

Buy Clean Policy Implementation: Best Practices, Tools, and Case Studies

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Abstract:

The built environment sector is responsible for approximately 40% of global greenhouse gases, representing a significant opportunity in reversing climate change. Notably, the impact of manufacturing building materials and the construction process alone is estimated to account for roughly 11% of global emissions. We require embodied carbon action to address these emissions, meaning the AEC sector needs to prioritize low-carbon procurement decisions for their projects.

Buy Clean policies, or procurement policies to promote the purchase of construction materials and products with lower embodied greenhouse gas emissions, are being passed at the local, state, and federal levels. But what happens once a Buy Clean policy is passed? How do project teams know if their specification decisions align with these regulations? Fortunately, existing tools and data, such as the Embodied Carbon in Construction Calculator (EC3), are here to help and make Buy Clean policy implementation easier. In this session, we will explore the climate benefits of Buy Clean policies, the impact of these policies on governments and agencies, and best practices for implementation. We will also review real-world examples of how various governmental agencies use EC3 to implement policies.

Presenter Biography:

Katie Poss is the Program Manager of Procurement and Policy at Building Transparency. In this role, Katie supports the nonprofit's core mission of providing the open access data and tools necessary to enable broad and swift action across the building industry in addressing embodied carbon's role in climate change. Prior to joining Building Transparency, Katie served as Director of Sustainability Initiatives at the National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) and as Sustainability Program Manager at Turner Construction for its data center portfolio. She currently serves on Nashville Mayor Cooper's Sustainability Advisory Committee and is the co-chair of the Carbon Leadership Forum Nashville Hub.

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