Responsible Life Cycle Analysis of CLT vs non-biological materials





Katie Symons Smith and Wallwork Engineers

Life Cycle Analysis



Phase 5

Demolition to point of reuse



Phase1
Production





Phase 4

Replacement,
Refurbishment,
Retrofit

Energy, CO₂ and other impacts



Phase 2

Transport to site



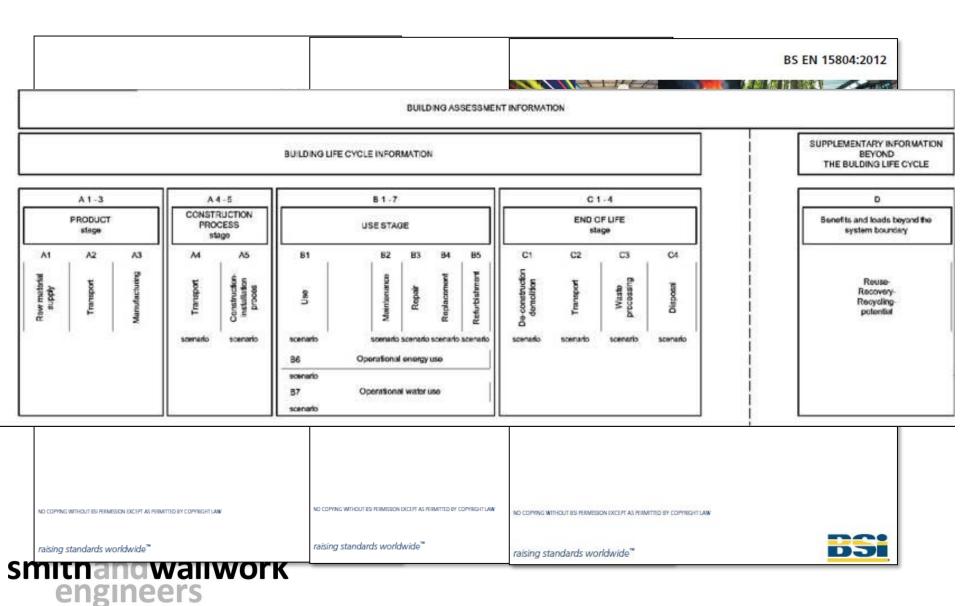
Phase 3

Construction footprint



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Life Cycle Analysis: CEN/TC350 methodology



Environmental Product Declarations

Within the last 5 years...



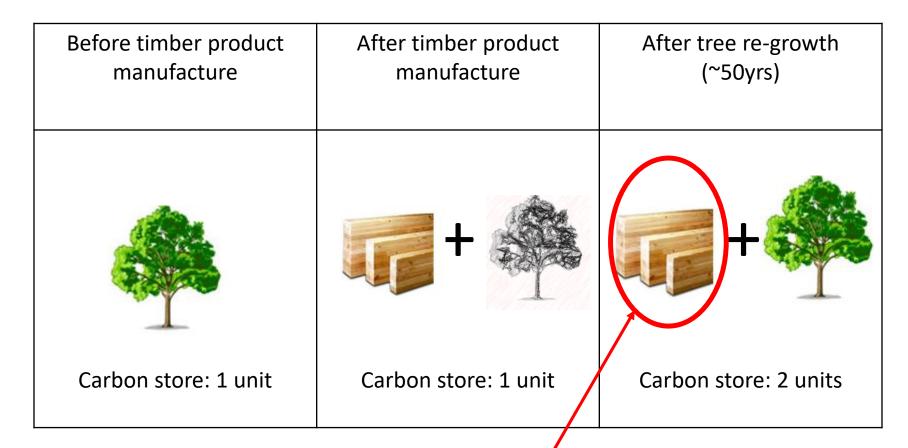






Carbon and Timber: special relationship

Sequestration: Justifiable for sustainably managed forests



After timber product end-of-life?

End-of-Life for Timber Products







Recycled

Incinerated

Landfilled

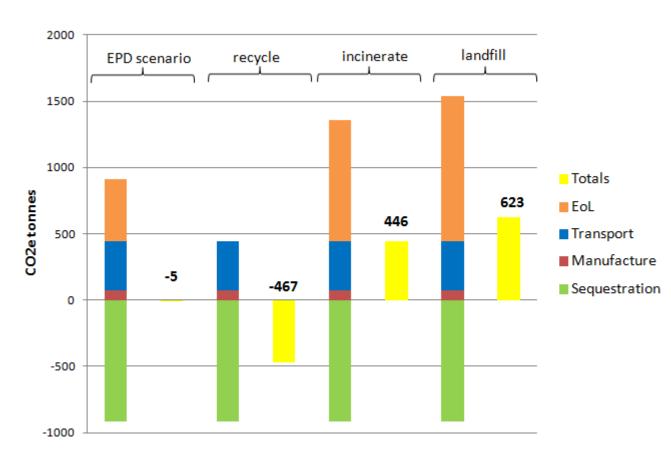
Different carbon impacts for each

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Case Study: Comparing CO₂ impacts



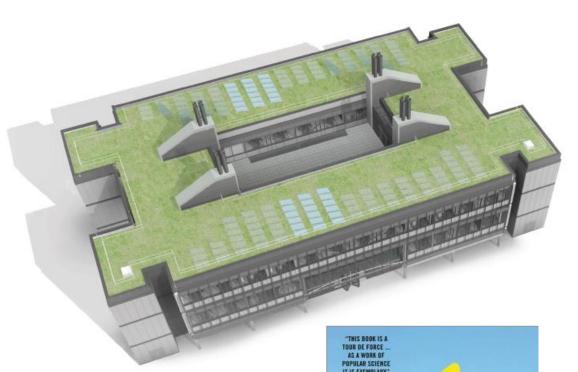
Forte, Australia 1000m3 CLT



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What about Energy?

David JC Mad



Cambridge University
Engineering Department:
Civil Engineering Building

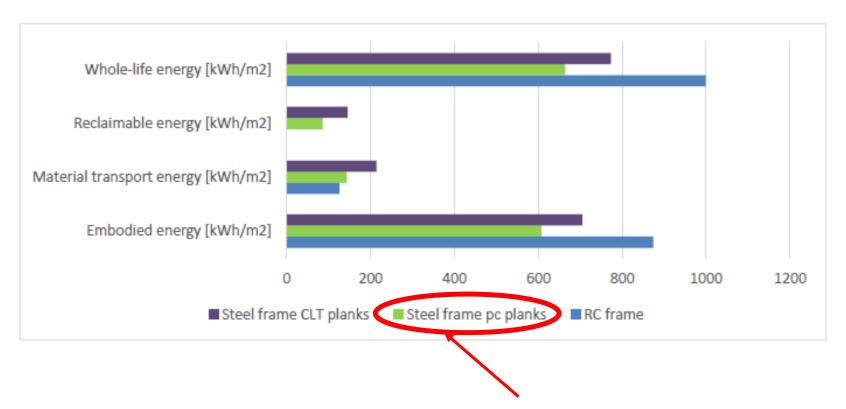
4300m³, 3 storey building

Client internal Energy Board led sustainability drivers, chaired by late Prof. David MacKay, author and UK Government Advisor

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What about Energy?

 Frame analysis at scheme design: used Energy, not CO₂, for comparison







Conclusions

To be 'Responsible', a Life Cycle Analysis of timber products must consider:

- Is the timber source (forest) sustainable?
- What is the likely End-of-Life scenario?
- Is energy a better indicator of impacts ('blind' to sequestration)?