Embodied Carbon Legislation

Why Reducing Embodied Carbon Important?

Embodied carbon – the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and disposal of building and infrastructure materials – accounts for between 11-23% of global annual emissions. Despite the staggering impact embodied carbon has on the climate, Massachusetts has yet to address this source of emissions in statewide policy. The three bills below seek to change this by incorporating embodied carbon into the procurement process for state projects and establishing an advisory committee to assess effective steps to advance the measurement and reduction of embodied carbon. We urge you to support these efforts.

H.764/S.2090 An Act Incorporating Embodied Carbon into State Climate Policy
Sponsors: Representative Ciccolo & Representative Owens, Senator Comerford

What the Bill Does

- Establishes a state advisory board to address embodied carbon
- Requires the Department of Energy Resources to put forward recommendations and best practices for measuring & reducing embodied carbon
- Requires a report outlining effective regulation strategies for reducing embodied carbon
- Requires the measurement and reduction of embodied carbon to be incorporated into the specialized stretch and stretch code

H.3035/S.1981 An Act requiring state procurement of low-carbon building materials
Sponsors: Representative Garballey, Senator Creem

What the Bill Does

- Introduces a public procurement standard, or “buy-clean” policy, for relevant state projects
- The procurement policy will require that solicitations for public projects must include reports of the environmental impacts of materials that are significantly impactful to the building’s embodied carbon content.
- Based on global warming potentials established by the state that will become progressively more stringent over time, solicitations for public projects will be required to use materials that have lower levels of embodied carbon.
- Materials that will be considered as part of this legislation includes (1) asphalt (2) cement and concrete; (3) glass; (4) post-tension steel; (5) steel; (6) wood for structural elements, and (7) insulation
- To aide in the implementation of this work, the State will establish a technical advisory committee

S.1982/H.3002 An Act relative to the use of low-embodied carbon concrete in state projects
Sponsors: Representative Cahill, Senator Creem

What the Bill Does

- Establishes minimum standards for low embodied carbon concrete used by contractors and subcontractors working on state projects
- Requires contractors to issue periodic reports to evaluate the environmental, public health, and safety impacts of low-embodied carbon concrete
- Establishes a stakeholder group to examine incentives and credits to encourage the use of low-embodied carbon concrete; study the maximum global warming potential thresholds; review standards for performance-based specifications, and more.

For questions, email Miranda@massclimateaction.net
Website bit.ly/EmbodiedCarbonLeg
Social Media @MassClimate