

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY &  
RENEWABLE ENERGY

# Highlights from Building Technologies Office, Residential Buildings Program

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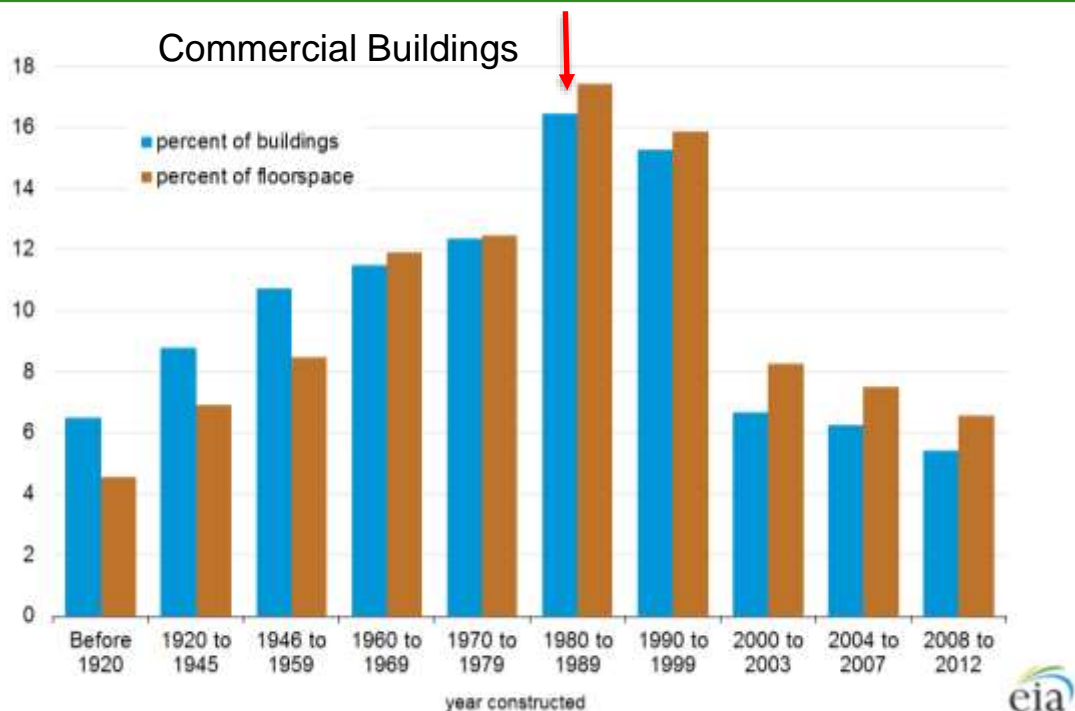
# Today's Talk:

## Strategic Initiatives for Driving Retrofits

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- **Advanced Building Construction**
- **Workforce**
- **Technology Challenges**
- **Home Energy Score**
- **Lifecycle Energy and Carbon Accounting**

# Half of Our Nation's Buildings > 40 Years Old



## Residential Buildings

Characteristics	Estimate (millions)
Single Family	80
2 to 4	10
5 or more	20
Mobile/Trailer	7
<b>Total Occupied Units</b>	<b>118</b>
<b>Year Structure Built</b>	
2010 to 2015	4
2005 to 2009	8
2000 to 2004	9
1990s	15
1980s	16
1970s	18
1960s	13
1950s	13
1940s	6
1930s	4
1920s	5
pre-1920	8
<b>Median Year Built</b>	<b>1976</b>

- ✓ **Updating our existing buildings generally beats building new efficient ones (from lifecycle energy perspective)**
- ✓ Depending on assumptions...takes between 10 to 80 years to make up the energy used during construction

# Current Approach Won't Cut It

Energy retrofits today are...



- ✓ Too slow
- ✓ Too disruptive
- ✓ Too costly
- ✓ Too short on energy savings
- ✓ Not commoditized...  
*“I can't buy it on Amazon”*

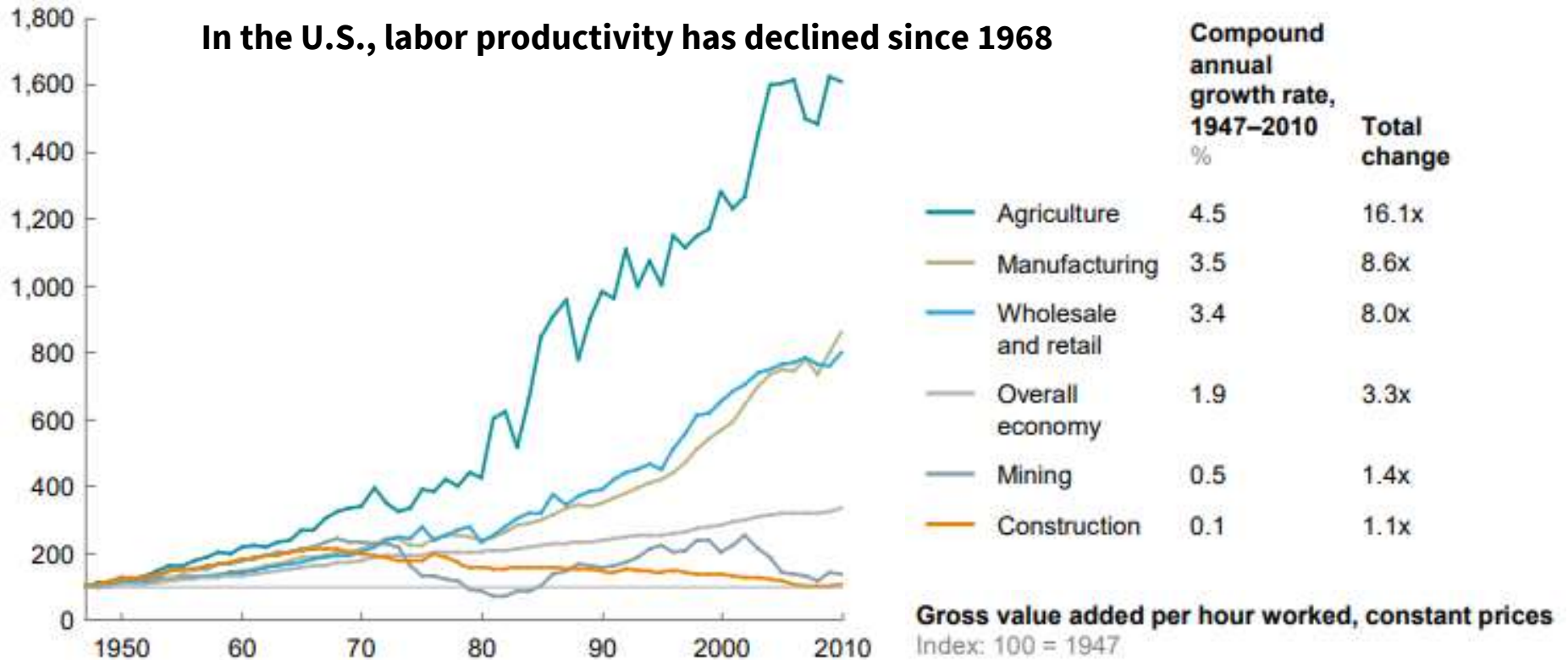
For these reasons, **retrofits are** few and far between, **unappealing to majority of home owners** and **building owners**

# U.S. construction sector productivity lagging considerably

## Typical construction today is characterized by...

- ✓ Poor productivity compared to other industries
- ✓ Cost and schedule overruns

**In the U.S., labor productivity has declined since 1968**



Source: <https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/capital-projects-and-infrastructure/our-insights/improving-construction-productivity>

# ABC: Infuse EE into efforts to modernize construction industry

Vision: A transformed U.S. construction industry that produces highly efficient new buildings and retrofits at scale.

Advanced Building Construction (ABC) means buildings –

- Designed for **high performance** in a changing climate
  - Highly efficient\*
  - Low or negative embodied carbon
  - Grid-interactive with valuable grid services
  - Resilient to local disaster risks and other threats
- Built or renovated with **minimum onsite construction time**
- **Affordable and appealing** to building owners, tenants, and investors

\*Highly efficient buildings are defined as -

- 1) new buildings that are 50% more efficient when compared to current code (i.e., 2018 International Energy Conservation Code and ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2016) than 2018 IECC code for new buildings; and
- 1) existing buildings with an energy use intensity (EUI) for space heating, space cooling, water heating, and ventilation less than or equal to 75% below the median EUI for those loads in the specific building type and location.

# One Inspiration for ABC: Energiesprong in the NL



BEAUTIFUL, WARM AND AFFORDABLE

HOMES FOR LIFE.



It should be noted that this slide deck reflects only the author's view and that the Agency (EASME) and the Commission are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

**Transition  
Zero**



Funded by  
the European Union

**Energie  
Sprong**

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# ABC Key Areas of Focus

By focusing on the following key areas, **ABC technologies and approaches** can be **validated, prepared to scale rapidly**, and **tied to a growing market** for such products and solutions.

- 1) Research, Development & Validation**
- 2) Analysis & Tools**
- 3) Market Development**
- 4) Technology Commercialization**
- 5) ABC Collaborative/Stakeholder Engagement**



# ABC Collaborative

Bringing together diverse stakeholders to inform, advance and help scale ABC

## Create technology cohorts

- Facilitate collaboration where linkages between different partial solutions (e.g., envelope, HVAC, software) show promise

## Work with federal, state, and local entities interested in --

- Funding complementary research, development and validation of ABC technologies
- Applying ABC solutions

## Facilitate “match-ups” between manufacturers and building owners

- Gain commitments from manufacturers to provide ABC technologies; and from building owners to implement ABC projects

## Address barriers to scaling ABC technologies and approaches

- Develop expedited 3rd party testing process
- Pursue innovative business models including financing and insurance

# Technology Challenges

Challenging industry to fill a market need with an energy saving, new-to-market technology

## How Challenges Work...

- Select targeted technology (consider energy savings potential, market appeal)
- Develop specifications
- Garner “soft” procurement commitments
- Issue “challenge” to manufacturers (specs, timeline, testing)
- Involve stakeholders throughout process
- Manufacturers develop products to meet specs
- Equipment purchased & installed



### SPECIFICATIONS

Requirements refer to the requirements which require acceptance criteria, capacity to interface with major manufacturer control systems, and availability of specific equipment energy parameters at a digital control interface. If they do not meet the following minimum technical specifications will be deemed non-compliant and will be automatically rejected. If they meet these specifications, on the other hand, will require specific information, and offers are submitted to provide for their purchase.

RTU manufacturer:  
by RTU manufacturer:  
units and meters comply to:  
Using Service and  
Have been manufactured in the  
compliance with ASHRAE 15,  
or listed in accordance with UL,  
specify with UL/ETL safety



## Benefits of this Approach...

- Spurs innovation
- Encourages earlier understanding of consumer interests and industry capabilities
- Links supply and demand by matching prospective end users to manufacturers engaged in challenge
- Strives to disrupt traditional thinking

# Technology Challenges – Proven Successes to Date

## Prior Challenges/Successes

### Wireless Metering Challenge (2013-2017)

- Developed meter under \$100 wireless meter
- Exceeded required communication success rate of 95%

### RTU Challenge (2010-2012)

- Develop an 18 IEER RTU plus advanced features
- Outcome: Daikin McQuay's Rebel rooftop units reduce energy use by as much as 50%
- At least 7 brands exceed 18 IEER today

High-Performance Rooftop Unit Challenge



Low-Cost Wireless Metering Challenge

## Current & Future Challenges

### Residential Buildings

- \* • Automated Fault Detection & Diagnostics in HVAC equipment; other technologies TBD
- \* • Significant benefits for public housing and other large residential building holders

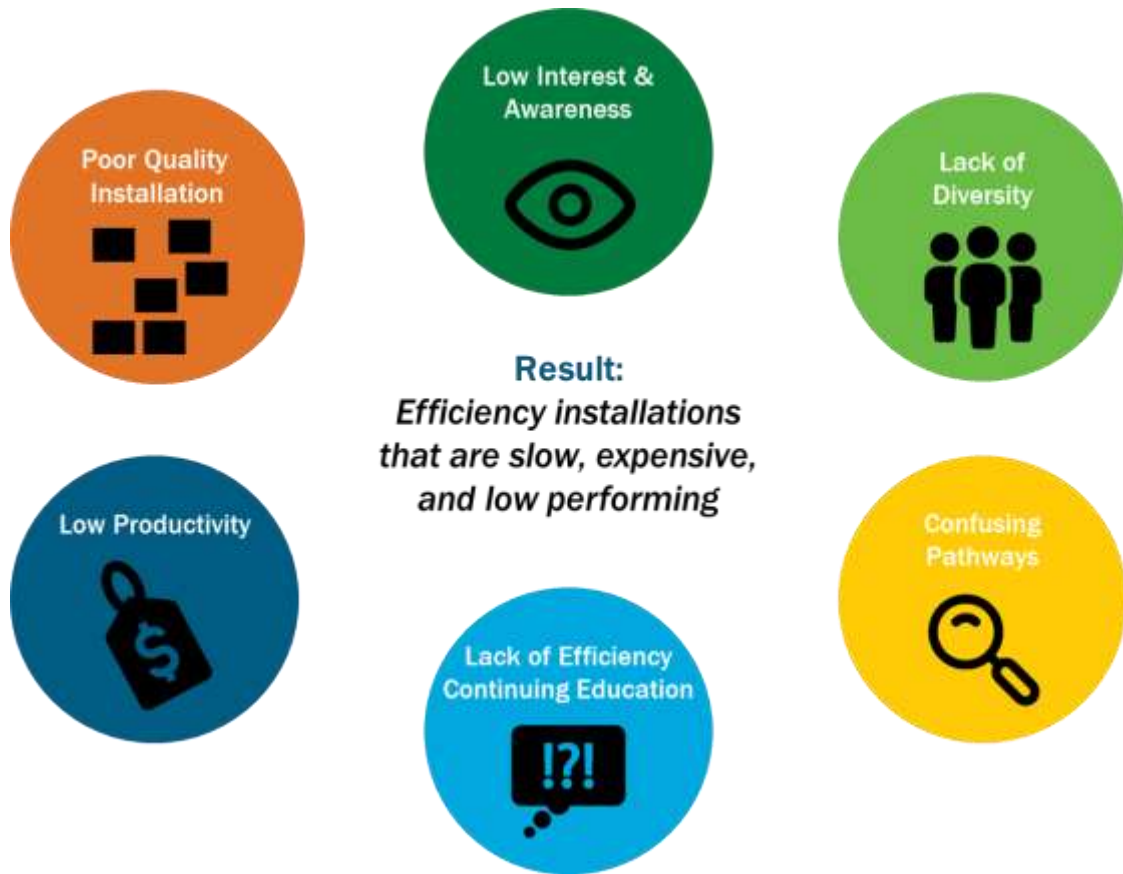


### Commercial Buildings

- IoT Troffer Challenge (2018-2020); additional challenges TBD
  - Goal to develop a competitively priced, USB like port for a IoT-enabled troffer for lighting sensor products
  - Desired outcome: Manufacturer meets the price % increase (e.g 10%) and demonstrate IoT connectivity that is upgradeable and adaptable.

# Workforce Development

## Challenges in Efficiency Workforce



## BTO Areas of Focus

- Support development of workforce training, curricula, and competencies for key jobs
- Engage key stakeholders including sectors that have not traditionally been a focus for BTO (e.g., community and technical colleges, & construction trade educators)
- Launch workforce roundtable to facilitate partner/stakeholder input & engagement
- Coordinate with broader EERE “clean energy workforce” strategy under development

# Home Energy Score

## Progress Updates

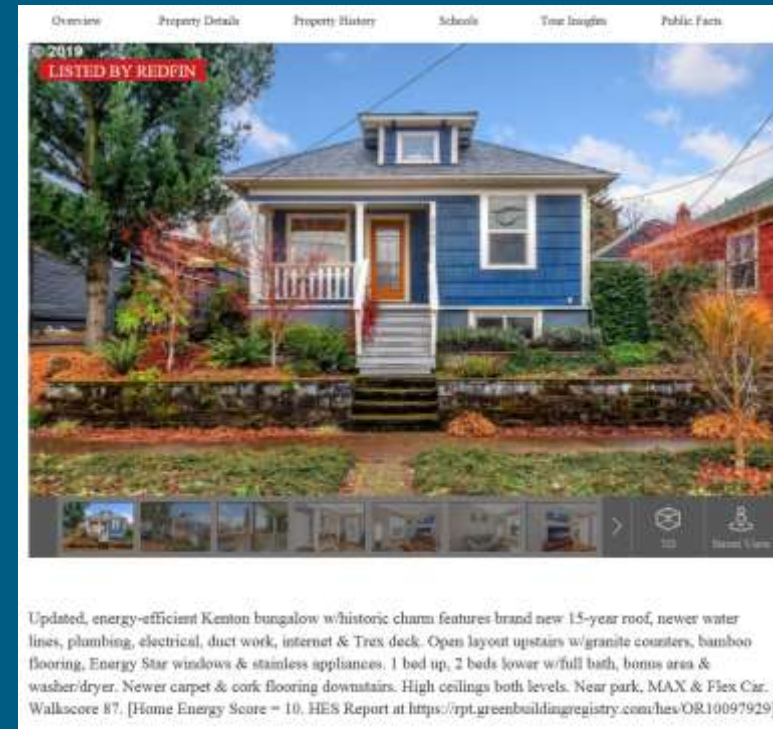
- **130,000+ Home Energy Scores**
- **State Energy Office programs**
  - OR, MO, CT, AK & MA (coming soon!)
- **City implementations**
  - Portland, OR; Berkeley, CA; Carlsbad, CA; Milwaukie, OR; Denver, CO; and more
- **EnergyPlus Modeling Platform**
  - More consistency across new & existing homes
- **Remote QA & mentoring for nationwide access**
- **Fannie Mae & Freddie Mac efficiency financing**

## Online Resources

- [Bringing Home Energy Information to Real Estate: A Toolkit](#)
- [Home Energy Labeling: A Guide for State and Local Governments](#)
- [Residential Energy Efficiency for Local Governments](#)
- **Coming Soon!** *[“Home Energy Labeling: Steps states can take to support city-based home energy labeling”](#)*

## State Spotlight: Oregon

- ✓ ODOE set up framework for cities to easily implement Score
- ✓ Portland, OR requires Score in real estate listings (17,000+ Scores to date)
- ✓ Milwaukie, OR is latest OR city to adopt Score ordinance, more expected

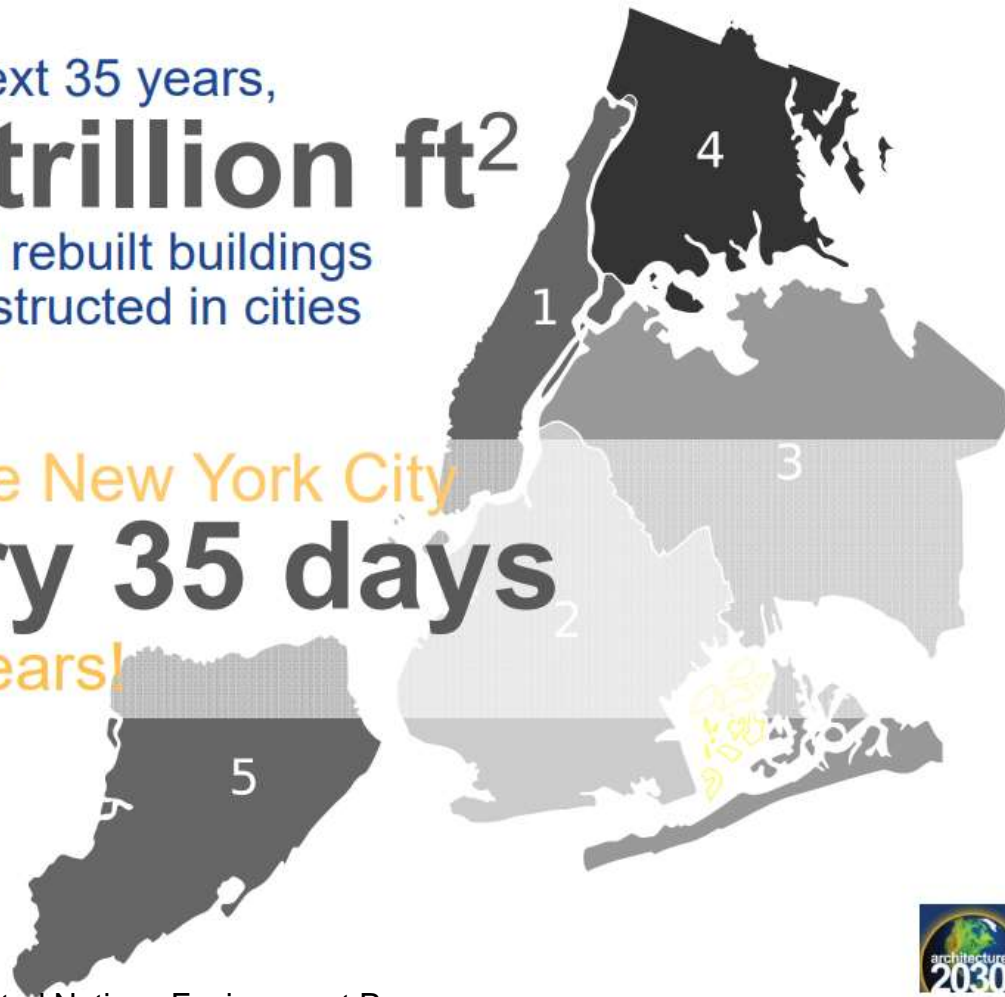


**“Updated, energy efficient Kenton bungalow... Home Energy Score = 10”**  
<https://rpt.greenbuildingregistry.com/hes/OR10097929>

# A Sobering Statistic: Global building stock expected to more than double in area by 2060.

Over the next 35 years,  
**two trillion ft<sup>2</sup>**  
of new and rebuilt buildings  
will be constructed in cities  
worldwide.

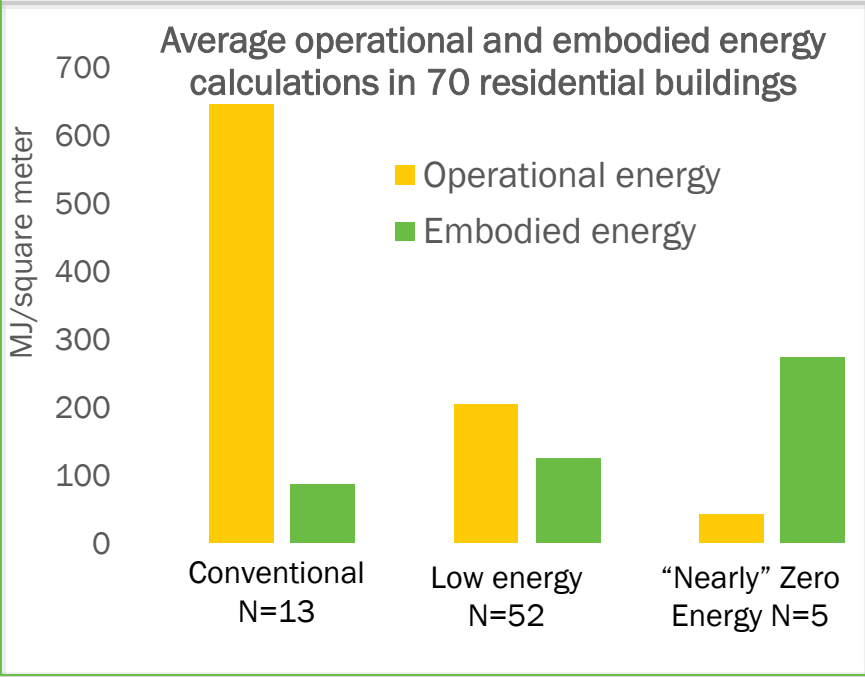
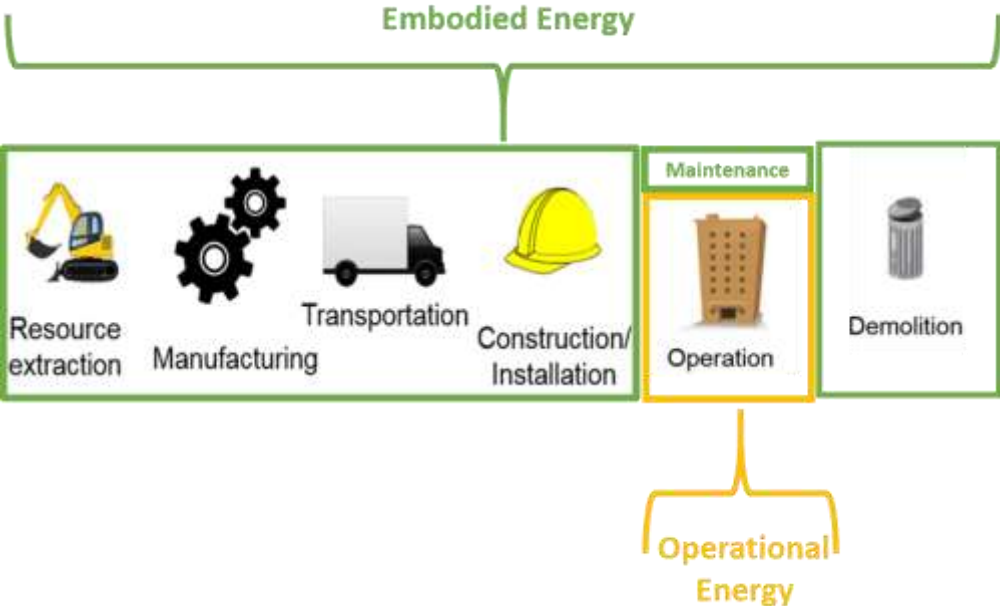
An entire New York City  
**every 35 days**  
for 35 years!



2018 Global Status Report. United Nations Environment Programme.  
International Energy Agency for the Global Alliance for Building and Construction (GlobalABC)

# Need a Systematic Approach to Lifecycle Energy & Carbon Analysis

Small study highlights the importance of considering both operational and embodied energy as we meet future building challenges.



Chastas, P., T. Theodosiou, D. Bikas. "Embodied energy in residential buildings-towards the nearly zero energy building: A literature review" *Building and Environment* 105 (2016) 267-282.

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