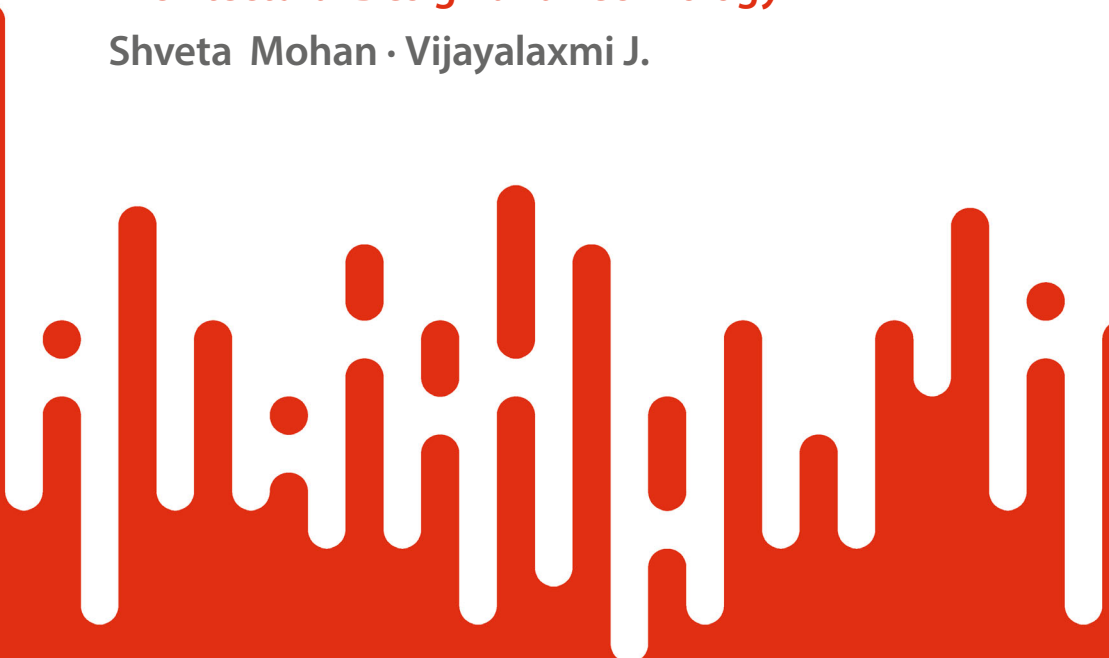


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Shveta Mohan · Vijayalaxmi J.



**Embodied and
Operational Carbon in
Buildings**
Strategies to Decarbonize

SpringerBriefs in Architectural Design and Technology

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Shveta Mohan · Vijayalaxmi J.

Embodied and Operational Carbon in Buildings

Strategies to Decarbonize

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Ms. Shveta Mohan dedicates the Book to her grandfathers.

Dr. Vijayalaxmi J. dedicates the Book to all her students.

Foreword

The book *Embodied and Operational Carbon in Buildings* by Ms. Shveta Mohan and Prof. Vijayalaxmi J., is a must-read book recommended to all building, energy, and environmental professionals, decision-makers, and students. It addresses and provides insights and useful scientific and engineering solutions for a very important problem in the built environment: ‘Embodied and Operational Carbon and Emissions’. Considering that the energy efficiency of buildings is improving fast, and the operation energy consumption of the building sector is expected to decrease significantly soon, embodied energy and embodied carbon will be one of the principal terms in the energy and environmental balance of buildings. It is, therefore, necessary to understand the science and engineering related to the embodied and operational carbon, to develop methodologies to assess its magnitude, to evaluate its impact under various local and regional conditions, and most importantly to develop, implement, and assess appropriate solutions to minimize or at least reduce significantly its impact. The present book is among the very few documents that address the problem. It provides comprehensive and well-organized knowledge and information and succeeds in informing and educating the reader on almost all important aspects of the problem and finally offering a complete picture of the necessary scientific background including both the existing knowledge and future scientific developments.

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Preface

The Emissions Gap Report 2023 states that temperature records have escalated and climate impacts are to intensify as greenhouse gas emissions hit new high. The SDG 13 seeks to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. Concentrations of greenhouse gases continued to increase in 2020, reaching new record highs. It was one of the three warmest years on record, with the global average temperature about 1.2 °C above the 1850–1900 baseline. It is imperative for all countries to do their part to meet the commitments to reduce carbon emissions. India is committed to reducing CO₂ emissions by 1 billion tons by 2030; reducing carbon intensity below 45% by 2030; and finally achieve a Net-Zero emission target by 2070. In the building sector, energy consumption and carbon emissions in the built environment are largely born out of the use of electricity and building materials. In India, under the current scenario, embodied and operational emissions have a share of 40% and 60%, respectively. India's total building floor area is predicted to be around 57.6 billion m² by 2050 from 15.8 billion in 2015. With the conventional building systems, this will escalate the demand for construction materials like cement, steel, bricks, glass- and all of these are energy and emissions intensive materials. Hence, there is a need to reduce the use of carbon intensive materials and adopt low carbon emitting materials.

This book offers the basics of embodied and operational carbon while discussing the inclusion of carbon emission in the GBRS at global and national level. This book also critically explores the important topic of embodied and operational carbon of buildings with insights on the strategies to measure and reduce embodied carbon in buildings through a case study and application approach. This approach assesses the impact of embodied carbon on the choice of structural systems, alternate building materials, alternate building technologies, and air conditioning system. The impact of these alternate measures in reducing embodied and operational carbon is analyzed by demonstrating its use on a base case building.

This book is written with a hope that architects, construction engineers, interior designers, architecture students, civil engineering students and all those associated

with the construction industry gain an insight into their roles in reducing carbon emissions in order to achieve the National and International commitments.

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Contents

1	Embodied and Operational Carbon Emission	1
1.1	Introduction	1
1.2	Types of Emission	2
1.2.1	Key Difference	4
1.3	How is Embodied and Operational Carbon Quantified?	4
1.3.1	Metrics Used to Quantify Carbon Emissions	5
1.4	Methodology of Carbon Emissions Calculations	5
1.4.1	Variables Which Affect Embodied and Operational Carbon Emissions	6
1.4.2	Possible Mitigation Measures for Carbon Emissions	6
1.5	Early Design Stage	8
1.6	Summary	9
	References	10
2	Embodied Carbon Impacts of Green Building Rating Systems	13
2.1	Introduction	13
2.2	Indian Scenario	13
2.3	Green Building Rating Systems	15
2.3.1	IGBC	15
2.3.2	GRIHA	16
2.3.3	Case Study of the Embodied Carbon Impacts of Rating Systems	16
2.3.4	Criteria for Study of Embodied Carbon in Rating Systems	17
2.4	Comparison of Rating Systems	18
2.5	Summary	20
	References	24
3	Life Cycle Assessment for Carbon Emissions	27
3.1	Life Cycle Assessment	27
3.2	How and Why is LCA Important?	27

- 3.3 Standards for Life Cycle Assessment 28
 - 3.3.1 LCA Modules 28
 - 3.3.2 Calculation for LCA Study of Embodied Carbon 29
- 3.4 What Are the Environmental Impact Indicators? 31
- 3.5 Benefits of Using LCA 31
- 3.6 Challenges of LCA 33
- 3.7 Tools Used to Calculate LCA 33
- References 35
- 4 Life Cycle Assessment Methodology 37**
 - 4.1 LCA Stages 37
 - 4.1.1 Objectives and Scope of the Life Cycle Analysis 38
 - 4.1.2 Inventory Generation 40
 - 4.1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment on the Inventory Data 41
 - 4.1.4 Interpretation of Results 42
 - 4.2 Integration and Check of Results 42
 - 4.3 Methodological Variables in LCA 44
 - 4.4 Summary 45
 - References 46
- 5 Strategies to Decarbonize 47**
 - 5.1 Introduction 47
 - 5.2 Strategies for Carbon and Energy Reductions 47
 - 5.3 Studies of Carbon Reduction Strategies Used in Buildings 47
 - 5.3.1 Comparison of Buildings of Scale Between 15000 and 30000 m² 51
 - 5.3.2 Comparison of Buildings of Scale >30000 m² 52
 - 5.3.3 Commonly Used Strategies and Their Impacts from Case Studies 52
 - 5.4 Guidelines for Embodied and Operation Carbon Emissions Reduction 55
 - 5.4.1 Passive Design 55
 - 5.4.2 HVAC System 59
 - 5.5 Summary 59
 - References 60
- 6 Embodied and Operational Carbon—Case of a Building 63**
 - 6.1 Goal and Scope Definition 63
 - 6.2 Inventory Analysis 64
 - 6.3 Impact Assessment 65
 - 6.4 Interpretation of Results 65

- 6.5 Development of the Baseline Building 65
 - 6.5.1 Climatic Analysis 67
 - 6.5.2 Details of Base Case Building 69
 - 6.5.3 Baseline Case 71
- 6.6 Summary 76
- References 77
- 7 Structural Material Iterations 79**
 - 7.1 Introduction 79
 - 7.2 Target Structural Systems 83
 - 7.2.1 Precast Concrete 83
 - 7.2.2 Rice Husk Ash Concrete 85
 - 7.2.3 Bamboo Leaf Ash Concrete 87
 - 7.2.4 GGBS Concrete 88
 - 7.3 Summary 89
 - 7.4 Type of Structural System Changes 91
 - 7.4.1 Bamboo Reinforced Structure 91
 - 7.4.2 Recycled Steel Structure 93
 - 7.4.3 Summary 94
 - 7.5 Conclusion 95
 - References 96
- 8 Envelope Material Iterations 97**
 - 8.1 Introduction 97
 - 8.2 Alternative Material Iterations 98
 - 8.2.1 Rammed Earth 99
 - 8.2.2 CSEB 101
 - 8.2.3 Straw-Based Unfired Earth Block 102
 - 8.2.4 AAC Block 104
 - 8.2.5 Fly Ash Brick with a Cavity in Between 105
 - 8.2.6 Porotherm Block 107
 - 8.2.7 Summary 108
 - 8.3 Alternatives to Application on Walls 109
 - 8.3.1 Filler Slab 109
 - 8.3.2 Bamboo Shading 111
 - 8.3.3 Summary 112
 - 8.4 Conclusions 113
- 9 HVAC System Iterations 115**
 - 9.1 Introduction 115
 - 9.2 System Iterations 116
 - 9.2.1 VRF System 117
 - 9.2.2 Radiant Cooling 118
 - 9.2.3 Natural Ventilation 120
 - 9.2.4 Summary 122
 - 9.3 Summary 122

- 10 The Potential of Carbon Assessments for Buildings** 125
- 10.1 Inferences and Recommendations 127
- 10.2 Further Discussion 130
- 10.3 Potential for Future Study 131
- References 133

Abbreviations

AAC	Autoclaved Aerated Concrete
ASHRAE	American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers
BIM	Building Information Modelling
BLA	Bamboo Leaf Ash
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environment Assessment Methodology
BUA	Built Up Area
CBAM	Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
CF	Carbon Footprint
CFC	Chloro-Fluoro Carbons
COP	Coefficient of Performance
CoP	Conference of Parties
CSEB	Compressed Stabilized Earth Blocks
DGU	Double Glazed Unit
EAC	Energy Attribute Certificate
EC	Embodied Carbon
EC3	Embodied Carbon Calculator
EC3	Embodied Carbon in Construction Calculator
ECBC	Energy Conservation Building Code
EE	Embodied Energy
EOL	End of Life
EPD	Environmental Product Declaration
EPI	Energy Performance Index
EPI	Energy Power Intensity
EUI	Energy Use Index
FaL-G	Fly Ash Lime Gypsum Blocks
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GBRS	Green Building Rating Systems
GGBS	Grund Granulated Blast-furnace Slag
GHG	Greenhouse Gas