

The lifecycle of embodied carbon

EN 15978:2026 divides a building’s life into 17 reporting modules across five stages. Most of them count as embodied carbon. Only B6 and B7 cover operational energy and water.

What Is Embodied Carbon?

Embodied carbon emissions are generated by the manufacture, transportation, installation, maintenance, and disposal of materials used to construct the built environment. This includes buildings, as well as roads, bridges, and other pieces of critical infrastructure. **Upfront embodied carbon** (also known as upfront carbon) refers to the emissions released before the material is used. It focuses primarily on extraction, transportation, and manufacturing.

