

Discussion Activity:

Building Codes

Over the past few decades, advancements in building energy codes—and in the underlying research on reducing operational energy consumption and related GHG emissions—have stimulated changes in building design and operation. In contrast, embodied carbon has been largely excluded from building codes until the last few years. Amendments to the code may establish prescriptive or performance-based paths to reducing embodied carbon of specific construction materials or whole buildings.

This activity was developed in collaboration with RMI and the New Buildings Institute in summer 2021.

- **Introductions (~5 Minutes)**

- Introduce your name, title, and what you hope to get from the workshop/discussion
- Use the following link to access the activity:
https://miro.com/app/board/uXjvO80sxRI=?share_link_id=173238352789

- **Warm-up Activity (~2 minutes)**

- The Miro board provides a warm-up activity to acclimate to Miro.
- Have each participant enter their name and drag it to where you are on the spectrum of how comfortable they feel with this topic.

- **Main Activity: Design Your Own Low Embodied Carbon Code (~30 minutes)**

The Miro board provides an outline of choices you will need to make to design your own code. These are to spur conversation and make it possible to get through a lot of content in a short amount of time: feel free to be creative and completely customize!

- The Miro board provides 3 working groups (*add others as needed if you know how many people will be present*): aim for **3-5 people per working group**. Each working group is assigned a size of town/city to make sure there is variation in what options participants select to maximize helpful discussion opportunities.
- Assign 1 hub member/organizer per group to keep the conversation moving in each group.
- Drag arrows or add check arrows to the options you select (the highlighted text shows where the group should make discussion / customize).
- Assign 1 person to present back to the group.

- **Discussion/Voting: (~10 minutes)**

- To spur conversation about next steps, ask participants to vote on which of the code options they think would be most relevant for your region.