Planting the Seed for Synergy: Regenerative Farming and Sustainable Buildings

Presenter: Adam Ugliuzza

Additional Presenters:

1. Jacob Deva Racusin, Director of Building Science and Sustainability, New Frameworks, jacob@newframeworks.com

Presenter Biographies and Experience:

Adam brings 16 years of engineering experience focusing on building science and building enclosure construction. Experience includes enclosure consulting/commissioning services for new and existing construction, in addition to forensic investigations to determine root cause of building performance issues. He brings industry leading expertise in whole building airtightness testing, which is at the forefront of high-performance building construction.

Jacob is the lead embodied carbon researcher & BEAM trainer with Builders for Climate Action, where he has been actively involved in embodied carbon research and development and training of the BEAM tool. He is Director of Building Science and Sustainability with New Frameworks Natural Design/Build, offering services in renovation, new construction, consultation, and education.

Abstract:

The focus of this presentation is to discuss the potential for a mutually beneficial partnership between two of the biggest industries, agriculture and building construction. Regenerative framing sequesters more carbon than it releases into the environment by restoring soil and ecosystem health. A shift toward regenerative farming practices would restore biodiversity and soil fertility, both of which enable carbon sequestration and improve water retention. Regenerative farming is also critical for our resilience to combat natural disasters, reducing the impact of floods, wind damage and more.

Meeting ambitious carbon reduction targets and net-zero construction is a lofty undertaking, but regenerative farming can provide the feedstocks for many bio-based building materials. Currently, structural, insulation, enclosure, finishes, and other products are all made from bio-based materials that can be sourced from regenerative agricultural enterprises. Regenerative farming has the potential to trade carbon offsets for funding from new construction projects. Not only does regenerative farming provide a more sustainable and resilient solution to modern agricultural practices, it can also benefit the sustainable building industry.