

SE 2050 ECAP Submission Form (No PDF)

Email *

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Firm Name *

Foley Buhl Roberts & Associates, Inc.

Education

The first step to increased engagement within your firm is through education. We all should strive to understand the impacts of our design decisions and their effects on our environment.

Distribute firm-wide announcement of your firm's pledge to join the SE 2050 Commitment. *

☒ Completed

☐ Not Completed

Provide a brief narrative describing how your firm is promoting a firm-wide education program for embodied carbon reduction and the firm's commitment to SE 2050. *

FBRA encourages all engineers and BIM modelers to be knowledgeable on the latest sustainability strategies. We have updated all of our structural specification sections to incorporate a Sustainable Design Intent section. Our concrete specification encourages low carbon mix designs, and incorporates GWP targets that are lower than industry benchmarks for the region. We have also implemented Wednesday technical lunch discussions where we share ideas, details, and lessons learned.

Name of Embodied Carbon Champion (Point Person) *

Jennifer Grymek

Email of Embodied Carbon Champion *

jgrymek@fbra.com

Phone number of Embodied Carbon Champion *

(207)200-2502

LinkedIn URL

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/foley-buhl-roberts-&-associates/>

Set a date within the first year to present the “Embodied Carbon 101” Webinar to your firm. *
Incorporate this information into your orientation/on-boarding programs.

- ☒ Committed / Completed
- ☐ Not Committed / Not Completed

Minimum (1) additional elective to educate your firm about embodied carbon and a narrative of *
its significance.

- ☒ Committed / Completed
- ☐ Not Committed / Not Completed

ELECTIVES (Min. (1) required, recommended to achieve (4) per year): *

- ☒ Have one representative of your firm (any employee) attend quarterly external education programs (e.g. webinar, workshop) provided by SE 2050, Carbon Leadership Forum (CLF), or other embodied carbon resources.
- ☒ Share the SE 2050 library of resources with technical staff.
- ☒ Share embodied carbon reduction strategies with your firm as outlined in Top 10 Carbon Reducing Actions for Structural Engineers document produced by SE 2050.
- ☐ Nominate a minimum of (1) employee per office to participate in a CLF Community Hub.
- ☐ Provide narrative outlining plans for minimum (2) firm-wide presentations per year on the topic of embodied carbon
- ☐ Present the document, "How to measure and report embodied carbon" to all technical staff.
- ☐ Attend a presentation or demo of an LCA-based tool used to calculate embodied carbon.
- ☐ Initiate an embodied carbon interest group within your firm and provide a narrative of their goals.
- ☐ Provide a narrative of how the Embodied Carbon Reduction Champion will engage embodied carbon reduction at each office. (intended for multi-office firms)
- ☐ Other actions you feel appropriate and a narrative for why.

Elective Narrative (Optional):

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Reporting

Quality data is essential to making informed decisions and setting important benchmarks and the development of appropriate embodied carbon reduction targets. The SE 2050 database is a central component to building a successful Commitment Program and reaching our collective embodied carbon reduction goals by 2050.

Submit an annual minimum of (2) projects per U.S structural office or (5) total projects for the firm to the SE 2050 Database. *

- ☒ Completed
- ☐ Committed and on track
- ☐ Need help reaching this target
- ☐ Not Completed

Number of Projects Reported Last Year (zero in first year)

2

Number of Offices Reporting Last Year (zero in first year)

1

Provide a narrative on how your firm plans to measure, track, and report embodied carbon data. *

We are still figuring out which LCA-based tool will work best for our firm, in order to measure, track, and report embodied carbon data. We have some experience with Tally but found it to be limiting because we could not alter the material properties being used by the program.

We have also used the ECOM tool on the SE2050 website for determining the Embodied Carbon Totals / Intensity for projects.

It seems the most useful LCA-based tool for our firm would be a Revit Add-on, that uses quantities from Revit schedules directly to calculate the total embodied carbon of a project, and total embodied carbon intensity. We hope to research the available LCA tools that link with Revit during the upcoming year.

Describe the internal training for embodied carbon measurement you provided or will provide. *

Once we decide which LCA-based tool will work best for our firm, the goal is to inform engineers of how to use the tool and incorporate into our typical project work flow. After each project milestone (Schematic Design, Design Development, Construction Documents, etc.), the Embodied Carbon total for the project should be calculated and compared.

ELECTIVES (Not required, recommended to achieve (1) per year):

- ☐ Submit all projects to the SE 2050 Database
- ☐ Meet your target average embodied carbon reduction from the previous year.
- ☒ Report a greater percentage of projects than the preceding year.
- ☐ For a project submitted to the database, ask the Architect or Owner if the project has a carbon budget or if there are established project sustainability goals at the project kickoff meeting.
- ☐ Other actions you feel appropriate and a narrative for why.

Elective Narrative (Optional):

Embodied Carbon Reduction Strategies

Embodied carbon reduction of structural materials is the ultimate goal of the SE 2050 program. As a starting point, you will have access to the SE 2050 project database and Program resources to identify and set strategies. This section also serves to share lessons learned and incite innovation. Demonstrate leadership by not only applying, but developing best practices and actively collaborating with the design community. This is our profession's opportunity to take action and make an impact.

Set an EC reduction goal for the coming year and an implementation narrative (Qualitative goals focused on education are appropriate for the first year) *

At this time, we don't have a set Embodied Carbon reduction goal for our projects. Rather the goal is to track and document the Embodied Carbon intensity of new projects going forward, so that we can make an informed goal for the years ahead.

For second year's ECAP and beyond, provide a narrative about what you have learned about embodied carbon reduction in the past year. Describe successes and misses to help the program improve.

We have learned that you need to have Owners on board with Embodied carbon reduction strategies, or it will be business as usual. Some owners are hesitant to add GWP language to specs as this may impact the cost of a project.

The SE2050 movement could be improved with a customized SE2050 Revit add-on tool developed specifically for structural engineers and structural Revit models.

Minimum (1) additional elective to educate your firm about embodied carbon and a narrative of its significance. *

☒ Committed / Completed

☐ Not Committed / Not Completed

ELECTIVES (Min. (1) required, recommended to achieve (4) per year): *

- ☐ Incorporate data visualization into your ECAP. How are you looking at data to make informed design decisions and communicate design options to your clients?
- ☐ Provide a project case study in your ECAP that captures a reduction of embodied carbon or some lessons learned.
- ☐ Create a project-specific embodied carbon reduction plan.
- ☒ Complete a system embodied carbon design comparison study during the project concept phase.
- ☐ Participate in a project LEED design charrette and speak to potential design considerations impacting embodied carbon.
- ☐ Calculate your firm average benchmark for embodied carbon.
- ☒ Update your specifications and incorporate embodied carbon performance. Include embodied carbon in your submittal review requirements.
- ☒ Collaborate with your concrete supplier to reduce embodied carbon in a mix design.
- ☒ Work with a contractor during material procurement to meet an embodied carbon performance criteria on at least (1) project.
- ☐ Have an Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) created as a result of a project.
- ☐ Incorporate biogenic materials on at least one project annually.
- ☐ Provide a narrative of how circular economy has been used on your projects. Incorporate re-use or design for deconstruction into at least one project.
- ☐ Quantify construction waste reduction on a project and the impact to embodied carbon.
- ☐ Integrate embodied carbon mitigation strategies in your General Notes.
- ☐ Other actions you feel appropriate and a narrative for why.

Elective Narrative (Optional):

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Advocacy

True change can only come with industry-wide adoption. This section recognizes that our impact reaches beyond any one firm. Plan opportunities to share your experience and knowledge within your firm, with your design community, and beyond. Host a webinar or lunch 'n learn, attend a conference, connect with the SEI Sustainability Committee, or reach out to manufacturers and policy-makers.

Provide a narrative about how you plan to share knowledge and data to accelerate adoption of embodied carbon reduction. *

We plan to share what we have learned on recent projects in terms of carbon reduction with other clients moving forward. We will also educate clients on our updated specifications that now include a Sustainable Design Intent section.

Describe the value of SE 2050 to clients. How can we collaborate to drive adoption? At your option, attach any associated marketing materials. *

SE2050 gives structural engineers a framework to quantify and reduce embodied carbon. It helps architects since it aligns with programs like LEED. It also helps architects make data-backed material decisions and overall leads to smarter design. For building owners, the value of SE2050 is that owners get real numbers not just marketing language. Sustainable buildings attract tenants and can help owners stay ahead of carbon caps and reporting requirements,.

Optional: Upload any documents you would like to exhibit.

 Add file

Declare your firm as a member of the SE 2050 commitment on boilerplate proposal language. *

☒ Committed / Completed

☐ Not Committed / Not Completed

ELECTIVES (Not required, recommended to achieve (2) per year):

- ☐ Share your commitment to SE 2050 on your company website
- ☐ Give an external presentation on embodied carbon that demonstrates a project success or lessons learned (Tip: Get connected at a CLF local hub near you!)
- ☒ Discuss with the Owner / Client the option of requiring that some of the structural materials come with facility-specific or product-specific EPDs
- ☐ Share education opportunities with clients
- ☐ Provide a narrative of how you have encouraged industry and policy change incentivizing availability of low-carbon and carbon sequestration materials
- ☐ Start an embodied carbon community of practice or mentorship program in your office
- ☐ Mentor a firm new to the embodied carbon space
- ☐ Other action you feel appropriate and a narrative for why.

Elective Narrative (Optional):

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Program Feedback

Please add any comments that you wish to share publicly. The Program Leadership Group is committed to transparently improving SE 2050.

Comments:

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