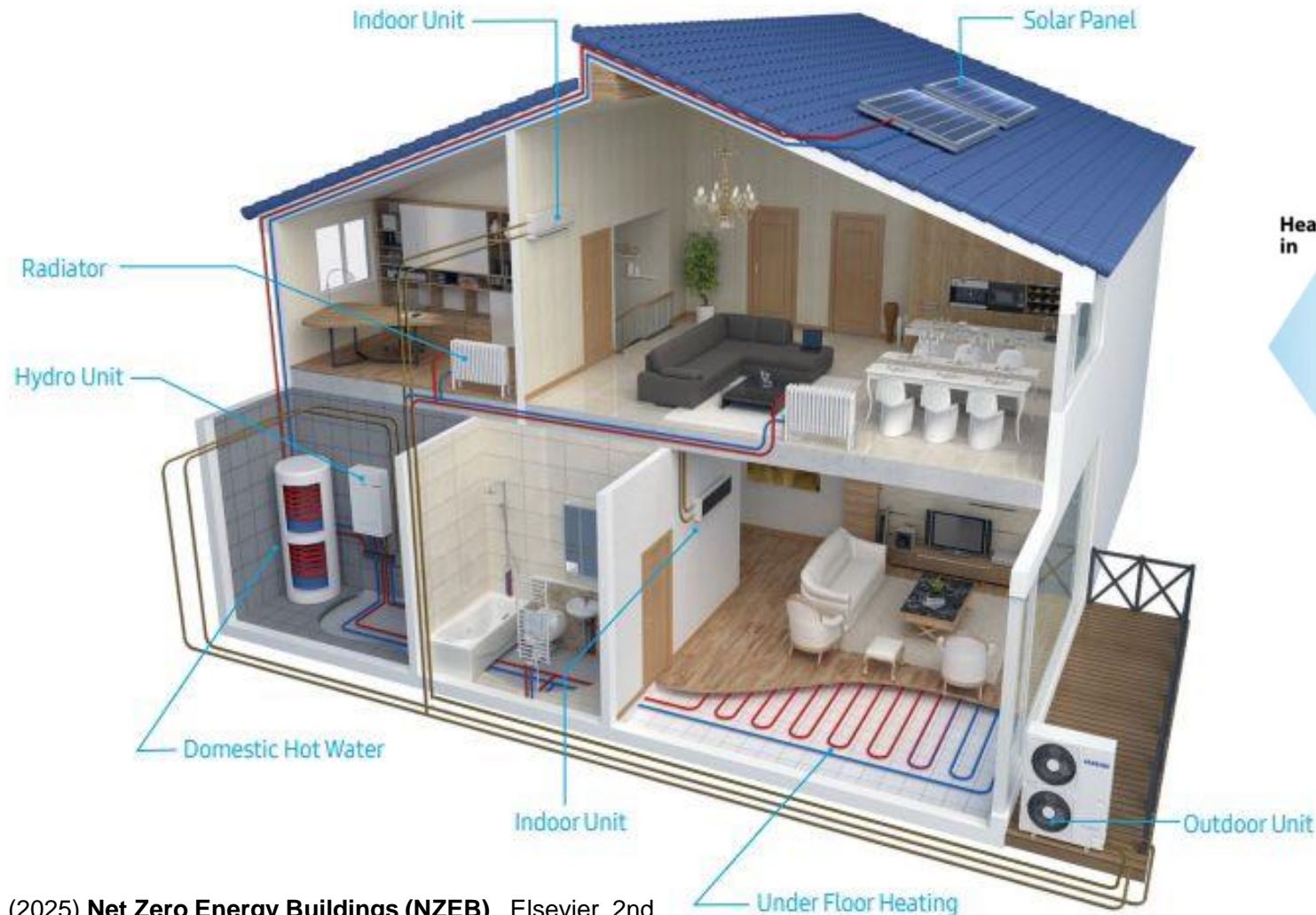
### REGIMES DE TEMPERATURE

	$T_{\text{aller}}$
<del>Haute température</del>	<del>90°C</del>
<del>Moyen température</del>	<del>70°C</del>
<del>Basse température</del>	<del>55°C</del>
Très basse température	30°C

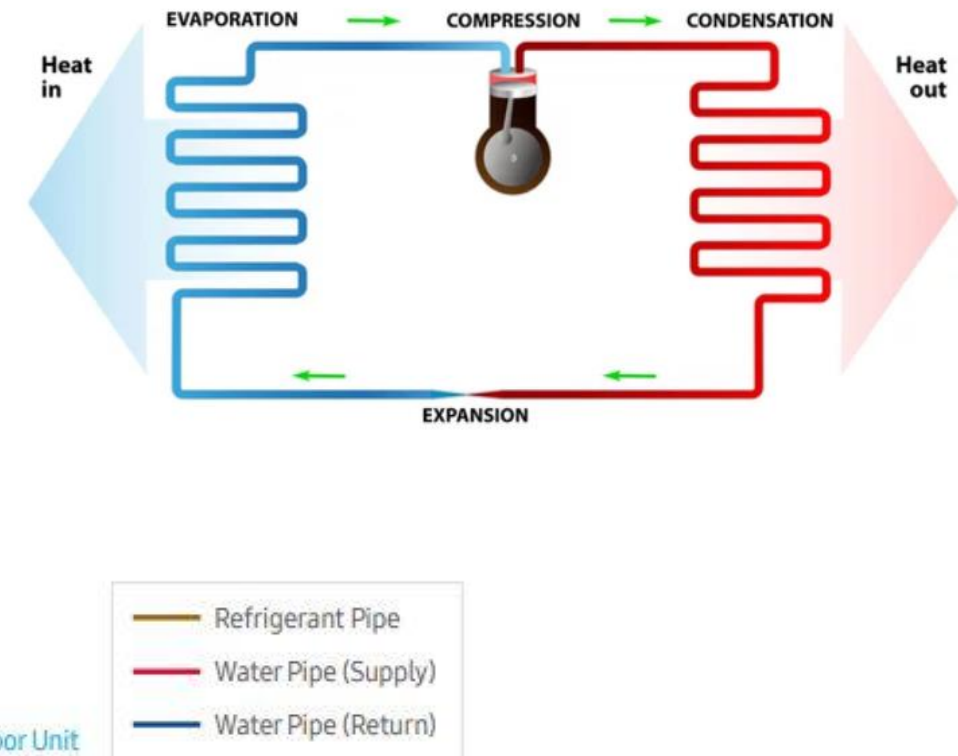


# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## All Electric with Heat Pumps



### How does a heat pump work?



# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

**Worlds largest heat pump to be installed in Helsinki, Finland.**



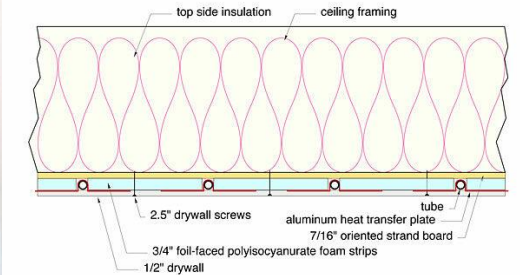
1. Full heating production capacity ranges from 20-33 MW, depending on the air temperature,
2. Can help deliver heat up to 90 degrees Celsius (194 Fahrenheit) while operating at temperatures as low as -20 degrees Celsius (-4 Fahrenheit).
3. The heat pump will provide heat for 30,000 homes in Helsinki annually, roughly saving 26,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

Source: [MAN Energy Solutions](#)



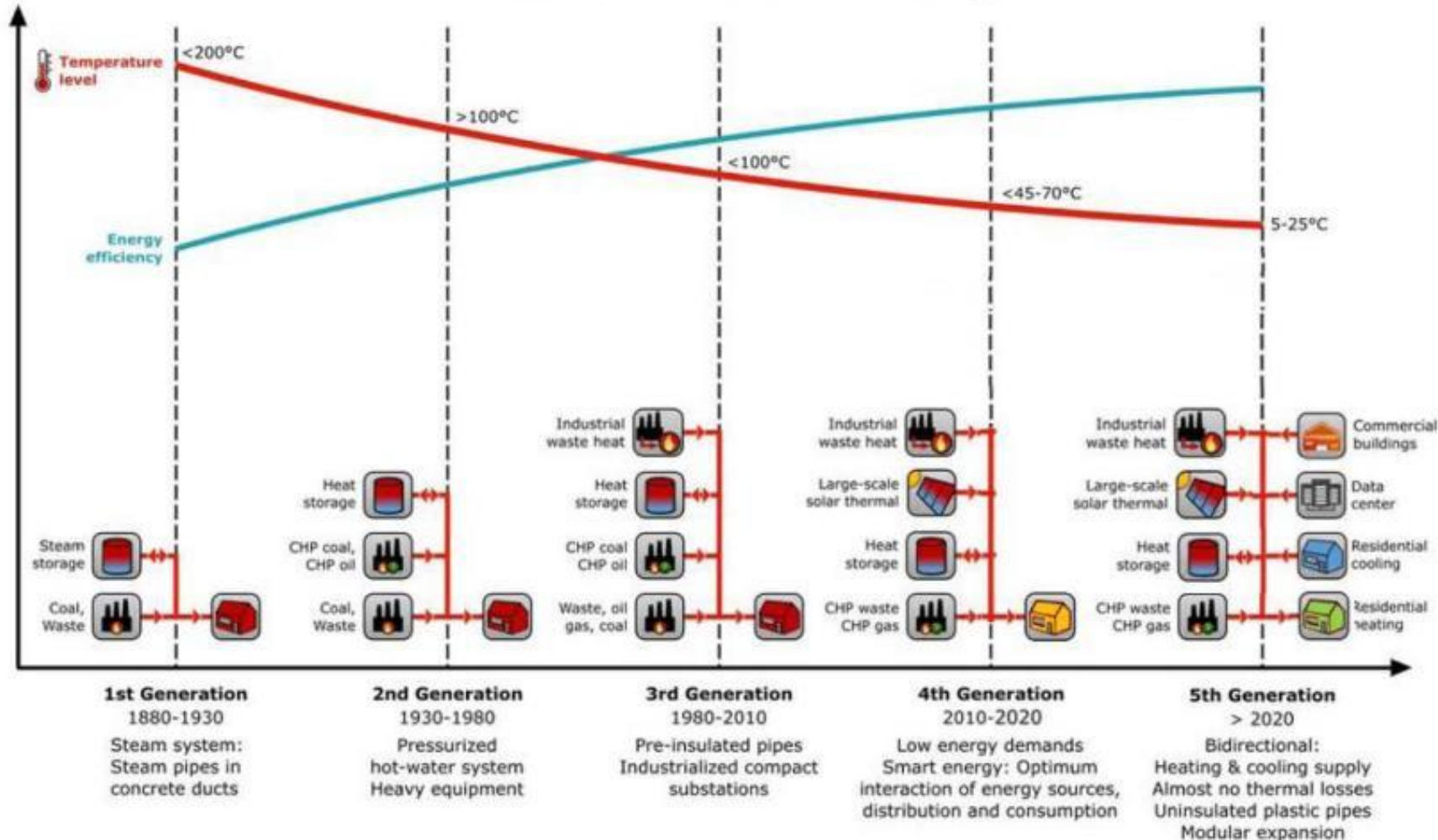
# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## Floor Heating and Cooling Hydronic radiant ceiling cooling/heating



# District Heating & Cooling

## Evolution of District Heating



### 4th Generation:

District heating grid with a collective source

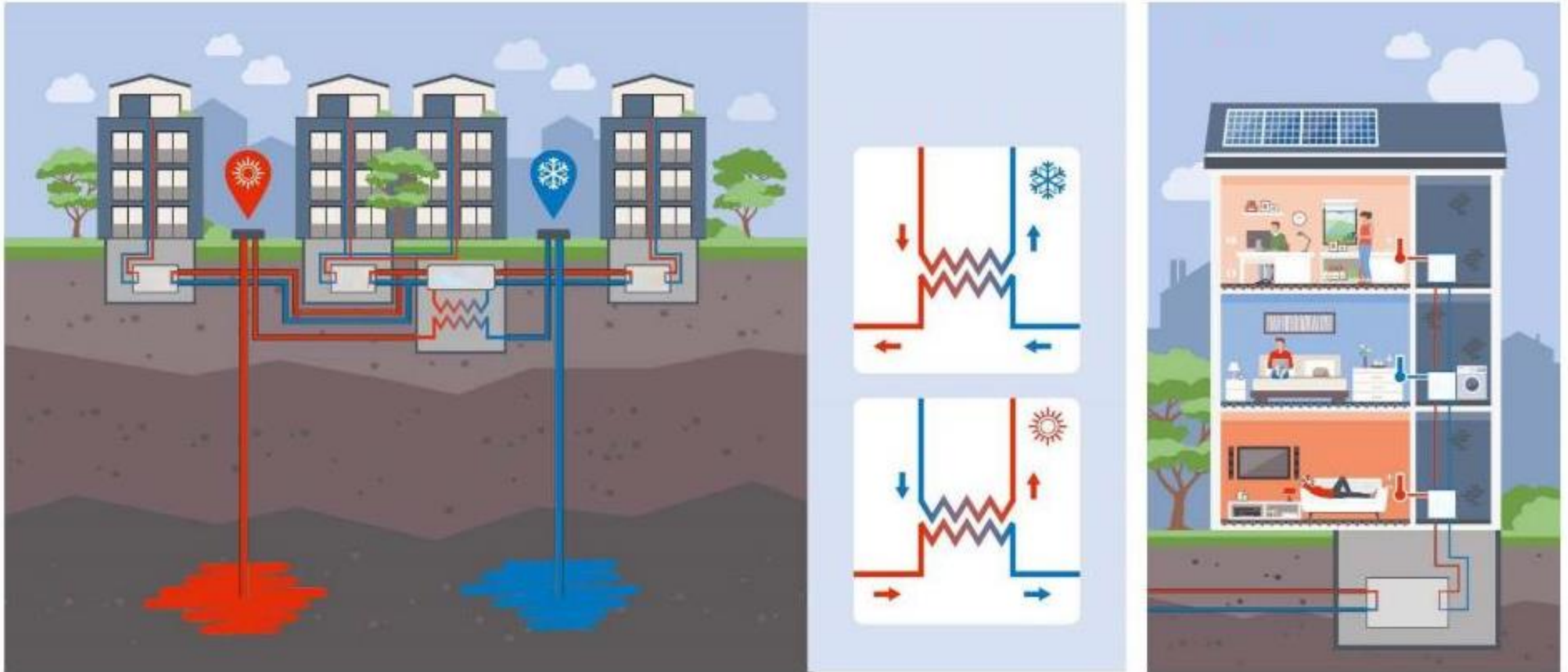
### 5th Generation:

Thermal energy directly from the subsurface  
(T 5 – 25 °C)



# District Heating Grid: 5th Generation

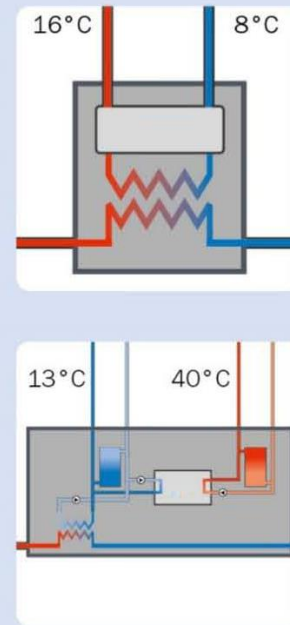
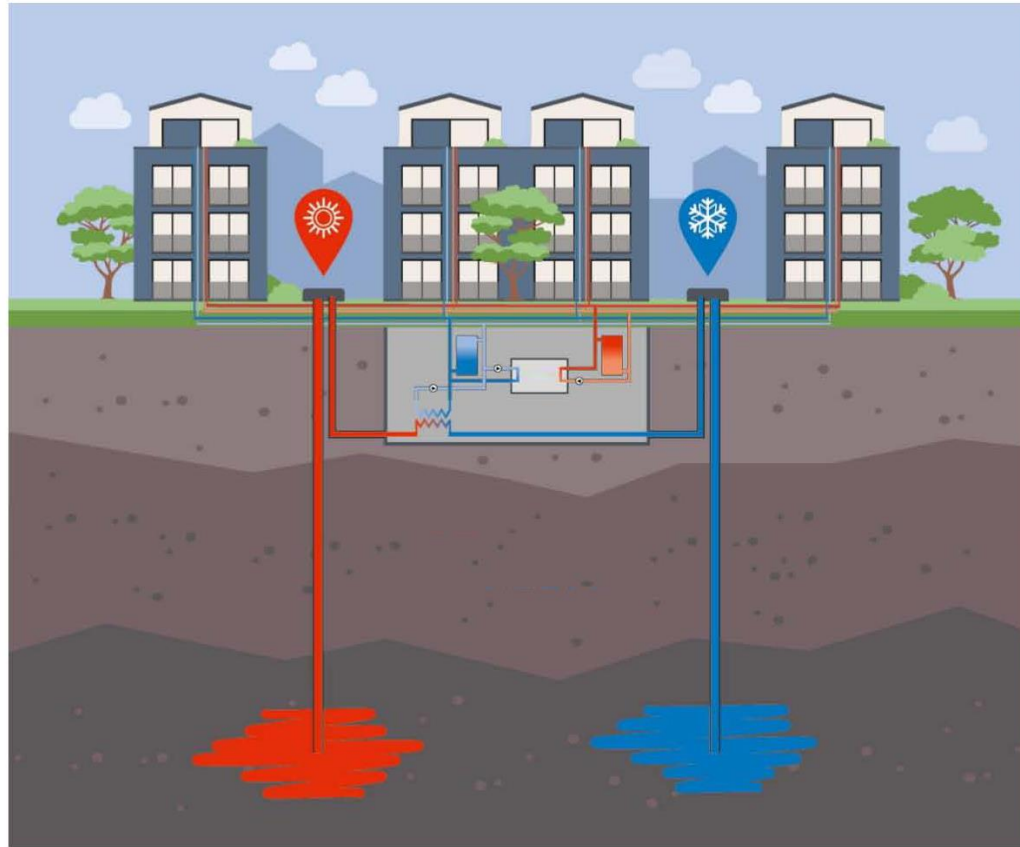
## The Neutral Grid: Centralized Heat Pumps



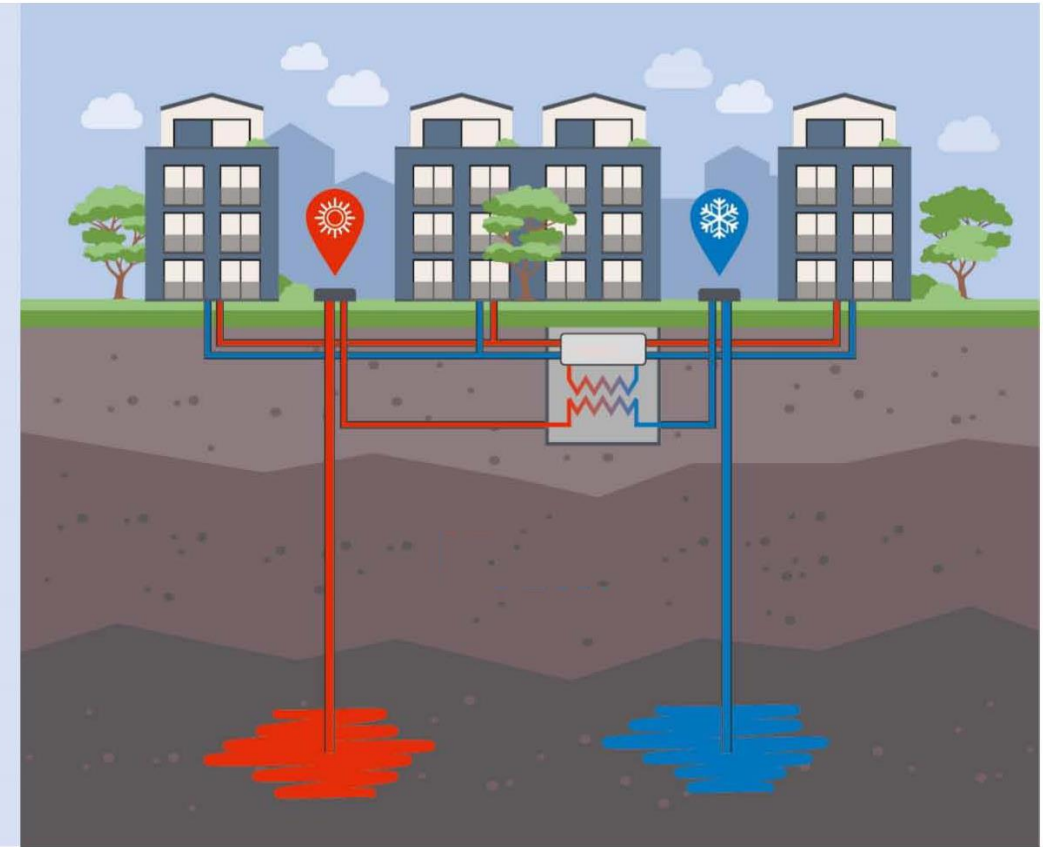


# 4<sup>th</sup> Generation vs. 5<sup>th</sup> Generation

## 4<sup>th</sup> Generation

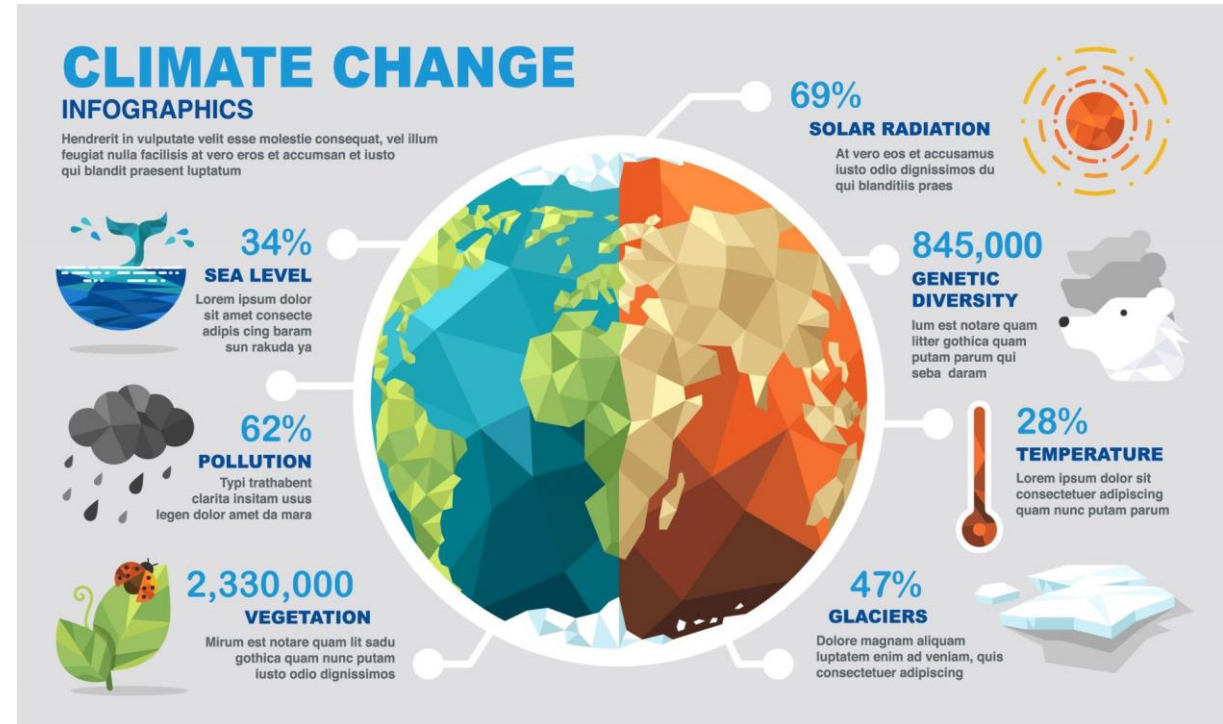
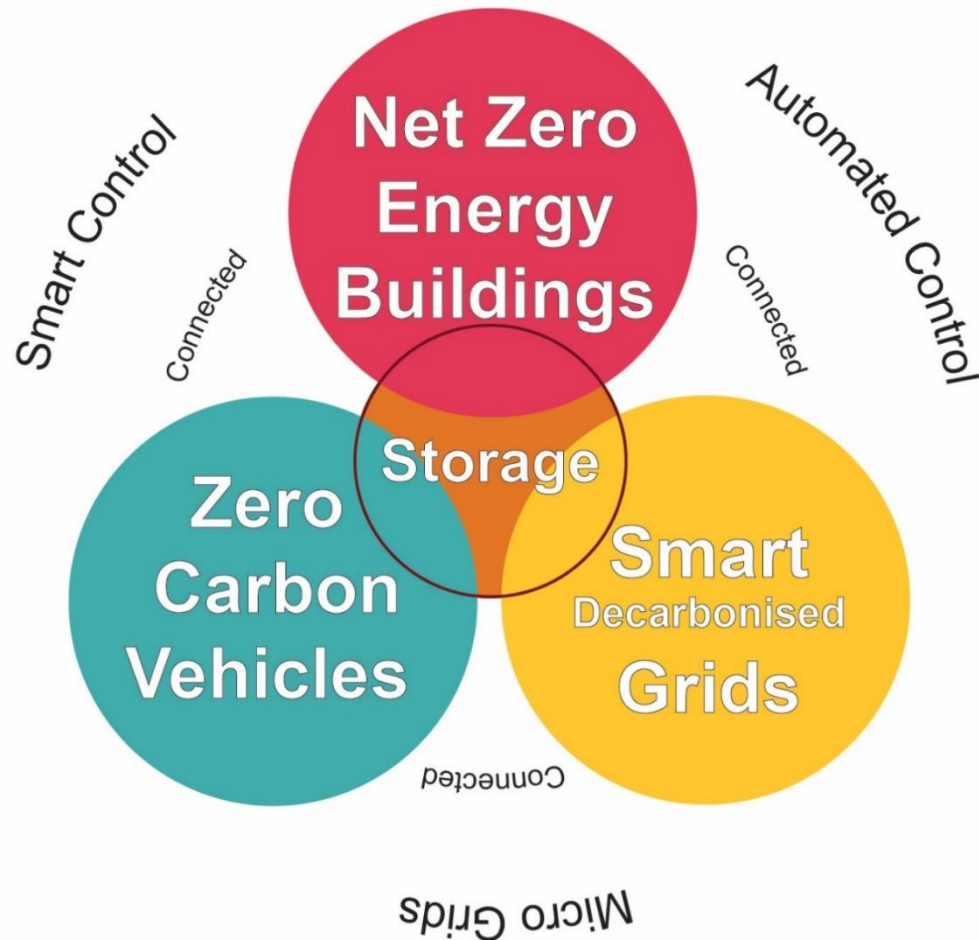


## 5<sup>th</sup> Generation



# Carbon Neutral Communities

## Storage & Scale the Core of Carbon Neutrality



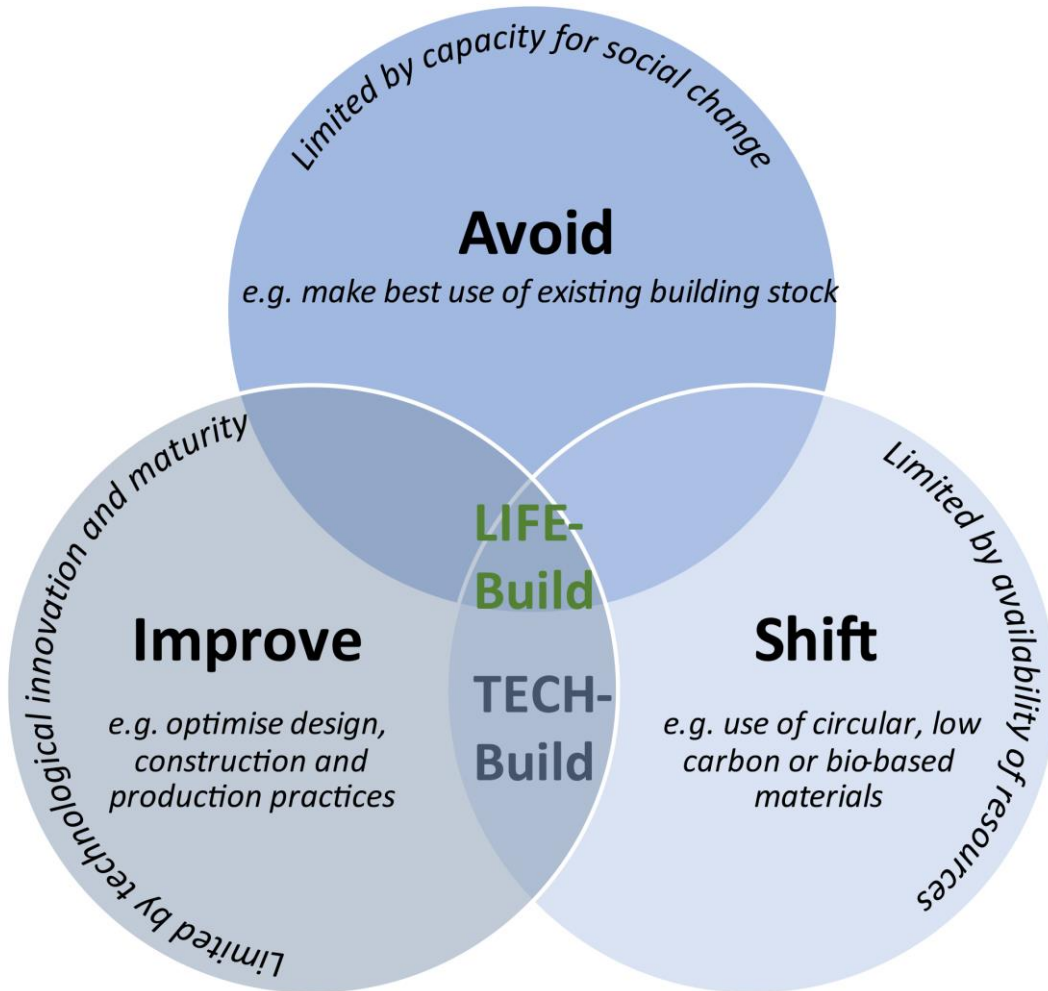
## Resilience

Source: Attia, S. (2025) **Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB)**, Elsevier, 2nd



# Carbon Neutral Communities

## Storage & Scale the Core of Carbon Neutrality



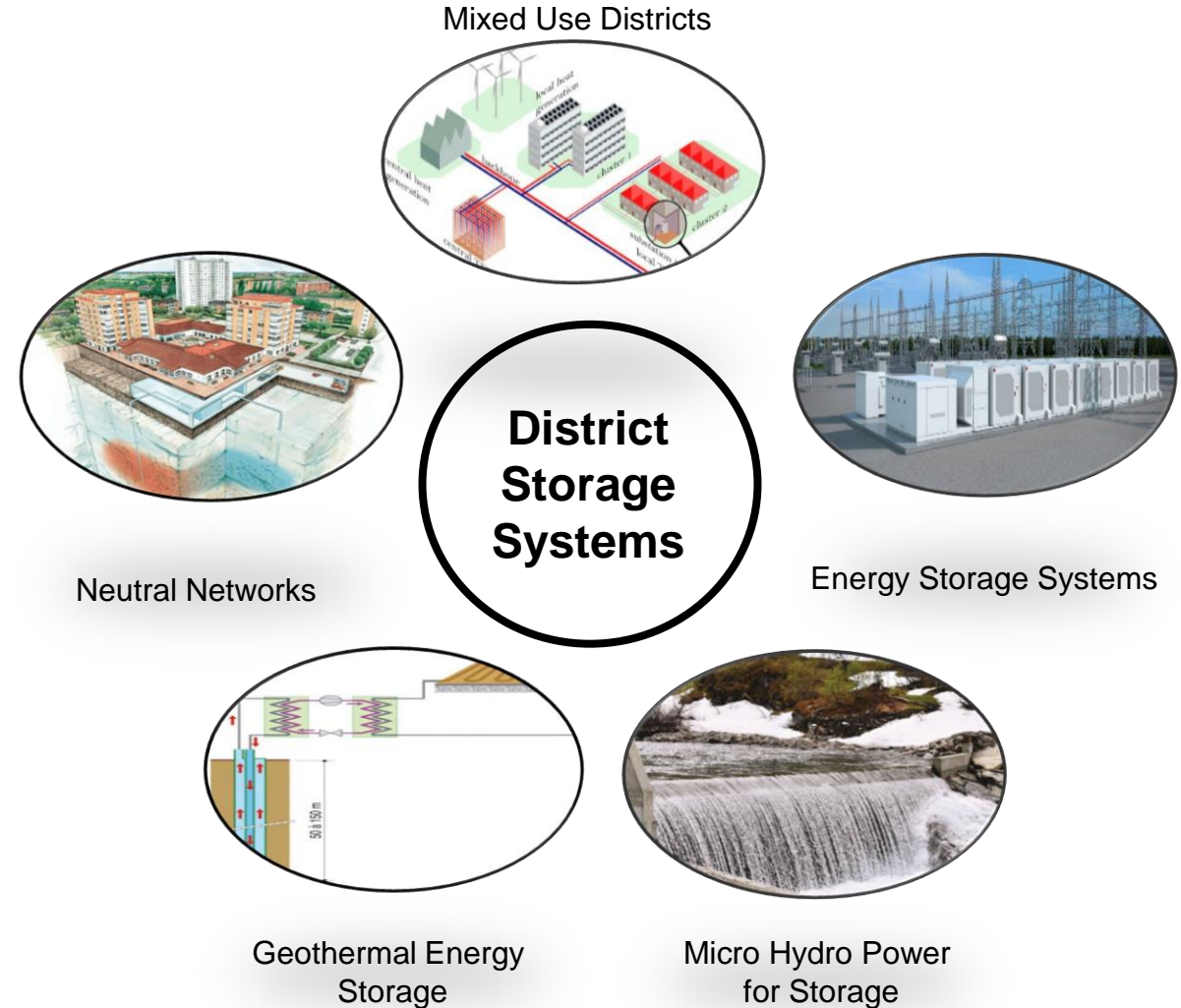
## Resilience

Source: Le Den, X. et al. (2023). Towards an EU roadmap for reduction of whole life carbon in buildings. Brussels, Belgium.



# Energy Storage Systems

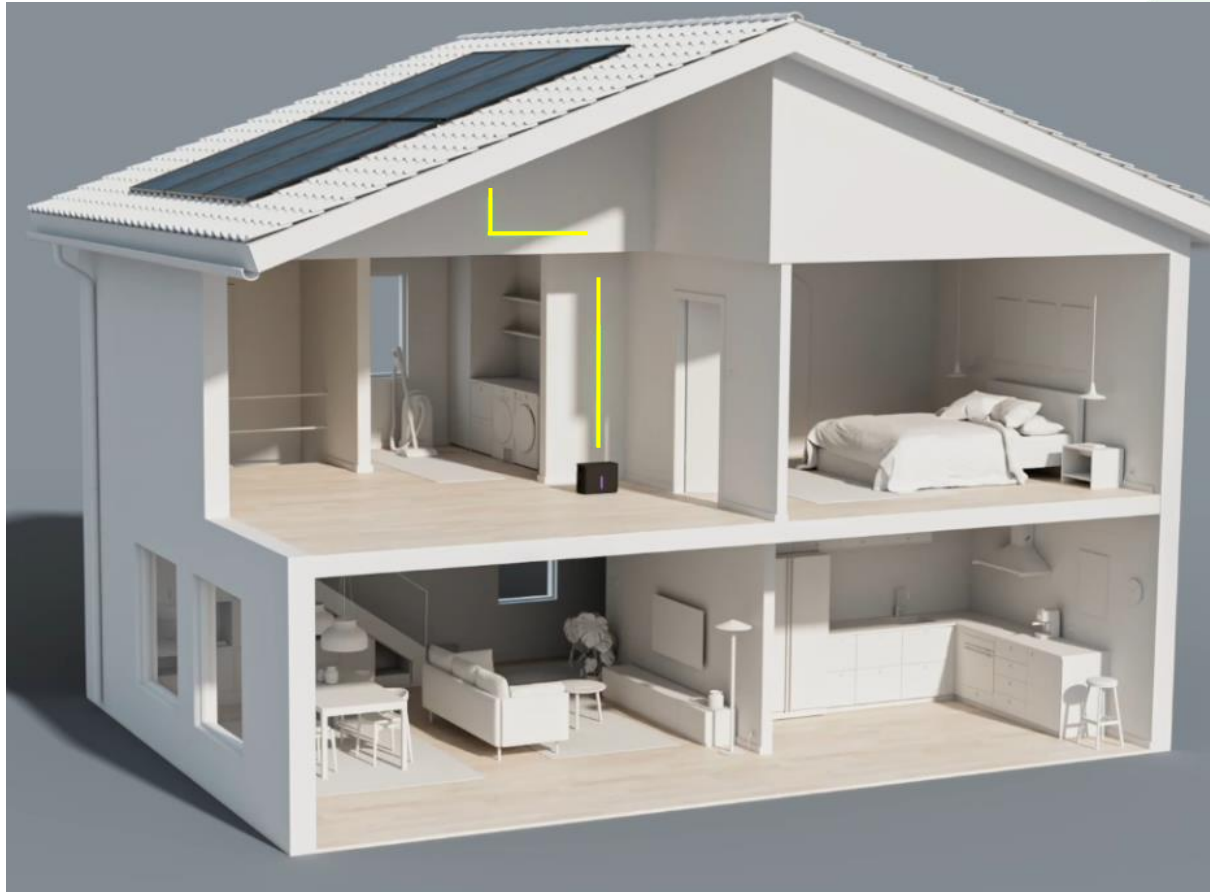
## The Core of Carbon Neutrality



# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## Plug-In Battery

2 kWh and 5 kWh cover all households equipments and appliances



Source: <https://www.homewizard.com/>

# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## Regulations on Refrigerants

ISO 817

1. EU Directive introduced in 2006 on the direct impact of air conditioning systems
2. February 2024: EU set a steeper schedule for phasing down fluorinated gases
3. Prohibition of product categories: Chillers, Heat Pumps and Split Air Conditioning systems

Time period	Updated EU phase down adopted in February 2024
2021 - 2023	
2024 - 2026	23.6%
2027 - 2029	10.1%
2030	5%
2048	2.38%

Split Air-to-Water	
X <= 12 kW at 150 GWP	→ 1st January 2027
X <= 12 kW full F Gas prohibition	→ 1st January 2035
X > 12 kW at 750 GWP	→ 1st January 2029
X > 12 kW at 150 GWP	→ 1st January 2033



# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## New refrigerants – new rules

ISO 817

Refrigerant	GWP	Safety class ISO 817; PED (EU)
R718 (Water)	0	A1 (non-flammable)
R744 (CO <sub>2</sub> )	1	A1 (non-flammable)
R290 (Propane)	3	A3 (higher flammability)
R1234yf	4	A2L (mildly flammable)
R1234ze	7	A2L (mildly flammable)
R454b	466	A2L (mildly flammable)
R513A	631	A1 (non-flammable)
R32	675	A2L (mildly flammable)
R410A	2088	A1 (non-flammable)

### Future influences:

- Achieving low-carbon buildings
- Growth of hydronic technologies and low GWP- refrigerants
- Advanced control and monitoring systems
- Retrofit balance
- Balance what's possible and what's practical

# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

## Smart Meters & Grid Mix Emission Factors

ISO 52000-3:2023

- Net-Zero Energy  $\neq$  Net-Zero Carbon
- Belgium has a 15 min – grid mix factor
- Annual operational emissions calculations based on dynamic factors and export/import fluctuations

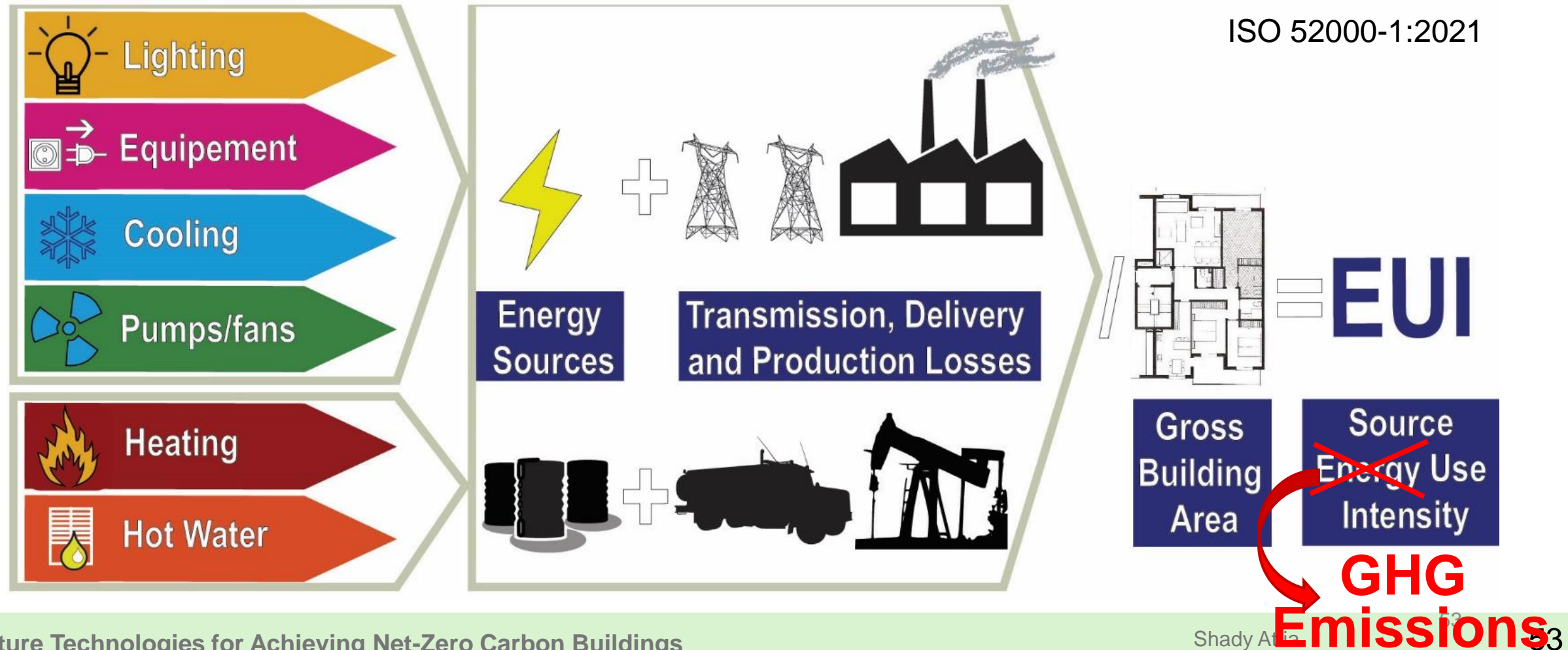


EMISSION FACTOR [g/kWh]													
2023		MONTH											
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
HOUR of the day	1	411	517	487	484	500	543	560	544	512	470	480	383
	2	406	516	484	473	474	534	561	532	509	472	479	380
	3	402	516	478	467	475	534	563	529	506	472	479	379
	4	400	517	483	464	480	533	566	529	506	473	480	380
	5	403	519	485	467	487	533	570	533	509	476	483	383
	6	415	523	493	477	498	536	573	540	518	486	489	391
	7	429	529	500	487	502	535	568	542	527	492	499	402
	8	441	531	498	479	489	518	545	524	521	497	505	411
	9	447	522	483	454	463	487	508	493	494	486	498	415
	10	446	501	462	422	426	451	467	457	461	462	486	414
	11	440	481	441	389	390	421	434	421	425	439	476	408
	12	434	466	426	365	365	400	410	393	396	418	471	404
	13	432	458	420	351	350	387	396	378	376	404	470	404
	14	437	460	420	344	345	379	389	371	368	401	479	409
	15	447	473	430	344	348	379	391	372	372	411	495	420
	16	460	494	448	356	360	389	401	384	391	433	516	429
	17	468	521	473	381	383	408	420	408	424	466	520	430
	18	469	540	499	425	416	440	456	450	475	505	511	426
	19	464	540	513	478	459	481	498	498	526	521	502	421
	20	457	530	512	517	497	519	541	540	549	513	495	415
	21	448	523	505	522	518	546	572	562	547	502	491	407
	22	440	520	500	511	511	556	580	563	537	493	486	399
	23	434	520	500	500	499	551	575	554	529	487	486	396
	24	425	518	496	487	489	540	570	545	519	477	482	386

# Zero Net Carbon Buildings

Converting the primary energy use intensity to GHG emissions

## Measuring ~~Energy~~ Emissions





# Carbon Neutral Communities

## From Single Building to Community





# Conclusion





# The transition towards zero-emission buildings

PAST

TRANSITION

FUTURE

2021

nearly Zero-Energy  
low renovation rates

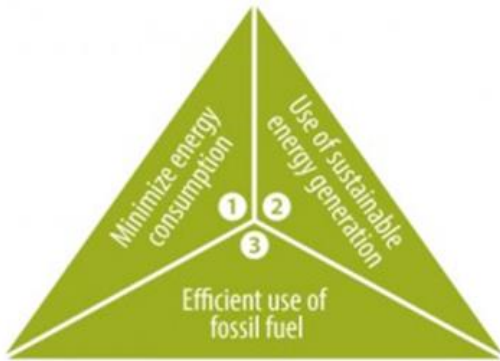


Figure 1a: Trias Energetica (Duijvestein, 2010)

2030

nearly Zero Emission  
massive deep renovation



Figure 1a: Trias Materia (Duijvestein, 2010)

2050

zero-emission built  
environment

# The transition towards Zero-emission buildings

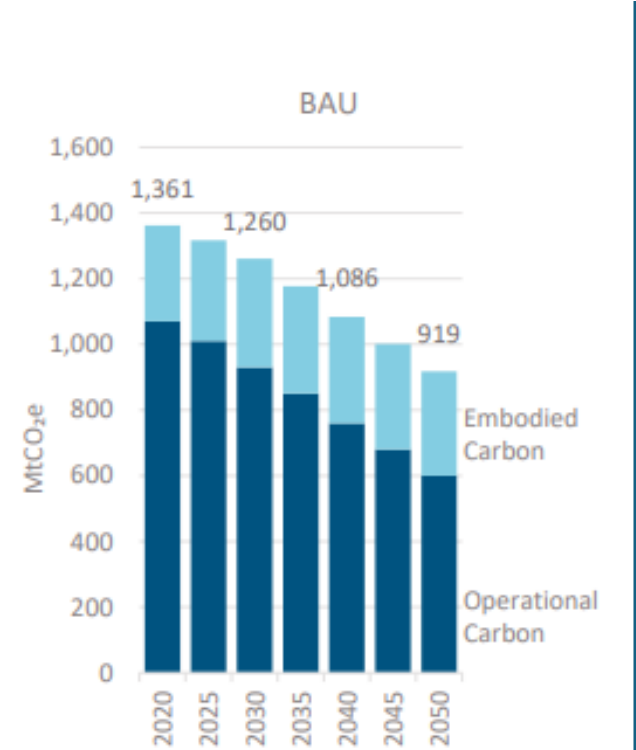


Figure 2 Development of WLC emissions in a business-as-usual scenario

Le Den, X. et al. (2023). Towards an EU roadmap for reduction of whole life carbon in buildings. Brussels, Belgium.

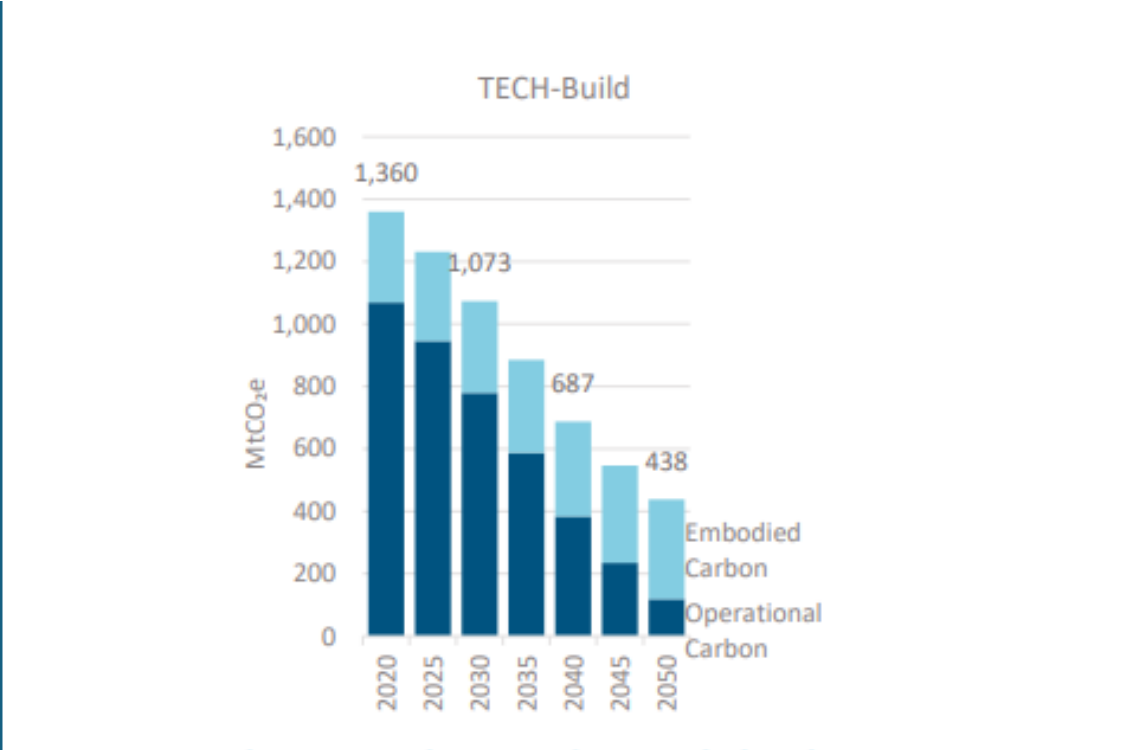


Figure 3 Development of WLC emissions in the TECH-Build scenario

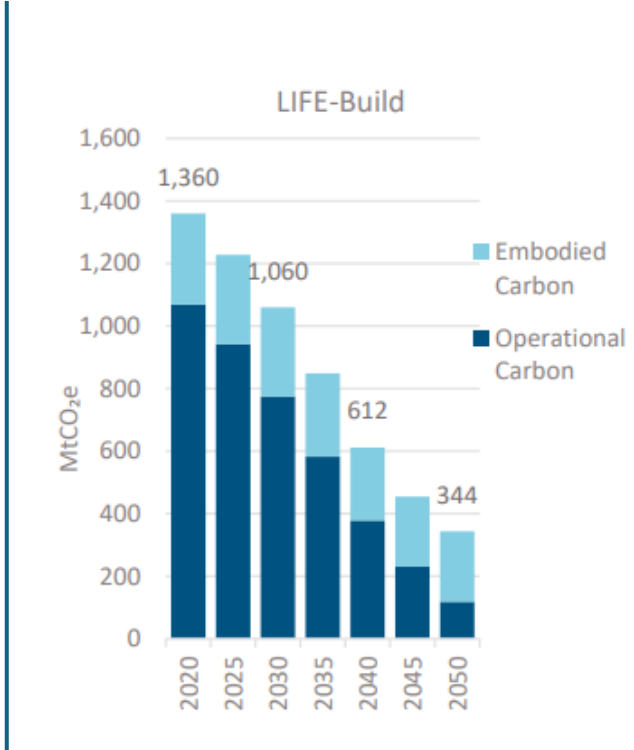


Figure 4 Development of WLC emissions in the LIFE-Build scenario

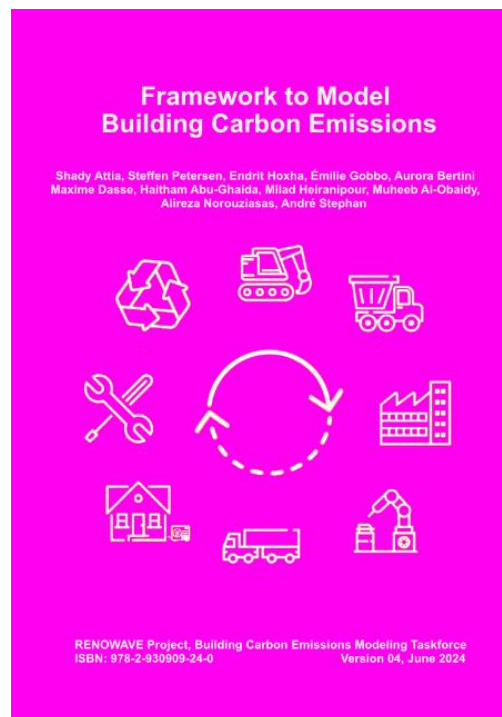
# Framework for Building Modelling

## For Zero Carbon Buildings

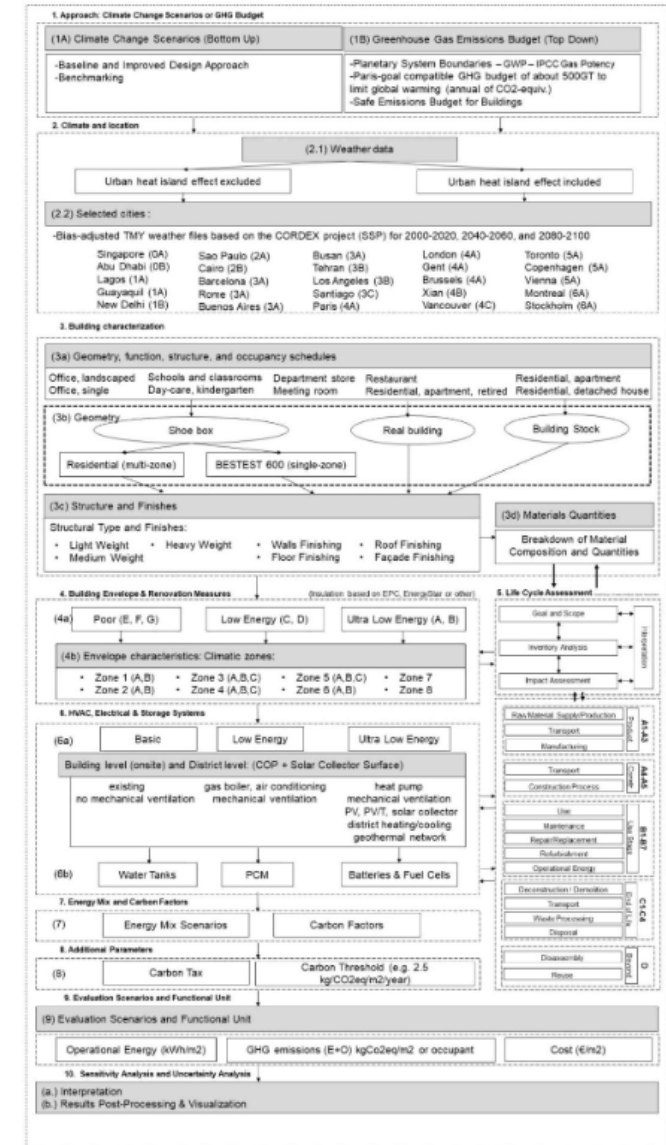
10 Modules

### Paris-goal-compatible assessment method

- evaluate the assessment methods proposed or required by current climate policies, aiming to check their compatibility with meeting the science-based carbon targets and budgets



Attia, S., Petersen, S., Hoxha, E., Gobbo, E., Bertini, A., Dasse, M., et al. (2024) Framework to Model Building Carbon Emissions, Report, Sustainable Building Design Lab, Liege University, Liege, Belgium. DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.15338.73925/3





# Conclusion

## What should be focused on:

- Adopt the new indicators of GWP and Module A-B-C + (D)
- Get experienced with carbon numbers through EPDs (databases)
- Use consistent methodology and software

## Zero Carbon Emissions Buildings Ingredients:

- > Reduced building area
- > Minimized car parking
- > High-Performance envelope
- > Electric heating & cooling
- > Biogenic materials
- > 40% window-to-wall ratio
- Plug-in batteries
  - > Solar PV on roof and facades

## Directions:

Begin by setting a decarbonization performance goal and limit for your project. Start by mixing the smallest building area with the minimal parking. Next, add a high-performance building envelope alongside an electric heating and cooling system. Add a pinch of solar PV and a large scoop of biogenic materials and run the energy and life cycle impact assessment simulations.

Category	Embodied carbon reduction solution
Avoid	Optimize/reduce the use of space in offices and residential buildings
Avoid	Use existing assets that are currently unused instead of new buildings.
Avoid	Renovate instead of build new
Improve	Design for adaptability, resilience and extended lifespan
Improve	Design for disassembly
Improve	Design based on light construction methods instead of massive construction
Improve	Reduce concrete demand by use of void formers in concrete slabs
Improve	Use carbon cured concrete
Improve	Implement carbon capture in cement production
Improve	Implement carbon capture in steel production
Shift	Re-use existing building components and materials
Shift	Use industry by-products instead of clinker in cement
Shift	Use alternative cementitious materials instead of cement in concrete
Shift	Use recycled concrete and other by-products for new concrete
Shift	Full timber construction
Shift	Hybrid (concrete + timber) structures in new construction
Shift	Use other bio-based materials
Shift	Use recycled steel in steel production
Shift	Use recycled glass in glass production
Shift	Use renewable energy in cement production
Shift	Use renewable energy in steel production and other metals
Shift	Use renewable energy in glass production

# Questions?



Notre Dame University (NDU)  
Shouf Campus  
Ramez G.Chagoury Faculty of  
Architecture, Art, and Design

# Future Technologies for Achieving Net-Zero Carbon Buildings

Lebanon | April 09, 2025



**Prof. Dr. Shady Attia**

*Sustainable Building Design Lab, UEE,  
Applied Sciences, University of Liège, Belgium*  
***shady.attia@uliege.be***



/in/shady-attia-14352a7  
/www.shadyattia.org





## References

- Attia, S., Petersen, S., Hoxha, et al. (2024). Framework to Model Building Carbon Emissions. (Version 5). Liege, Belgium: Sustainable Building Design Lab. doi:[10.13140/RG.2.2.15338.73925/4](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.15338.73925/4);
- Attia, S. (2025) Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB), Elsevier, 2nd Edition, Cambridge, UK
- Alaux, N., Saade, M. R. M., Hoxha, E., Truger, B., & Passer, A. (2023). Future trends in materials manufacturing for low carbon building stocks: A prospective macro-scale analysis at the provincial level. *Journal of Cleaner Production*, 382, 135278.
- An, J., Wu, Y., Gui, C., & Yan, D. (2023). Chinese prototype building models for simulating the energy performance of the nationwide building stock. *Building Simulation*, 16(8), 1559–1582. <https://tinyurl.com/3z8kyzww>
- ASHRAE, S. (2021). Standard 189.1- Standard for the Design of High-performance Green Buildings. American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers, 66.
- Attia, S. (2023). DynamicRenowave: Life Cycle Assessment and Energy Simulation of Building Renovation Strategies. <https://www.sbd.uliege.be/dynamicrenowave>
- Attia, S., & Petersen, S. (Directors). (2024, April 24). Building Carbon Emissions Modeling Framework (Webinar 1). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5OfzJ9yCAkA>
- Bertini, A., & Dasse, M. (Directors). (2024, April 24). Building Carbon Emissions Modeling Framework (Webinar 2). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4B3Cs4ewIVc&t=1662s>
- CEN (2019). 15804:2019+A2 sustainability of construction works—Environmental product declaration—Core rules for the product category of construction products. European Committee for Standardization, Brussels, Belgium.
- CEN (2021). EN 15643:2021 - Sustainability of construction works - Framework for assessment of buildings and civil engineering works, European Committee for Standardization, Brussels, Belgium.
- Le Den, X. et al. (2023). Towards an EU roadmap for reduction of whole life carbon in buildings. Brussels, Belgium.