Stantec

2025

2030Now Embodied Carbon Action Plan

Stantec Buildings BOU
From the Carbon Impact Team

Our challenge: to achieve net-zero embodied carbon emissions

On the Cover: Coast Mountain College, Terrace, British Columbia, Canada

Contents

With your reading experience in mind, we have built in easy ways for you to navigate this document.

Use the bottom menu, arrows, and the table of contents to flip to different sections. Watch for information icons, arrows, buttons, and underlined hyperlinks throughout the document. They will lead you to more information.

Designing toward net-zero whole life emissions

Reducing embodied carbon through design, material and system selection, and specification

The building industry is responsible for approximately 37 percent of global CO2 emissions annually. Over the past 50 years, efforts have focused on reducing operational greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through energy efficiency standards, integrated design and assessment tools, building codes, and performance benchmarking. These collective efforts have significantly improved the operational performance of buildings worldwide.

As operational emissions continue to decrease, the next major opportunity lies in addressing the entire lifecycle of embodied GHG emissions, from material extraction and manufacturing to construction and end-of-life phases. To mitigate the worst impacts of climate change, the building industry must reduce emissions by 50% by 2030, compared to its 2015 baseline. With global building stock expected to double by 2060, now is the time to turn carbon-neutral goals into action.

This Embodied Carbon Action Plan (ECAP) outlines the steps Stantec Buildings BOU is taking to achieve net-zero embodied carbon emissions through structural and MEP (mechanical, electrical, and plumbing) system design.

FortWhyte Alive Buffalo Crossing Visitor Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

01

Our Commitment

Sustainability isn’t just what we do: it’s who we are. Sustainability is embedded in our people, projects, and direction. We are recognized as climate leaders, including being the most sustainable among our peers by Corporate Knights Global 100 and receiving an A- CDP score—six years running.

OUR COMMITMENT

At the forefront of sustainability

Stantec is a global design and delivery leader in sustainable engineering, architectural, planning, and environmental services.

Our technical specialists are at the forefront of innovations that help communities predict and plan for climate change, enhance biodiversity and environmental health, provide social value, develop economic opportunities, and create a sense of place and well-being.

At Stantec, sustainability is key to our purpose, promise, and values. And we live it every day because we are accountable to our communities—to strengthening them and making them resilient for whatever the future may hold.

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

1%

Ranked among top 1% in the world on sustainable performance

2024 Corporate Knights Global 100

#1

Ranked most sustainable corporation among industry peers

2024 Corporate Knights Global 100

Net Zero

Carbon neutrality achieved and continuing as we progress to net zero

Our Operational Pledge

OUR COMMITMENT

Reducing embodied carbon

The diverse perspectives of our partners and interested parties drive us to think beyond what's previously been done on critical issues like climate change, digital transformation, and future-proofing our cities and infrastructure.

Embodied carbon accounts for approximately 10% of annual CO2 emissions[1]. To address this, we are focused on reducing embodied carbon in our projects. We are signatories to the Structural Engineering Institute's (SEI) Structural Engineers 2050 (SE 2050) Commitment and the Carbon Leadership Forum's Challenge, and resulting MEP 2040 Commitment.

These commitments complement our AIA 2030 Commitment and AIA Materials Pledge, collectively addressing embodied carbon, operational carbon, climate change mitigation, and the material health impacts of our projects.

1. United Nations Environment Programme (2024)

Stantec

Stantec Architecture Inc.
1905 Aldrich Street, Suite 300
Austin TX 78723-3544

April 22, 2022

Laura Champion
Director, Structural Engineering Institute

Dear Ms. Champion,

Reference: Letter of Commitment to the SE 2050 Program

Stantec Architecture, Interior Design and Building Engineering, comprising over 3,400 people in offices across North America and Europe, is hereby signing on to the SE 2050 Commitment Program. We support the vision that all structural engineers shall understand, reduce, and ultimately eliminate embodied carbon in their projects by 2050.

The places we live, work and play represent the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in America, as well as around the world. The design and construction industry has made significant strides toward creating high performance buildings of all types and uses. As a result, the industry is positioned to have a profound impact by continuing to foster high building performance and reducing building-related greenhouse gas emissions.

As architects, designers, and engineers, we understand the need to exercise leadership in creating the built environment. We believe we must alter our profession's practices and encourage our clients and the entire design and construction industry to join with us to change the course of the planet and its inhabitant's future. A multi-year effort will be required to alter current design and construction practices and realize significant reductions in the use of natural resources, non-renewable energy sources and waste production and promote regeneration of natural resources.

We, therefor commit Stantec Architecture Inc. to take the following steps which are part of the SE 2050 Commitment Program:

- Within SIX (6) months and annually henceforth, we commit to reporting an Embodied Carbon Action Plan (ECAP) and permit the ECAP document or form be made public on the SE 2050 website.
- Within ONE (1) year and annually henceforth, we commit to submit data to the SE 2050 project database in a collaborative effort to understand embodied carbon in structural engineering projects and to set attainable targets for future projects.

We look forward to joining this coalition and industry effort to achieve the goals of the SE 2050 Program.

Sincerely,

STANTEC ARCHITECTURE INC.

Robby L Vogel PE, LEED AP BD+C, M.ASCE
Principal | Structural Engineering Design Leader
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robby.vogel@stantec.com

Beth Tomlinson PE, BCxP, LEED AP BD+C
Principal | Sustainability Discipline Leader
Phone: (612) 770-8437
beth.tomlinson@stantec.com

Design with community in mind

Doing business as: Stantec Architecture and Engineering (NY) | Stantec Architecture P.C. (DC, MS, MO, NE) | For a list of our registered architects, please visit stantec.com/registeredarchitects

Stantec's SE 2050 Commitment Letter

Foundation of transformation

Stantec Buildings BOU commits to transforming the building industry and our practice through the following foundations:

- Research and standards development
- Education and engagement
- Technical design advancements
- Material database and specification development
- Benchmarking embodied GHG emission modeling and performance
- Knowledge sharing within global Stantec and our industry partners

SE 2050 Champions

Meagan Erdman
Senior Structural Engineer
US West

Beth Tomlinson
Senior Principal,
Sustainability Discipline Leader
North America

MEP 2040 Champion

Mehdi Jalayerian
Senior Principal, TSS Lead,
Mechanical Engineer
US Central

Signatory industry pledges

We proudly work alongside industry leaders who share our commitment to reducing embodied carbon emissions in the built environment.

Our design leaders guide our teams with a dedication to researching and integrating the latest technologies, materials, and innovations to create more sustainable building designs, whether for new construction, renovations, or rehabilitations.

Net zero building design starts with industry climate pledges

Joining industry climate pledges supports sustainability initiatives and decarbonization

LEARN MORE

SE 2050 Commitment

The SE 2050 Commitment is dedicated to reducing embodied carbon in our projects by prioritizing the use of lower-impact structural materials. Our goal is to transform structural engineering with a holistic, data-driven, and firm-wide approach that spans across individual projects.

By 2050, our structural engineers are striving to eliminate embodied carbon from our designs, leading the way in sustainable, future-focused engineering practices.

SE 2050 ANNOUNCEMENT

MEP 2040 Commitment

The MEP 2040 Commitment aims to radically cut carbon emissions from mechanical, electrical, and plumbing (MEP) systems in buildings by 2040.

This ambitious effort challenges our systems engineers to achieve net-zero operational carbon by 2030 and net-zero embodied carbon by 2040. It covers emissions from the entire lifecycle of MEP systems, including manufacturing, installation, maintenance, and disposal. By addressing both operational and embodied carbon, MEP engineers are empowered to innovate, use low-carbon materials, and implement energy-efficient solutions to minimize the carbon footprint of building systems.

MEP 2040 ANNOUNCEMENT

Federation of Korean Industries Head Office Building, Seoul, South Korea
Stantec: Mechanical and electrical engineering services | Architect: Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture

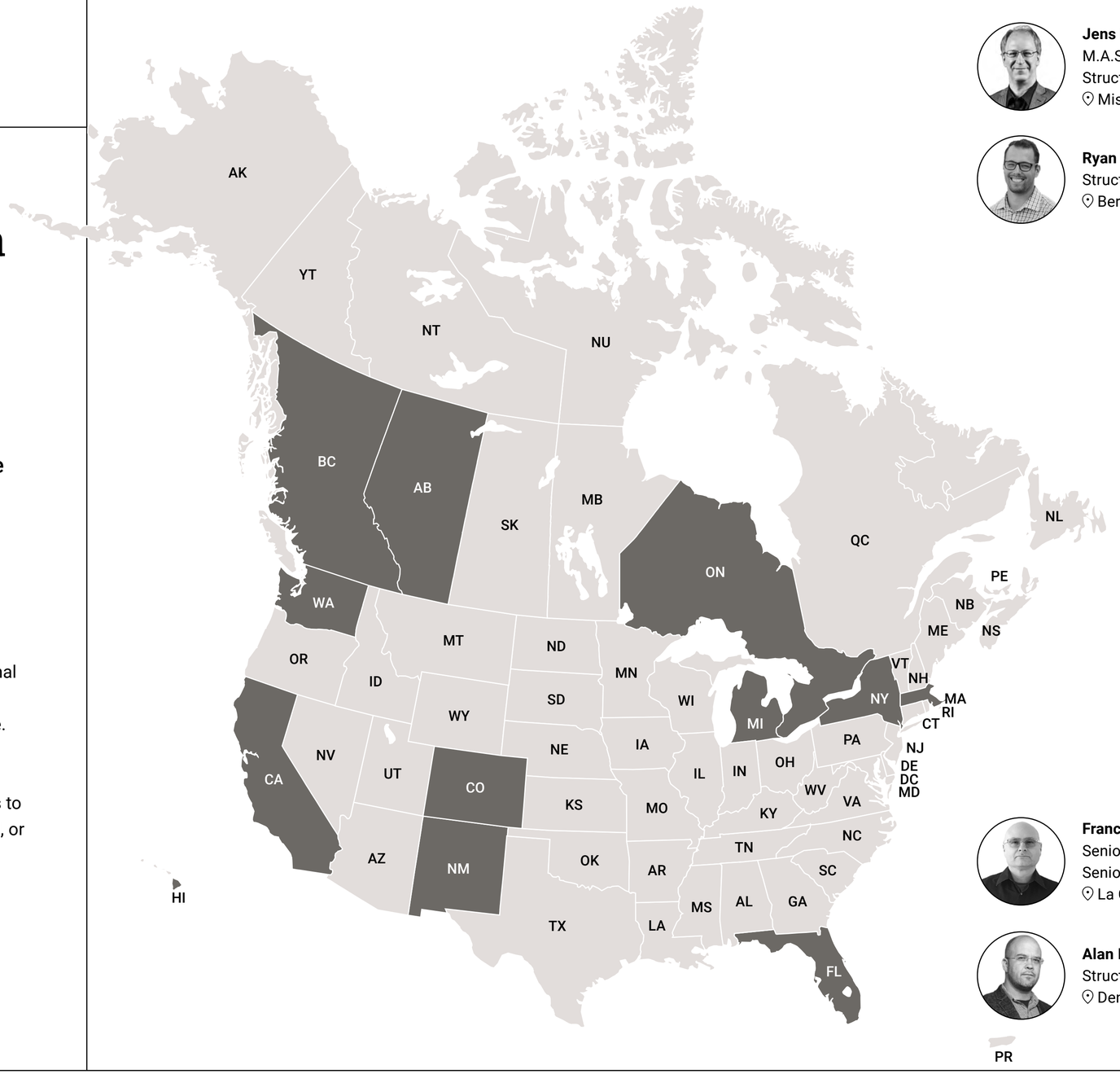
OUR COMMITMENT

North America structural design leaders

We are committed to continuously innovating and improving structural design to create a lasting impact on the environment and the built world.

Our Structural Engineering Council is led by 12 structural design leaders from across our North American practice. This team meets regularly to establish and maintain technical standards, high-performance building goals, efficient and functional design practices, shared metrics, frameworks, research and development, and design excellence.

Our structural team continuously reviews and integrates the latest technologies and innovations to support the design and delivery of new, renovated, or rehabilitated structures.



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Structural Team Lead
Berkley, MI

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Structural Design Leader
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Structural Design Leader
Ottawa, ON

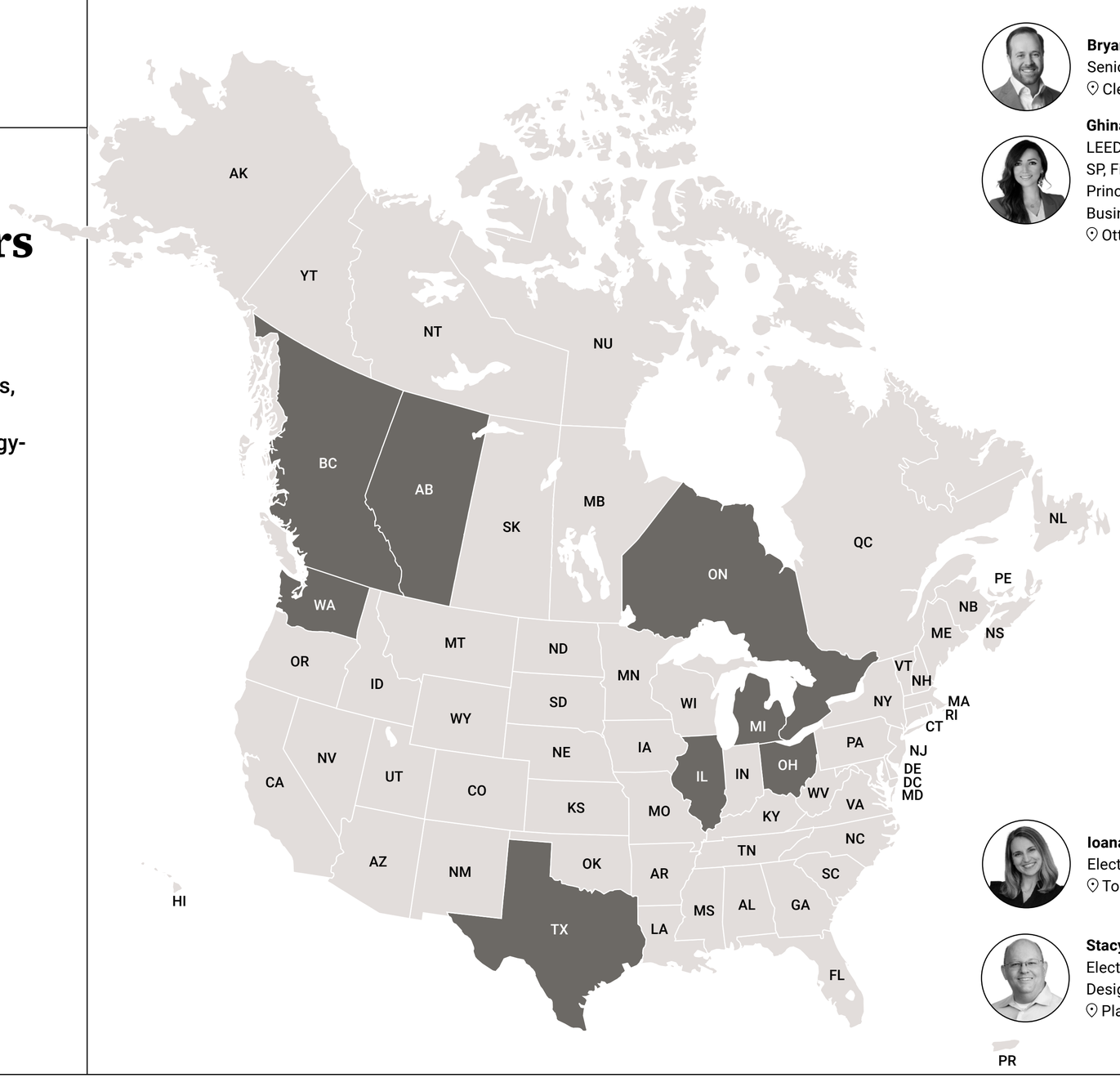
Alan Dyck, PE, SE
Structural Design Leader
Denver, CO

Meagan Erdman, PE
Senior Structural Engineer
Seattle, WA

OUR COMMITMENT

North America MEPdesignleaders

Our dedication to sustainable design drives us to explore innovative solutions, low-carbon materials, refrigerants with low global warming potential, and energy-efficient technologies.



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Senior Associate, Electrical
Cleveland, OH

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Principal, Decarbonization Business Lead
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Josh Clark
USW Building Engineering BIM Lead
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Jason Smith, PE, LEED AP
VP, Engineering Discipline Leader
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Caz Zalewski, PE, LEED AP, CPD
Principal Engineer
Berkley, MI

02

Actions and Goals

We have developed actions and goals around the following key areas to help us achieve our commitment to reduce embodied carbon emissions in our project work:

Education

Reporting

Reduction

Analysis

Engagement

Influence

Education

The building industry offers a wealth of resources to better understand and implement climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and long-term sustainability in design.

Our global Buildings practice integrates architecture, interior design, and engineering. With over 5,200 professionals across North America, Australia, New Zealand, Asia, Europe, and the MENA region, our Buildings team fosters collaboration and encourages education in sustainable design.

303 Battery, Seattle, Washington, USA
Stantec: Electrical engineering services
Architect: CollinsWoerman

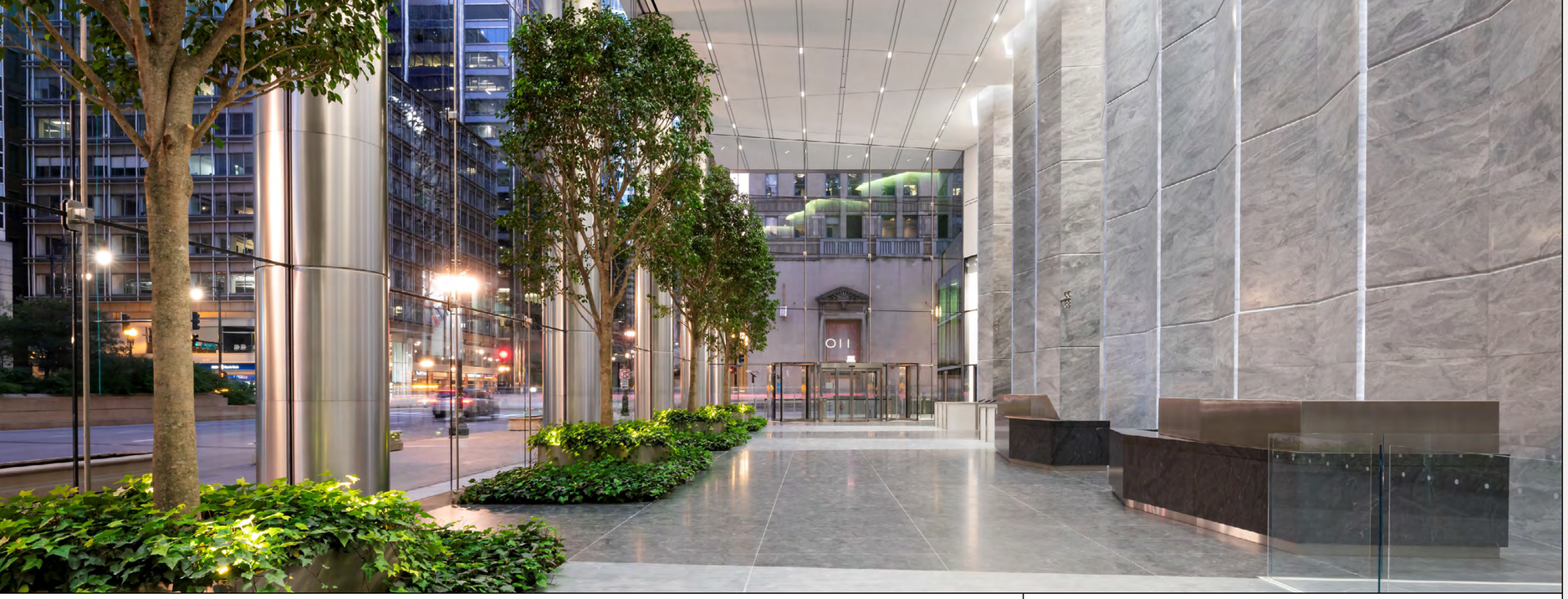
Carbon Impact Team

Stantec is home to the Carbon Impact Team, one of the largest dedicated sustainability and building performance practices, with specialized teams located across North America. This specialized team is integrated with design teams across industry sectors and design disciplines.

The team organizes monthly educational sessions aligning with our commitments to address embodied carbon, operational carbon, climate change mitigation, and the material health impacts of our projects. At least two of these sessions focus specifically on embodied carbon. These virtual training sessions are open to all global offices, recorded, and available for future staff training.

Embodied Excellence Workgroup

Stantec's Embodied Excellence workgroup is dedicated to advancing our internal commitments to research, education, and information sharing. Comprising sustainability leaders, embodied carbon modelers, and engineers, this group focuses on fostering collaboration and expertise within the company.



2025 SE 2050 Education Goals

- Conduct a minimum of (2) internal webinar training sessions on embodied carbon, with structural design considerations.
- Finalize the narrative for how our Embodied Carbon Reduction Champions will engage embodied carbon reduction in projects at each office.
- Continue to nominate a minimum of (1) employee per region to participate in the Carbon Leadership Forum Community Hub and/or task force.
- Nominate a minimum of (1) employee per region to participate within the American Society of Civil Engineer's, (ASCE) and/or the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations (NCSEA).
- Hold annual trainings on embodied carbon modeling tools applicable for structural design for incoming staff.
- Request material and system environmental product declarations (EPDs) from vendors during material and system considerations. Prioritize low-carbon products during scheduling and specification.
- Provide SpecLink training to engineers to educate on embodied carbon specification requirements.

2025 MEP 2040 Education Goals

- Develop a multi-disciplinary and integrated education series
- Develop in-house training on low vs. high GWP refrigerant choices.
- Plan in-house training to inform technical staff on carbon reducing design strategies and embodied carbon calculation methods.
- Develop design guides related to equipment selection reducing operational and embodied carbon.
- Develop training tools and resources on "selling" carbon reducing designs to support business development, project management and other client-facing team members.

2024 Internal Embodied Carbon Training

We are committed to educating our staff on the impact of embodied carbon emissions in building design, including considerations around structural and MEP systems. As part of this initiative, we offer at least two dedicated training sessions each year. These sessions are recorded and added to our internal resource library, offering continuous learning for both new and existing team members. This ongoing education empowers our design team members to consider embodied carbon across all aspects of building design.

Embodied Carbon Case Study: Lower Manhattan Coastal Resiliency – Battery Project
February 21, 2024

Decarbonization/embodied carbon: The regulatory landscape, case studies, and the total carbon story
March 6, 2024

Embodied Carbon: What it is, why we care, how to measure, how to reduce
October 17, 2024

110 North Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois, USA
Stantec: Mechanical and electrical engineering services, sustainability consulting
Architect: Goettsch Partners

Reporting

Our commitment to reporting is a cornerstone to our corporate governance and sustainability efforts.

At the heart of this effort is our internal 2030 toolkit, which plays a vital role in tracking and reporting the sustainability performance of the buildings we design across North America. This tool captures design-phase project data, initially focusing on key requirements outlined in the AIA 2030 Commitment.

After years of refining a custom methodology, database, and user interface, we continue to enhance our Buildings data reporting. The toolkit will expand to include additional data around embodied carbon, to further strengthen our sustainability metrics.

Aligning with this, we have committed to a year-over-year increase in the number of Stantec Buildings projects that incorporate embodied carbon life cycle analysis (LCA).

This ongoing effort underscores our dedication to transparent, impactful reporting that drives sustainable outcomes across our portfolio.

evolv1, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Embodied Carbon Reporting Vision

In 2023, Stantec coordinated with Autodesk, a global leader in design software, to develop an early phase embodied carbon modeling tool. As a result of this collaboration, automated embodied carbon reporting is in process. We anticipate that as the embodied carbon industry matures, our annual reporting will continue to evolve.

Stantec commits to manually complete SE 2050's submission files for a minimum of two projects in each of Stantec's U.S. regions, totaling ten projects. Over time, we may opt to include international submissions, as we have a significant portfolio of embodied carbon analysis projects within the UK, Canada, and Australia.

2025 SE 2050 Reporting Goals

Complete SE 2050's submission files for a minimum of two projects in each of Stantec's U.S. regions, totaling ten projects.

Achieve Tier 2 for SE 2050 reporting for (5) total projects across North America, Australia, and Europe.

100% of embodied carbon LCA modeling projects are entered into the Stantec Buildings 2030 toolkit.

Further develop the automation of embodied carbon analysis and reporting process for North America.

2025 MEP 2040 Reporting Goals

Develop tracking for low global warming potential (GWP) refrigerant, inclusive of project progress and compliance metrics.

Develop tracking for MEP systems/component environmental product declarations (EPD), inclusive of project progress and compliance metrics.

Reduction

Through innovative approaches and solutions, we're reimagining and redefining what's possible for our communities.

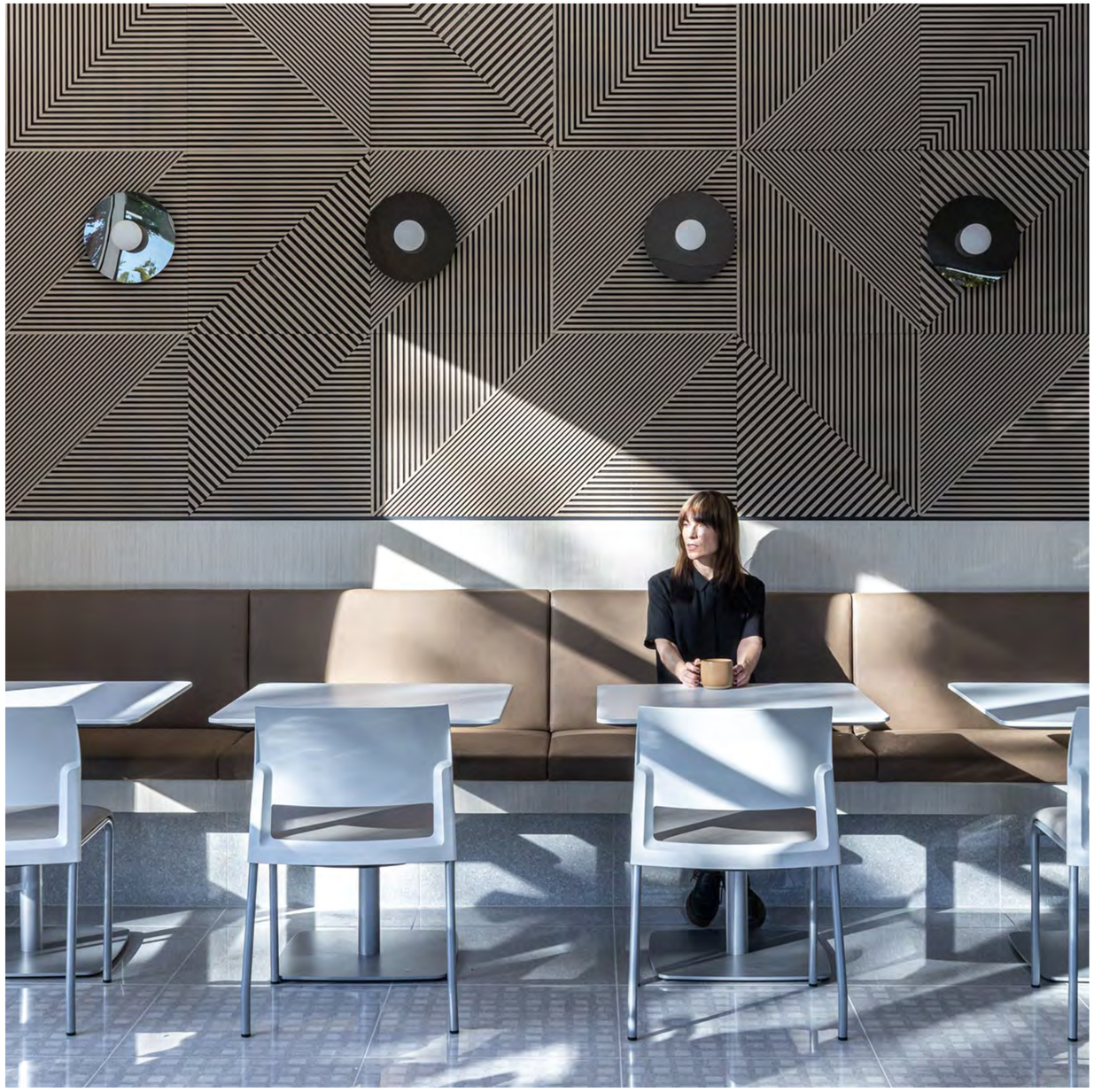
We apply this same innovative mindset to reducing embodied carbon.

In 2019, we initiated our internal embodied carbon reduction initiative by investing in the research and development of embodied carbon analysis tools. Since then, our team has continued to evaluate industry tools, expanded our structural library of Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for commonly used materials, and volunteered with organizations that champion industry-wide action on embodied carbon.

Within the first year of our commitment to SE 2050, we focused on reducing embodied carbon through the power of procurement. By requesting EPDs for high-impact structural elements and systems, evaluating material and system alternatives during project development, and specifying low embodied carbon options, we achieved up to a 20% reduction in total structural embodied carbon.

Beta Testing

Our goal is to drive industry-wide reductions in embodied carbon during the architectural master planning, pre-design, and schematic design phases. In 2023, we continued to innovate by beta testing an early-stage embodied carbon analysis tool. This tool enables high-performance opportunity assessments in the early design phases, promoting design efficiency. Our design team members are generously contributing their expertise and time to support the tool's development throughout the year.



UC Davis Health, Health Administrative Services Building, Rancho Cordova, California, USA

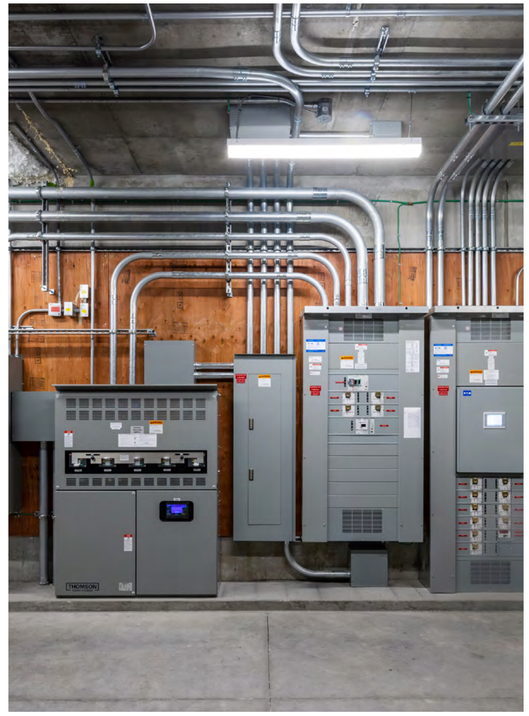
2025 SE 2050 Actions

- Specify lower carbon building materials and systems in building construction documents.
- Advance the development of a new industry specification with industry partners for the reporting of WBLCA modules A4 and A5.
- Explore innovative design solutions that use fewer materials without compromising structural integrity.

2025 MEP 2040 Actions

Low GWP Refrigerants:

- Develop in house list of manufacturers/ equipment and update specifications to reduce use of high GWP refrigerants.
- Update specifications to include equipment selection of low GWP refrigerants.
- Update equipment schedule templates to facilitate refrigerant accounting/reporting.



Request MEP Systems/Component EPD (Environmental Product Declarations)

- Collaborate with frequently specified manufacturers to gain an understanding of current carbon and refrigerant use and disclosure practices.
- Update specifications to request manufacturer disclosure of refrigerant type, amount, and efficiency as part of the submittal package.
- Communicate Stantec's commitment to reducing carbon footprints as part of our 2040 initiatives. Moving forward, we will prioritize manufacturers who align with this goal in our specifications.

From Left

- **University of Northern British Columbia Wood Innovation Research Laboratory,** Prince George, British Columbia, Canada
- **British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) Health Sciences Centre,** Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada

Analysis

We are committed to a year-over-year increase in the number of Stantec Buildings projects that incorporate embodied carbon life cycle analysis (LCA).

The majority of our analysis includes Whole Life Cycle Assessments (WLCA) modules A1-4 and B, and limited modeling of modules C and D.

Building Decarbonization Guide

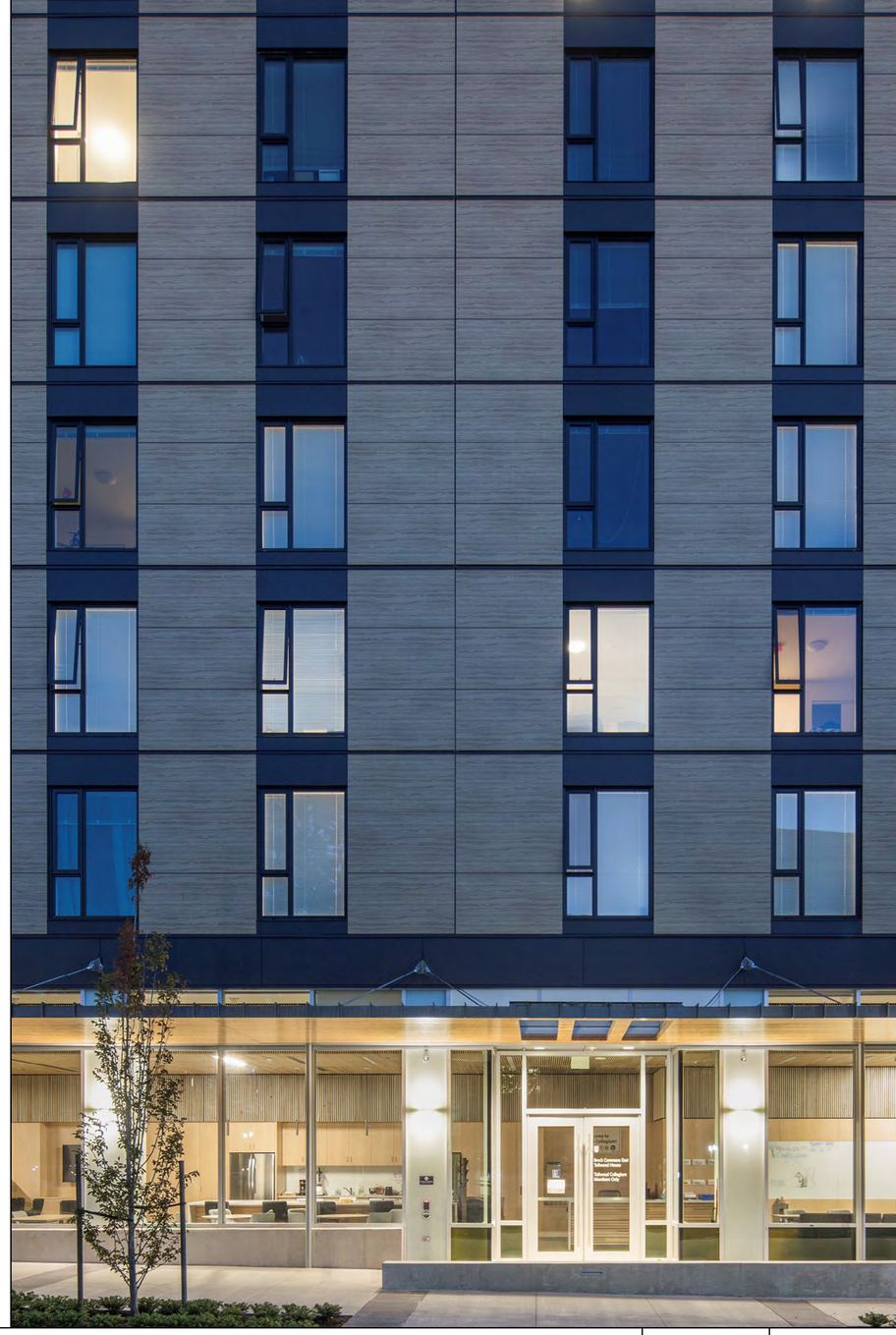
Our building decarbonization guide provides design strategies for reaching net zero at each stage in the building lifecycle.

LEARN MORE

Whole Building Life Cycle Assessment

System Boundary

PRODUCT STAGE	A1	Raw Material Supply
	A2	Transport
	A3	Manufacturing
CONSTRUCTION STAGE	A4	Transport
	A5	Construction Installation Process
USE STAGE	B1	Use
	B2	Maintenance
	B3	Repair
	B4	Replacement
	B5	Refurbishment
	B6	Operational Energy Use
	B7	Operational Water Use
END OF LIFE STAGE	C1	Deconstruction Demolition
	C2	Transport
	C3	Water Processing
	C4	Disposal
BEYOND THE SYSTEM BOUNDARY	D	Reuse - Recovery - Recycling Potential



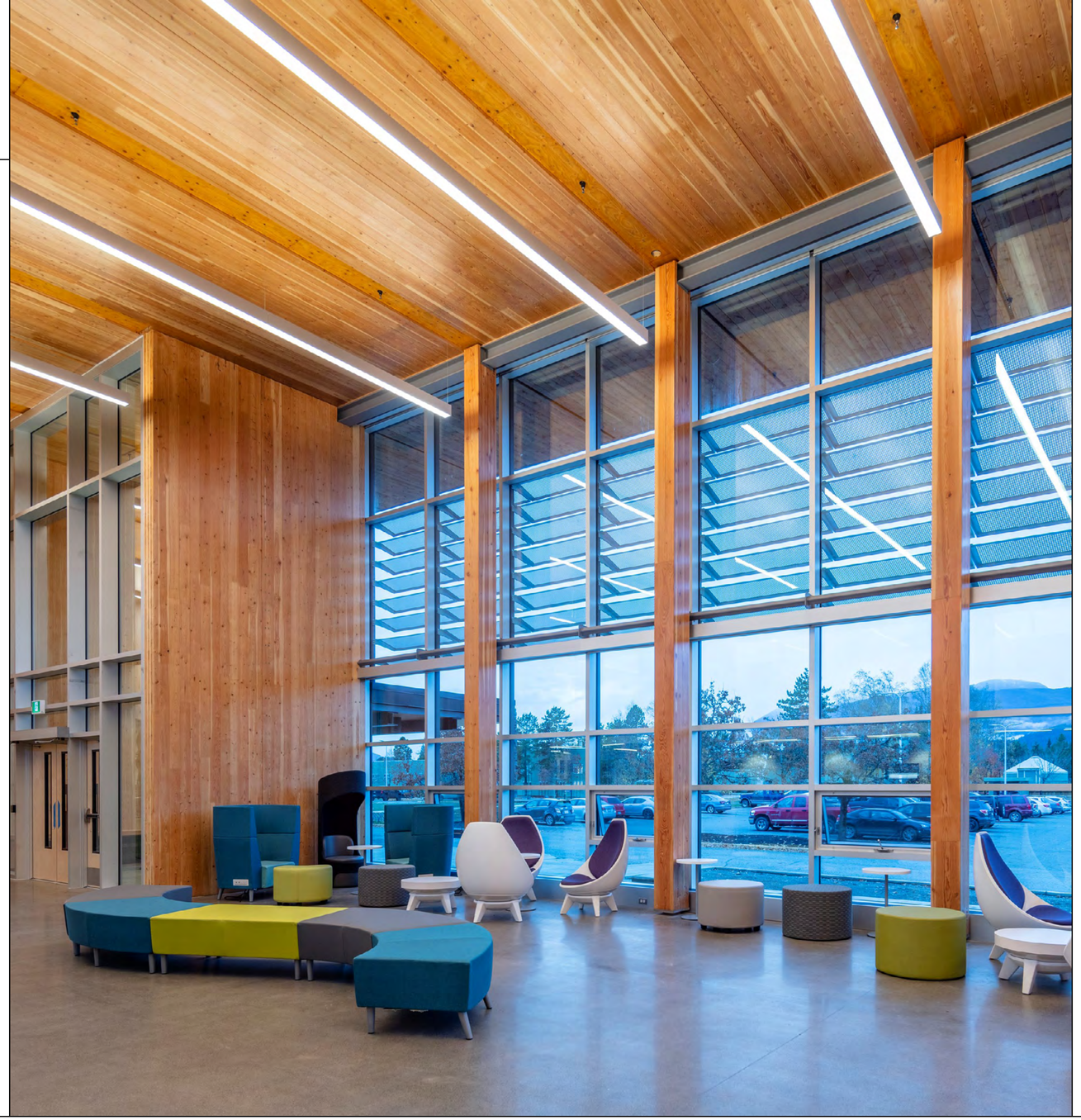
University of British Columbia Brock Commons Tallwood House, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
Stantec: Sustainability and building performance, mechanical and electrical engineering services | Architect: Acton Ostry Architects

Engagement

We recognize our vital role in decarbonizing the built environment and actively seek opportunities to drive positive change within the industry.

Our focus is on promoting sustainable, equitable, and resilient design strategies that reduce embodied carbon emissions. Through our industry relationships, collaborative partnerships, and communication efforts, we support reducing greenhouse gas emissions. We also engage clients and communities in understanding the importance of sustainable design and its impact on long-term environmental and social outcomes.

Our **integrated Climate Solutions team** enhances our Buildings BOU services by offering internal and external support of the entire whole-building life cycle assessment (WBLCA).



Coast Mountain College Trades Building,
Terrace, British Columbia, Canada

2025 SE 2050 Engagement Goals

- Mentor pre-approved structural engineering subconsultants on the SE 2050 program and embodied carbon reduction opportunities.
- Support the embodied carbon Harmonization and Optimization (ECHO) collaboration to drive consistent embodied carbon reporting requirements and databases for embodied carbon challenges.
- Create a menu of performance analytics scope options to assist pursuits and proposals.
- Develop and present at least two seminar sessions on decarbonization within the international community.

2025 MEP 2040 Engagement Goals

- Create an interdisciplinary task committee including MEP engineers, sustainability consultant, building energy and embodied carbon analyst, and marketing.
- Participate in MEP 2040 forums.
- Nominate a minimum of (1) employee per region to participate in the Carbon Leadership Forum Community Hub and/or task force.
- Nominate a minimum of (1) employee per region to engage with organizations and initiatives relevant to MEP professionals, such as ASHRAE or the American Society of Plumbing Engineers.

Influence

Stantec staff have been active in task forces and committees contributing to sustainable, equitable, and health-centric design initiatives.

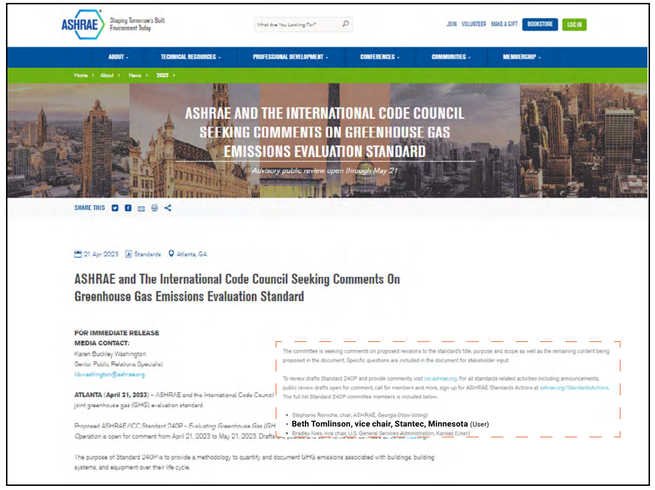
Industry Standards

Stantec partnered with Autodesk on the carbon analysis tools in the Autodesk Forma Cloud.

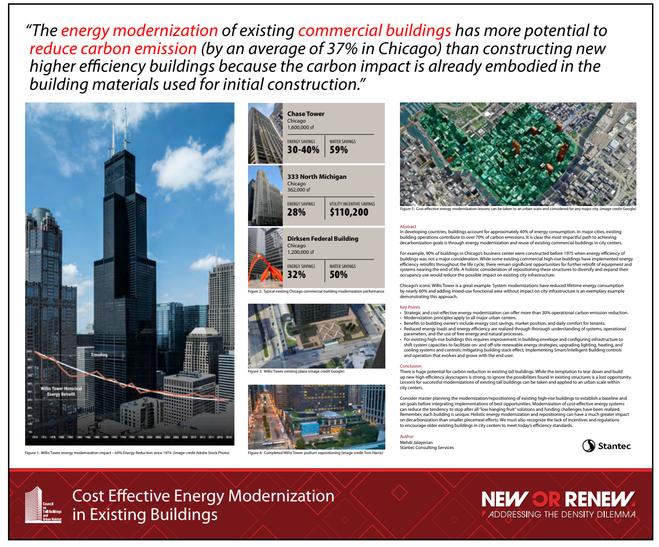
LEARN MORE →

Stantec's North America Sustainability Discipline Leader, Beth Tomlinson, serves as Vice Chair of the joint ASHRAE/ICC Standard 240P – Evaluating Greenhouse Gas (GHG) and Carbon Emissions in Building Design, Construction and Operation, extending our commitment and leadership within the Buildings industry. This innovative building industry standard provides a code-enforceable methodology to quantify the whole building life cycle GHG emissions, including embodied and operational emissions.

Read press here



The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat (CTBUH) published a poster by Stantec's Mehdi Jalayerian titled *Cost-Effective Energy Modernization (Decarbonization) of Existing Buildings* in September 2024. The poster explores the significant opportunities for retrofitting aging equipment and systems. It also highlights the potential of repositioning these structures to diversify and expand their occupancy, thereby minimizing the impact on existing city infrastructure.



Thought Leadership

Stantec staff are active leaders and contributors to thought leadership advocating for reducing embodied carbon in design initiatives

Recycle your building: 8 reasons to consider adaptive reuse and retrofitting
Read here

Carbon: A common language for change—now is the time to act
Read here

Are net zero energy and net zero carbon buildings a must-have?
Read here

Low-carbon building materials: Designers discuss alternative options
Read here

New ASHRAE Standards tip the balance toward net zero buildings
Read here

Does your building need a life cycle assessment?
Read here

Lessons learned

Education

- Interns had limited exposure to embodied carbon, presenting opportunity at the educational level.
- Client education of embodied carbon is crucial in the early project phase.
- Industry exposure around embodied carbon expertise has been well received.

Reporting

- Reporting at a global scale requires continuous engagement.
- There is an opportunity for staff to provide training and reporting support.
- There is value in including all families in Revit for exporting materials.

Innovation & Reduction

- Assessing MEP energy conservation measures (ECMs) with structural embodied carbon provides ROI on the whole life of a building.
- Early design consideration impacts the extent of reduction.
- Prefabrication / modular construction can reduce emissions when close in proximity to the site.
- Climate risk and resilience research is needed to understand short versus long term costs.
- Engagement with vendors can escalate embodied carbon savings.
- Opportunity for EPD design growth.
- There are limitations in understanding variances between construction methods.

Engagement

- There is value in discussing real world examples.
- There is opportunity to provide objective information and encourage collaboration.
- Language standardization.

320 South Canal, Chicago, Illinois, USA
Stantec: Mechanical and electrical engineering services
Architect: Goettsch Partners

03

Appendix

APPENDIX

Buildings signature projects

We apply building science and design solutions that help reduce the generation of carbon emissions in the built environment and deliver projects with a positive effect on the socio-ecological health of our communities.

Maple Ridge, British Columbia, Canada

E-One Moli Energy – Lithium-Ion Battery Cell Manufacturing Facility
Seven-story mass timber Lithium-ion battery cell manufacturing facility with green roof, targeting net zero carbon certification LEED Gold.
Learn more

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

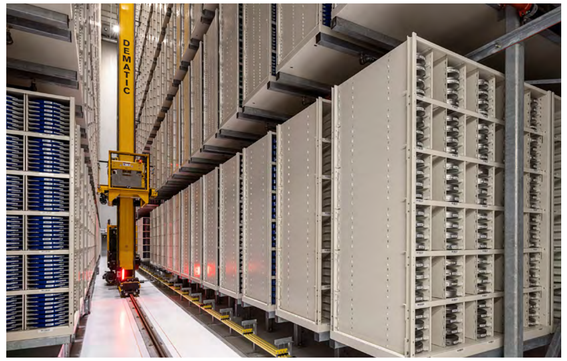
FortWhyte Alive Buffalo Crossing Visitor Center
A mass timber structure, high performance envelope, and low carbon design combine to create a new sustainable building exemplar.
Learn more

Bundoora, Victoria, Australia

La Trobe University Student Accommodation*
Cross-laminated timber construction, building envelope performance, and a reduction in embodied carbon to achieve a 5 Green Star As Built rating.
Learn more

Newton, Massachusetts, USA

Northland Newton Development
Design strategies for this mixed-use redevelopment include the use of mass timber structure with CLT floor planks, glulam beams, and glulam columns.
Learn more



Gatineau, Quebec, Canada

Library and Archives Canada Preservation and Access Facility P3**
This zero-carbon facility is achieved through efficient building design, the use of materials with minimal embodied carbon.
Learn more

Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Vancouver Community College
This low-carbon design features a robust HVAC system is designed to adapt to climate change, and mass timber acts the primary structural material in the atrium.
Learn more

* **La Trobe University Student Accommodation**
Stantec: Mechanical and electrical engineering services, sustainability consulting
Architect: JCB Architects

** **Library and Archives Canada Preservation and Access Facility P3**
Stantec: Structural, electrical and mechanical engineering services, civil engineering, sustainability and building performance, environmental services, physical security
Architect: B+H Architects

Stantec is a global leader in sustainable architecture, engineering, and environmental consulting. The diverse perspectives of our partners and interested parties drive us to think beyond what's previously been done on critical issues like climate change, digital transformation, and future-proofing our cities and infrastructure. We innovate at the intersection of community, creativity, and client relationships to advance communities everywhere, so that together we can redefine what's possible.

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