



# Inspired by Nature

A Deep Dive into the  
Future of Bio-Concrete

PRESENTED TO

**ACI Conference 2024**

[WWW.PROMETHEUSMATERIALS.COM](http://WWW.PROMETHEUSMATERIALS.COM)

# ABOUT US

## Leadership – Scientific Expertise Coupled with Business Acumen



### **Loren Burnett**

President, CEO and  
Co-founder

Serial entrepreneur with 30+ years leadership of technology companies – founded 6 companies with 5 exits, generating \$375M in shareholder gains, raised \$190M in funding, led 17 M&A transactions and 1 IPO filing



### **Leo Atencio**

Director of Product  
Management

Leader in sustainable design products and construction with 25+ years experience in concrete building materials



### **Stephen Bell, PhD**

Director of  
Biotechnology

Passionate, metric-driven scientist with interests and training that intersect biology and chemistry



### **Vaughn Bigelow**

Vice President of  
Manufacturing

25+ years experience in manufacturing and construction – including modular, scaled supply to OEM customers



### **John Hottle, PhD**

Director of Research &  
Development

Leader in materials characterization, analytical research and product development

# TRANSFORM

# Sophisticated Solution for Carbon Neutrality

# CHANGE

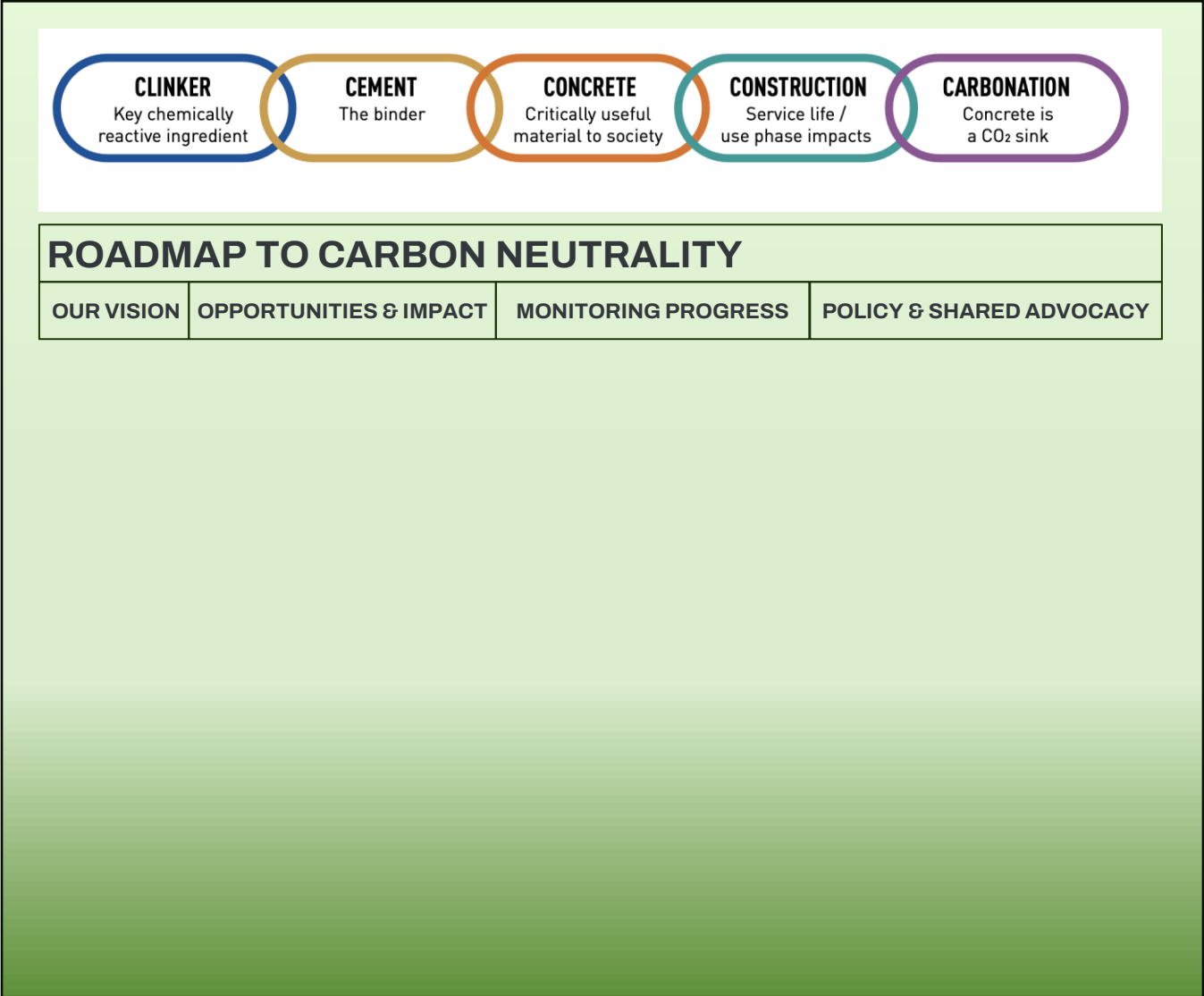
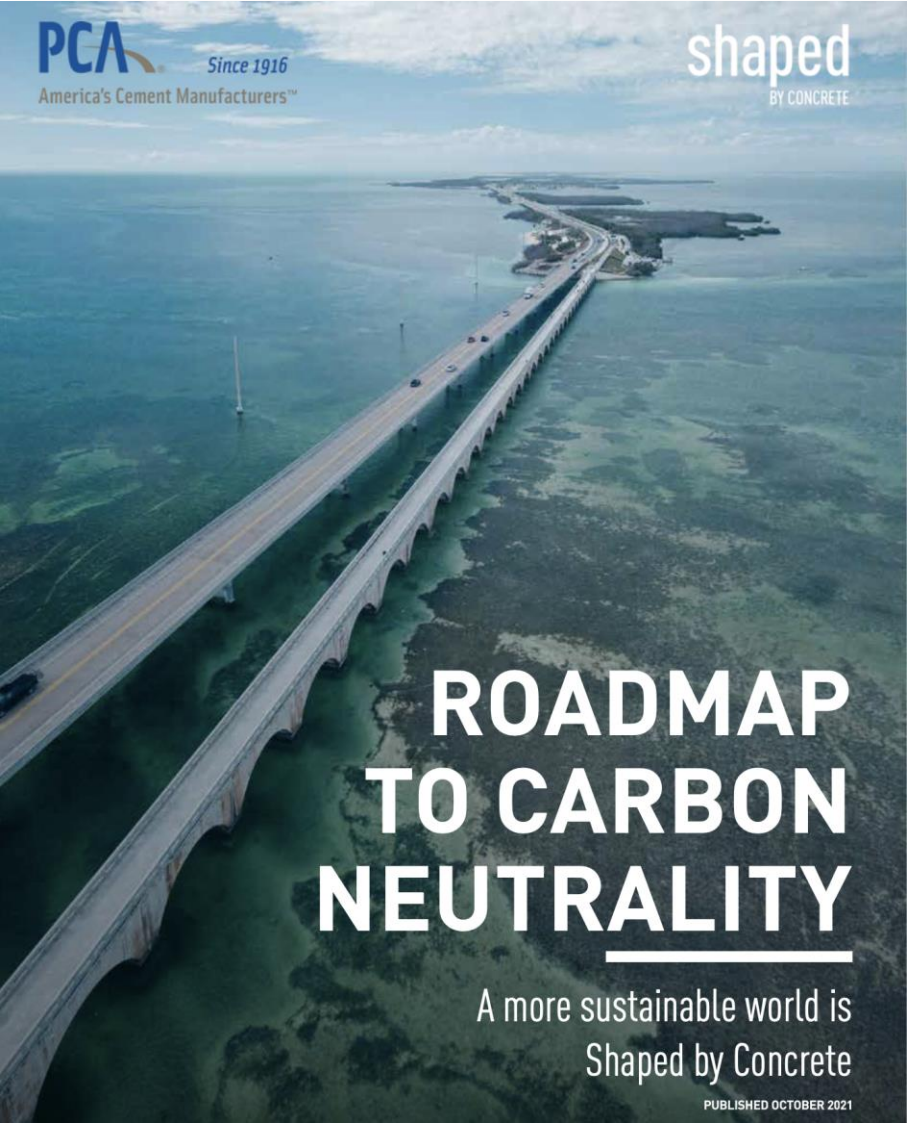


# The Concrete Problem

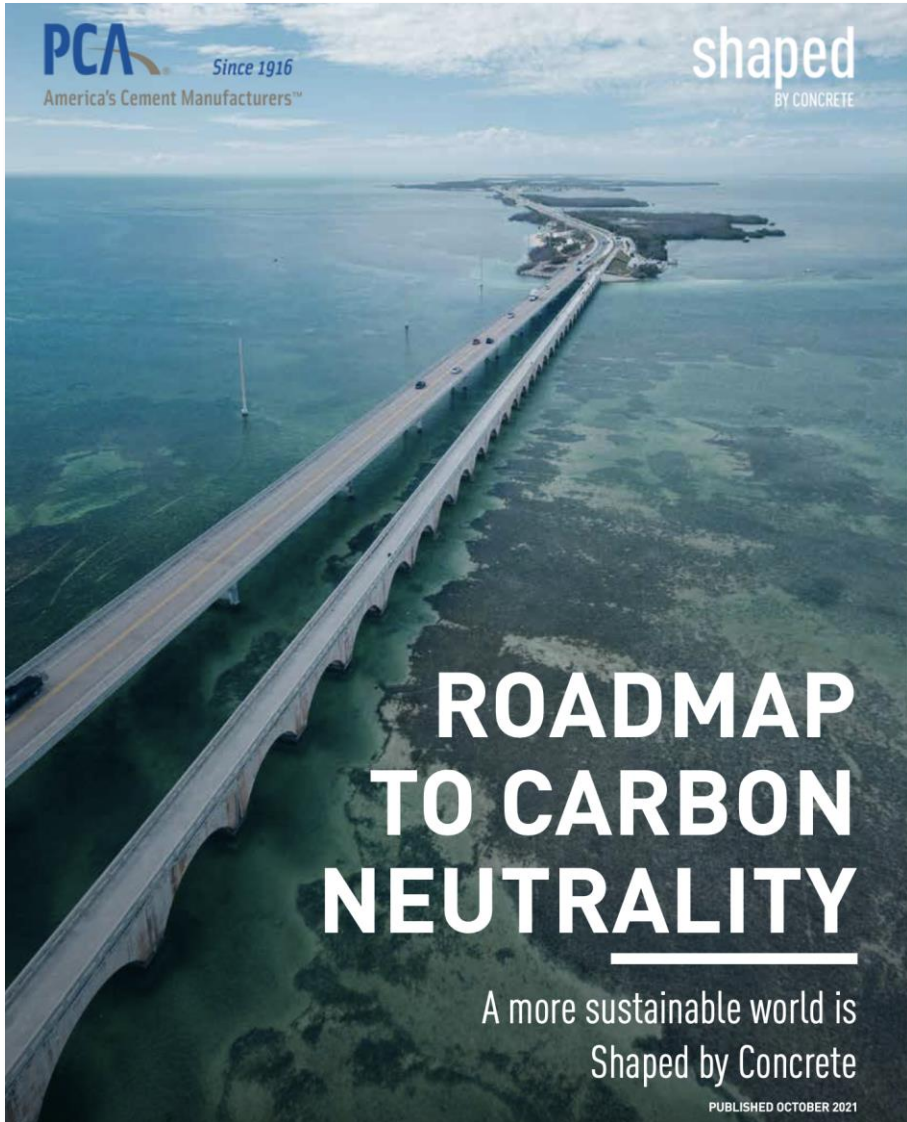
- Second most used material – water #1
  - 8% of CO<sub>2</sub>
  - 9% of industrial water
- 40% of CO<sub>2</sub> from built environment
- **Adding another 121 Billion Square Feet by 2050**
  - **Constructing a New York City every month for next 20 years**



# CO<sub>2</sub> Partnership



# CO<sub>2</sub> Partnership



## Increasing supplementary cementitious materials

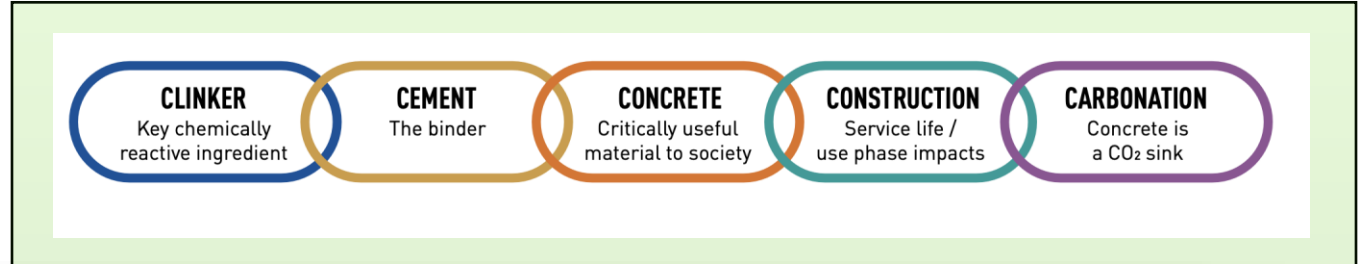
Cement includes clinker and finely ground limestone, inorganic processing additions, and precisely controlled amounts of sulfate. By decreasing the amount of clinker and increasing the limestone, inorganic processing additions, and other materials, the carbon intensity of cement can be lessened and still create a product that is equally durable and resilient and continues to meet the stringent quality standards required.

Currently, cements include less than 5% of these materials, and the industry is targeting increasing that ratio to 10% of these materials in 2030, 15% by 2040, and 20% by 2050.

Currently, cements have a clinker to cement ratio of more than 90%. The remaining material, gypsum, limestone, and processing additions can be partially replaced with supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs), which directly reduces the CO<sub>2</sub> that comes with clinker production – dropping the clinker amount 15% reduces the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> by 15%. SCMs include slag, fly ash, and silica fume. In many cases, these are industrial byproducts that would otherwise be landfilled and forgotten. Proper amounts of SCMs can improve durability and address the harmful chemical reactions caused by some aggregates.

Tomorrow's cements are targeting lower clinker to cement ratios with 0.85 by 2030, 0.80 by 2040, and 0.75 by 2050. Lowering clinker to cement ratios below 0.75 further requires consistent availability of SCMs.

# CO<sub>2</sub> Partnership



Tomorrow's cements are targeting lower clinker to cement ratios with 0.85 by 2030, 0.80 by 2040, and 0.75 by 2050. Lowering clinker to cement ratios below 0.75 further requires consistent availability of SCMs.

in 2030, 15% by 2040, and 20% by 2050.

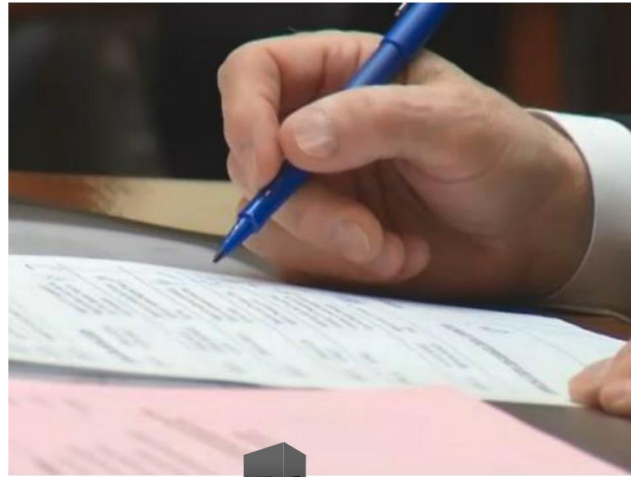
Tomorrow's cements are targeting lower clinker to cement ratios with 0.85 by 2030, 0.80 by 2040, and 0.75 by 2050. Lowering clinker to cement ratios below 0.75 further requires consistent availability of SCMs.



# Innovation & Specification

## Partnership

- Contingent on state and federal policy changes
- Specifications and standards changes and updates
  - Prescription to Performance (P2P)



### SHIFTING MINDSETS

The industry encourages architects and engineers to shift from prescriptive specifications and move toward performance specifications. Prescriptive specifications are like a recipe while performance specifications focus on results. Performance specifications give the producer the flexibility needed to provide the best product for the application.

Performance specifications allow concrete producers to design with the application in mind rather than use the same specifications, no matter the project. For example, in some cases, the strength of a concrete sidewalk has the same strength as concrete in a modern high rise. Concrete used in a high rise needs strength and ductility that a sidewalk will never need, while a sidewalk may need to be able to withstand something like winter salting to melt ice that a high-rise building does not.

**Sustainable Marketplace: Greener Products and Services**

[CONTACT US](#)

[Sustainable Marketplace Home](#)

[Federal Purchasers](#)

[About the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program](#)

[Recommendations of Standards and Ecolabels](#)

[Framework for Assessing Standards and Ecolabels](#)

[Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool \(EPEAT\)](#)

[Embodied Carbon](#)

[Consumers](#)

[Identify Greener Products and Services](#)

[Why Buy Greener Products?](#)

[Manufacturers](#)

[Selling to the Federal Government](#)

# Reducing Embodied Carbon of Construction Materials through the Inflation Reduction Act

[What is Embodied Carbon?](#) | [Inflation Reduction Act](#) | [Grant Program](#) | [Tools & Resources](#)

To further strengthen federal, state and local government efforts to reduce the embodied carbon of construction materials and products through Buy Clean programs, the [Inflation Reduction Act](#) passed by the U.S. Congress and signed into law by President Biden in 2022, includes six sections that address embodied carbon of construction materials:

- Sec. 60112 – \$250 million to EPA to develop a program to support enhanced standardization, measurement, reporting and **verification of embodied carbon of construction materials/products** (grants, technical assistance, etc.).
- Sec. 60116 – \$100 million to EPA to develop a program to **identify and label construction materials/products that have substantially lower embodied carbon**, in coordination with the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration (DOT-FHWA).
- Sec. 60503 – \$2.15 billion to GSA’s Federal Buildings Fund.
- Sec. 60506 – \$2 billion to the DOT-FHWA to reimburse/incentivize eligible recipients for the use of construction materials/ products that have substantially lower embodied carbon (as determined by EPA).
- Sec. 30002 – \$837.5 million to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for direct loans and grants to improve climate resilience of affordable housing, including low-emission building materials/processes.

[Home](#) > [About us](#) > [Newsroom](#) > [News releases](#) > [GSA pilots Buy Clean Inflation Reduction Act Requirements for low embodied carbon construction materials](#)

## GSA pilots Buy Clean Inflation Reduction Act Requirements for low embodied carbon construction materials

May 16, 2023

*Major milestone for industrial decarbonization advances eleven projects through materials with substantially lower levels of embodied carbon emissions*

**WASHINGTON** — Marking a major milestone for the Biden-Harris Administration’s industrial decarbonization goals, the U.S. General Services Administration today announced a [pilot of new requirements \[PDF - 88 KB\]](#) for the **procurement of substantially lower embodied carbon construction materials in GSA projects** funded by the Inflation Reduction Act. The [requirements \[PDF - 145 KB\]](#) were developed with market insights gathered from domestic manufacturers, local suppliers, small businesses, and environmental and labor groups. They advance President Biden’s federal sustainability goals and efforts to strengthen American leadership in clean manufacturing and jobs.

The Inflation Reduction Act provides \$3.375 billion for GSA to invest in federal buildings to help reduce carbon emissions and catalyze innovation. This Act includes \$2.15 billion to procure low embodied carbon materials for construction and renovation projects. In support of the [Biden-Harris Administration Federal Buy Clean Initiative](#), these investments are helping GSA leverage its purchasing power to spur markets for products that have substantially lower levels of embodied greenhouse gas emissions associated with their raw materials, transportation, and manufacturing — all of which occurs before GSA purchases the products. This pilot will help achieve President Biden’s federal sustainability goals, including a net zero emissions federal building portfolio by 2045, and net zero emissions procurement by 2050, while supporting good American manufacturing jobs.

“Today’s announcement marks a major step forward in our efforts to use the federal government’s buying power to catalyze innovation and strengthen American leadership in clean manufacturing and jobs,” said **GSA Administrator Robin Carnahan**. “We look forward to acting on what we learn from this pilot to accelerate progress toward the government’s urgent climate goals, and achieve the sustainability triple-win of good jobs, value for taxpayers and a healthier planet for future generations.”



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 23

September 22, 2022

CLEAN CONSTRUCTION

WHEREAS, Chapter 18 of the City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) Technical Manual, entitled “Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change,” recommends reducing the carbon intensity of building materials; and

WHEREAS, the City of New York commits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the embodied carbon of building materials and construction equipment through city agency leadership as set forth in this Order; and

WHEREAS, the City of New York has the opportunity to lead the market development and uptake of low-embodied carbon and clean construction strategies through the incorporation of these principles into our publicly-funded projects;



**COLORADO**  
Office of the State Architect  
Department of Personnel & Administration

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### BUY CLEAN COLORADO ACT POLICY

#### Intent

The Buy Clean Colorado (BCCO) Act requires the Office of the State Architect (OSA) to establish a maximum acceptable global warming potential (GWP) limit for each category of eligible materials, which include asphalt and asphalt mixtures, cement and concrete mixtures, glass, post-tension steel, reinforcing steel, structural steel, and wood structural elements. These materials are the focus for Buy Clean Colorado due to their high carbon emissions impact and volume use in public projects and since reducing the impact of these materials will provide the greatest reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from State public projects. Through design optimization and responsible selection of materials, reduction of embodied carbon emissions from building materials can be accomplished.

Meeting the BCCO Act does not alleviate any code or other requirements of a design engineer/architect.

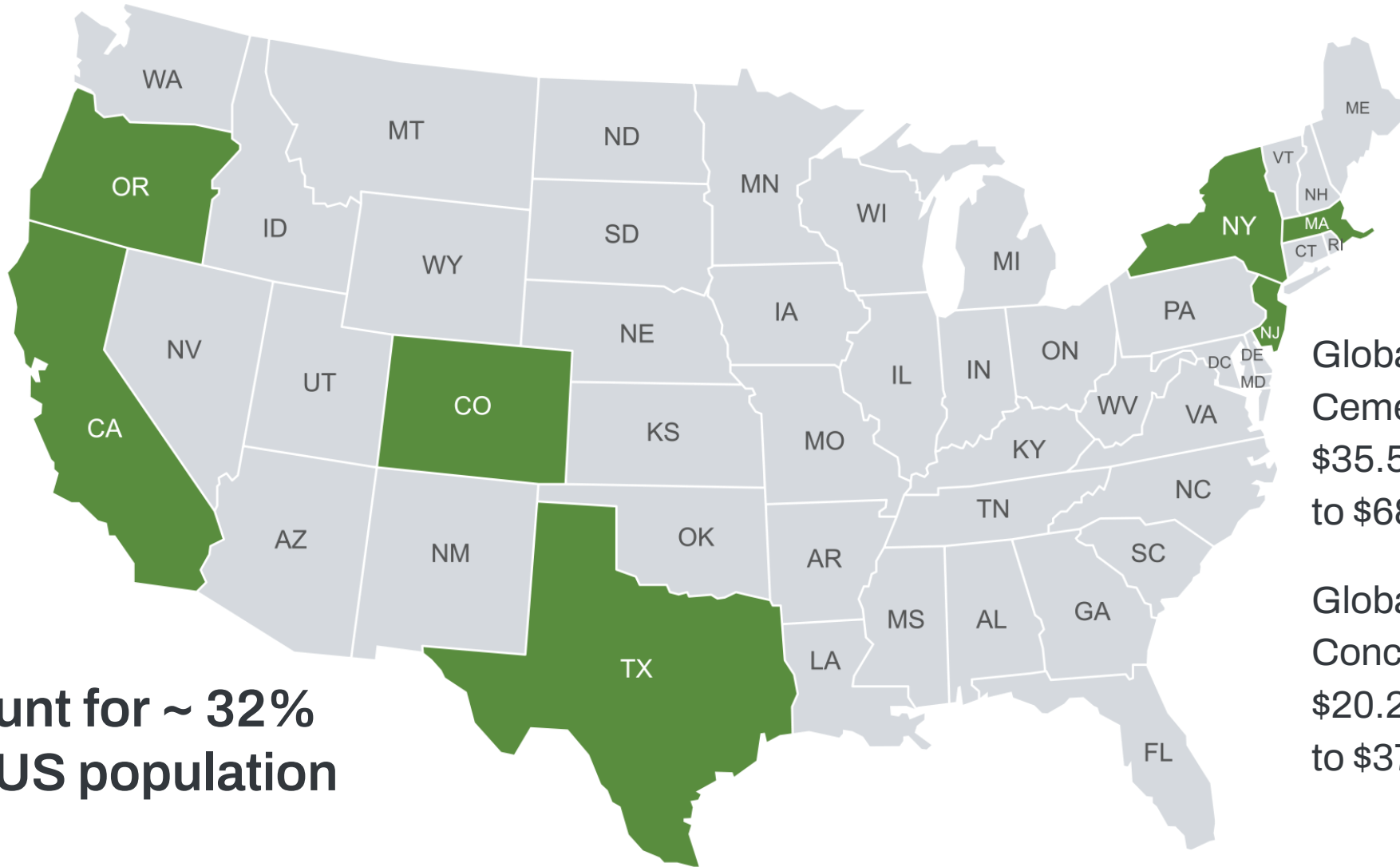
#### Statutory Authority

##### Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.):

*C.R.S. 24-92-117      Maximum global warming potentials for materials used in eligible projects – buildings – projects that are not roads, highways, or bridges*

*C.R.S. 24-92-118      Maximum global warming potential for materials used in public projects – road – highway – bridge projects*

# CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Legislation



**Account for ~ 32%  
of the US population**

**Global Green Building  
Cement Segment:  
\$35.5B (2023) growing  
to \$68.7B (2030)**

**Global Green Building  
Concrete Segment:  
\$20.2B (2023) growing  
to \$37.59B (2030)**

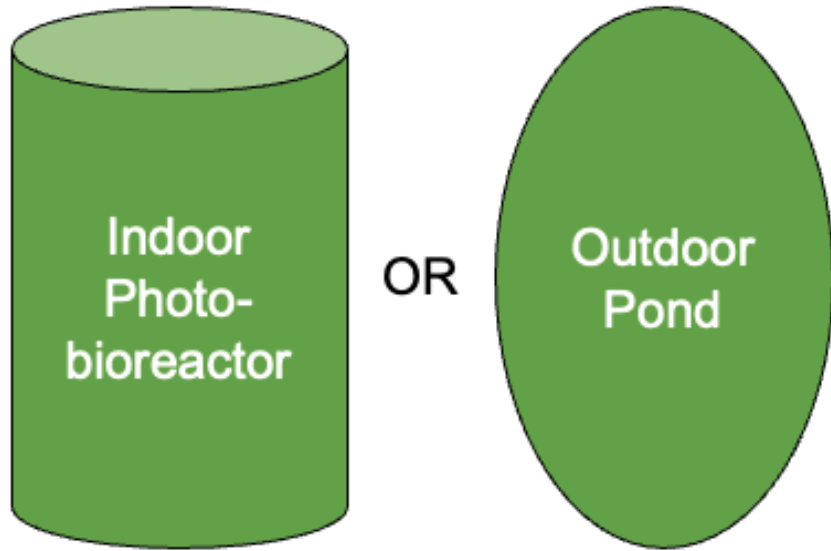
# MICROALGAE TECHNOLOGY

# Crafted By Nature

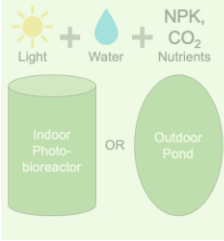
- **Microalgae**
- **Cultivation**
  - Photobioreactors
  - Open Raceway Ponds
- **Applications**
  - Animal Feed
  - Food
  - Bio-stimulants
  - Bio-packaging
  - Pharma & Nutraceuticals
  - Cosmetic
  - Biofuel



## Step 1: Grow algae

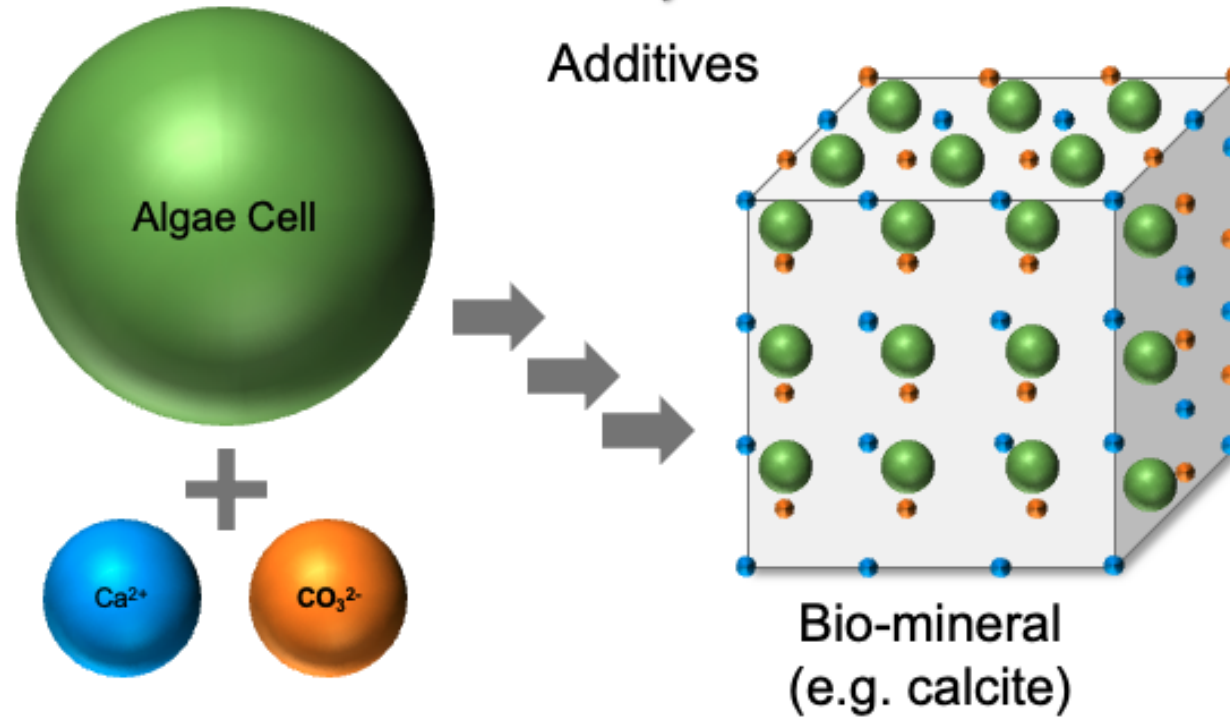


Step 1: Grow algae



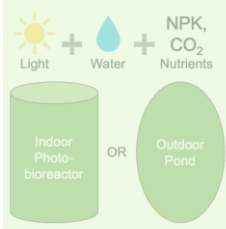
# Step 2: Bio-mineralize

## Ca<sup>2+</sup>, etc.

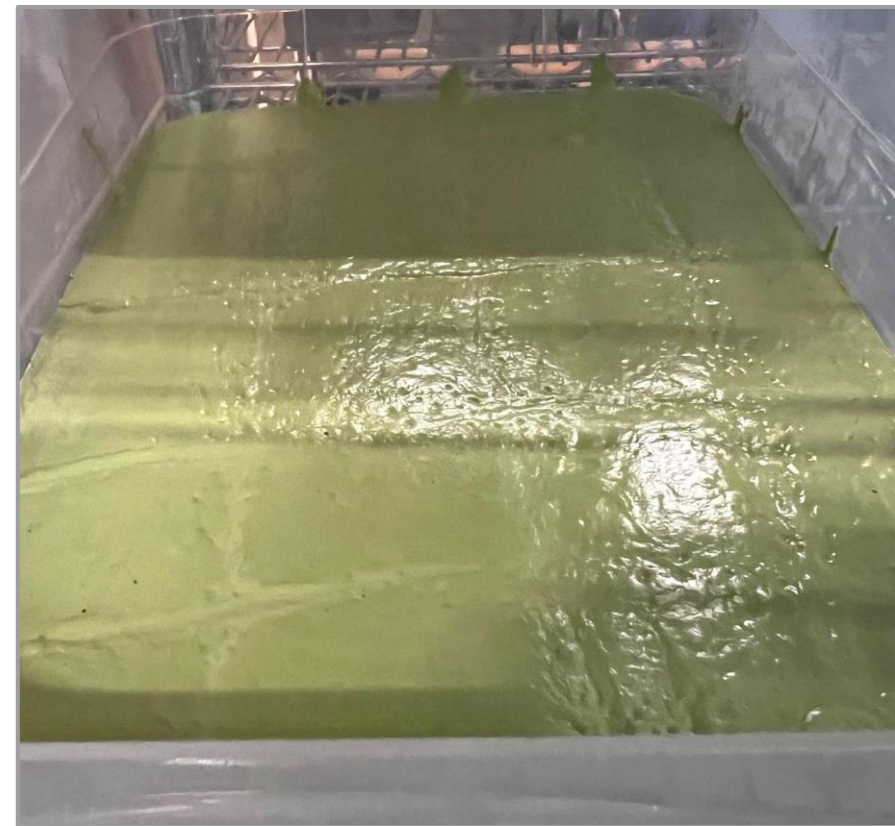
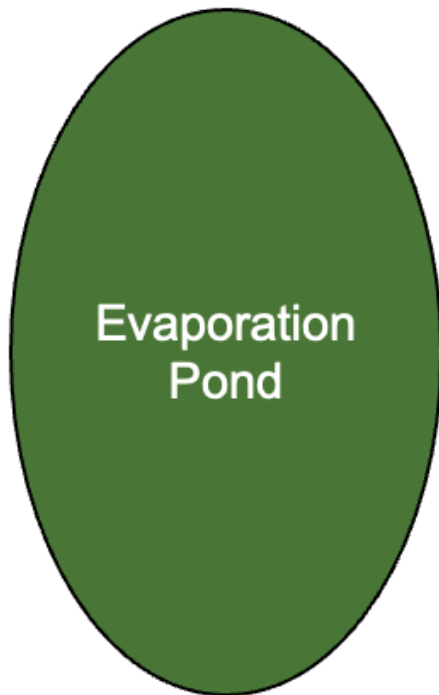
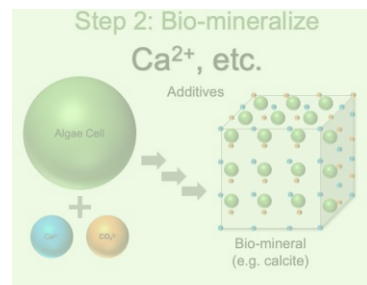




Step 1: Grow algae

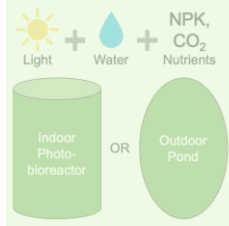


# Step 3: Dry bio-minerals

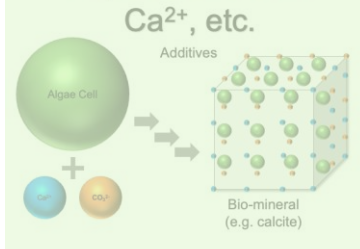


**Evaporation pond: arid environment required**

Step 1: Grow algae



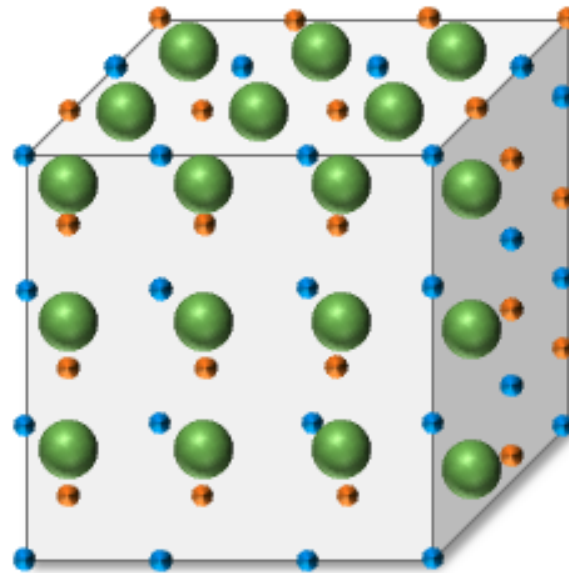
Step 2: Bio-mineralize



Step 3: Dry bio-minerals

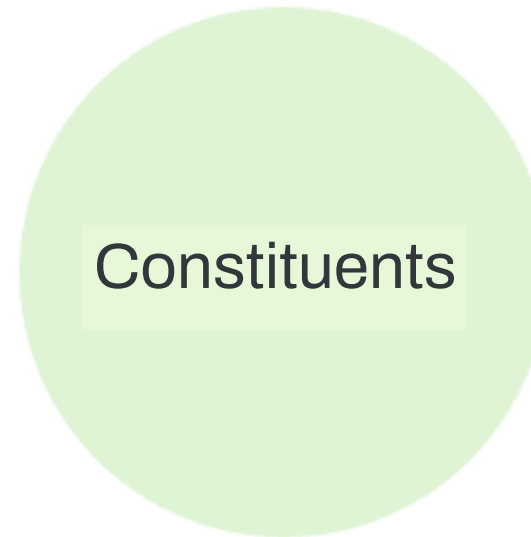


# Step 4: Prepare bio-cement

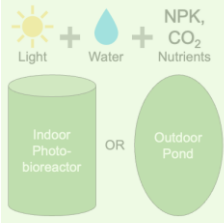


**Bio-mineral  
(e.g. calcite)**

+



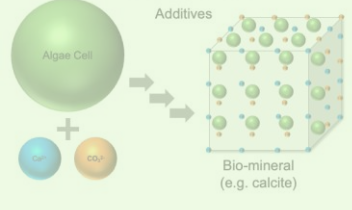
Step 1: Grow algae



# Step 5: Bio-cement into Bio-Blocks



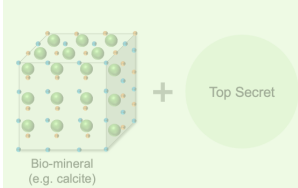
Step 2: Bio-mineralize  
 $Ca^{2+}$ , etc.



Step 3: Dry bio-minerals



Step 4: Prepare bio-cement

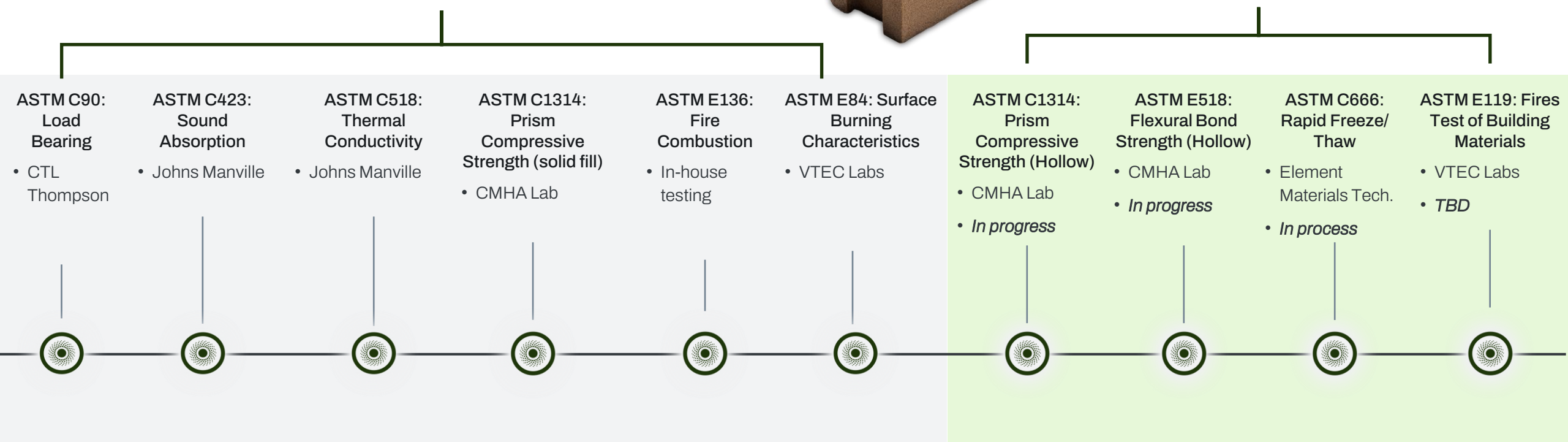


# Testing & Validation



COMPLETED

IN PROGRESS



# Prescription & Performance

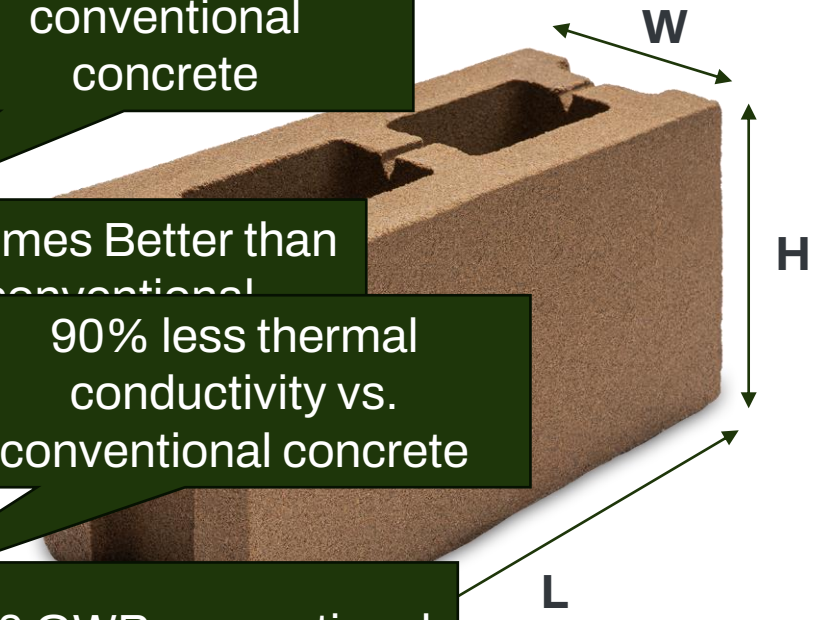
	PM Bio-Concrete
Compressive Strength (PSI)	<b>2400-3500</b>
Flexural Strength (PSI)	<b>1200-1300</b>
Density (pcf.)	<b>104-108</b>
Absorption (pcf.)	<b>13-18</b>
NRC (Noise reduction Coefficient)	<b>0.60</b>
Thermal Insulation R-Value	<b>0.37R/inch</b>
E84 Surface Burning Flame Spread & Smoke Development Index (SDI)	<b>Flame A (0) SDI A (5)</b>
Global Warming Potential (GWP) (kg CO <sub>2</sub> - eq/ block)	<b>(-) GWP</b>
Enhanced Blast Resistance	✓
Eliminates Embodied CO <sub>2</sub>	✓

2 Times Better than conventional concrete

12 Times Better than conventional

90% less thermal conductivity vs. conventional concrete

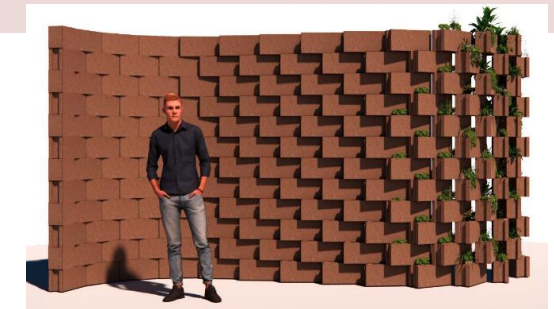
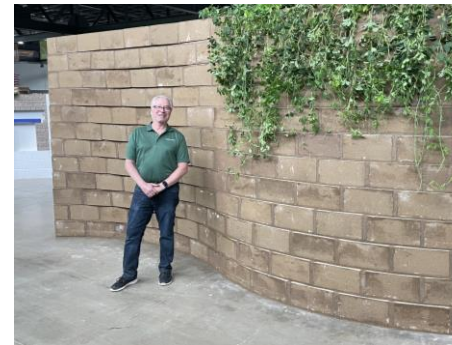
2.0 GWP conventional CMU



	PM Bio-Concrete
Block Width	<b>8"</b>
Block Height	<b>8"</b>
Block Length	<b>16"</b>

# IMI Bio-block Walls

- IMI Demonstration  
(June 2023 | Bowie, MD)
- ~600 Bio-blocks- 3 Walls
  - Architectural Traditional and Complex Wall Design(s)
    - Designed by SOM
  - Constructability and Performance
    - Multiple tests performed by IMI
      - Type S Grout
      - Fasteners, Ties, Tapcons, Flashing, Self-Tapping Screws



# CAB5 Bio-block Walls

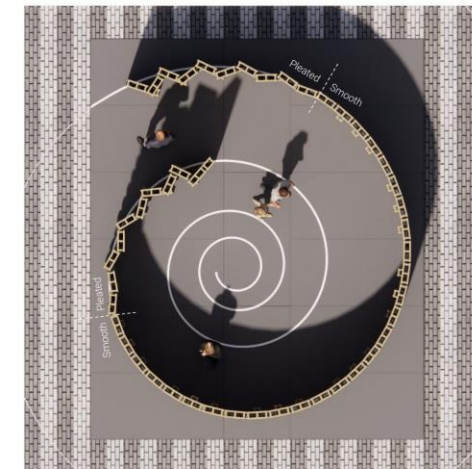
- Chicago Architecture Biennial (September 2023 | Chicago, IL)
- ~ 600 Bio-blocks
  - Architectural Spiral Wall Design
    - Designed by SOM
  - Layout & Construction
    - Performed by IMI



## Pleated Ends

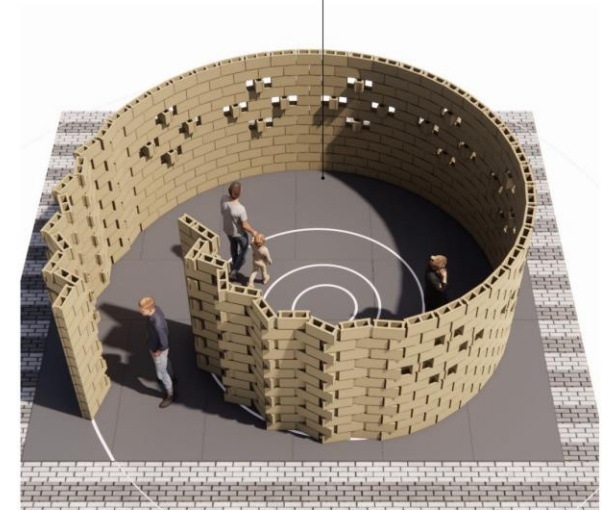
### Overall Size and Geometry

Number of Blocks: 539 blocks  
Min./Max Grout Thickness: 3/4" / 2 1/4"  
Overall Dimensions: 24'-0" x 20'-0" x 7'-4"  
Entrance: 4'-2"



Plan View

(1) 24'x 20'x 0-3/32" rubber underlay  
(16) 4'x8'x0-1/2" tongue/groove plywood with 5/16" shop-beveled edge  
Painted to match color/pattern provided by SOM



Perspective View

# DEVELOPMENT



Material	GWP kg CO <sub>2</sub> eq/ kg	Mix %		
Type 1L	.86	100%	70%	60%
PM Biomaterial	-3.11	0%	30%	40%

# Test Wall

- In-house mock wall
- 6" W x 1.5'H x 4'L
- 40% Prometheus blended replacement (-3.08 GWP kg CO<sub>2</sub>-eq/cy)
- 7-day 3,260 PSI
- 14-day 3,790 PSI
- 28-day 3,908 PSI



# Next Steps

- **Research & Development**
  - Chemical and physical analysis
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> party testing and validation
- **Standards**
  - ASTM | ACI | ICC
- **Scalability**
  - Algae | Manufactured Goods
- **In-situ Demonstrations**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> party collaboration

# TRANSFORM



**Thank You**

PRESENTED TO

**ACI Conference 2024**

[WWW.PROMETHEUSMATERIALS.COM](http://WWW.PROMETHEUSMATERIALS.COM)