

# NRCan LEEP Case Study Project Final EA Presentation

2025.03.14



LEEP Sustainable Resilient Homes  
Case Study Project



CAPITAL HOME ENERGY



**LEEP Sustainable Resilient Homes  
Case Study Project**

# Luke Dolan

## Capital Home Energy

Licensed Service Organization servicing  
British Columbia

- 15 years of EnerGuide evaluations
- Master Energy Advisor
- Home Inspector
- Building Science instructor
- Personally Evaluated over 6000 homes
- Team of Professionally trained Energy Advisors
- Founded trade association - CACEA  
Canadian Association of Consulting  
Energy Advisors



# Tommy Byun

## Capital Home Energy

Licensed Service Organization servicing  
British Columbia



- General Manager
- Senior Energy Advisor
- EA Trainer
- Technical Advisor for EnerGuide  
New and Existing Homes
- Service Organization Manager



# Agenda

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Project Introduction

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Builders

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Findings

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EA Perspectives

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Q&A

# The LEEP Team

- Stefanie Coleman
- Patric Langevin
- Austin Selvig
- Introba Consultants





# Builder Participants



# Gavin McLeod

- High performance builder in the Lower Mainland

## Case study project:

- New construction
- Vancouver, BC
- Duplex
- CHBA Net Zero



# Doug Langford

- High performance builder in the Lower Mainland

## Case Study project:

- New construction - Single Family
- Burnaby, BC
- BC Energy Step Code 5
- Zero Carbon Step Code EL 4
- CHBA Net Zero



# Erik Lacey

High performance builder  
in the Fraser Valley, BC

## Case study project:

- New Construction
- Agassiz, BC
- Single Family
- BC Energy Step Code 4
- CHBA Net Zero Ready



# Kevin Hatch

- High Performance builder in North Shore, BC

## Case study project:

- Deep Energy Retrofit
- North Vancouver, BC
- BC Energy Step Code 4
- Zero Carbon Step Code EL 4
- CHBA Net Zero



# LEEP Sustainable Resilient Homes

## The purpose of this project

Engage with local energy advisors, builders and renovators.

Identify affordability and buildability challenges when integrating mitigation and adaptation measures in low-rise housing in Vancouver Lower Mainland area



# LEEP Sustainable Resilient Homes



Energy  
Efficiency



Operational  
Carbon



Climate  
Resilience

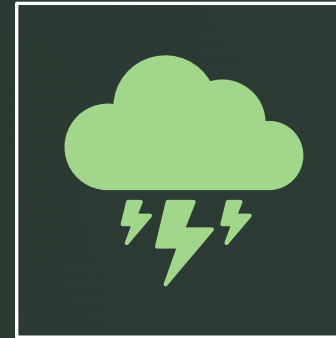


Embodied  
Carbon

# What is Sustainable Resilience ?



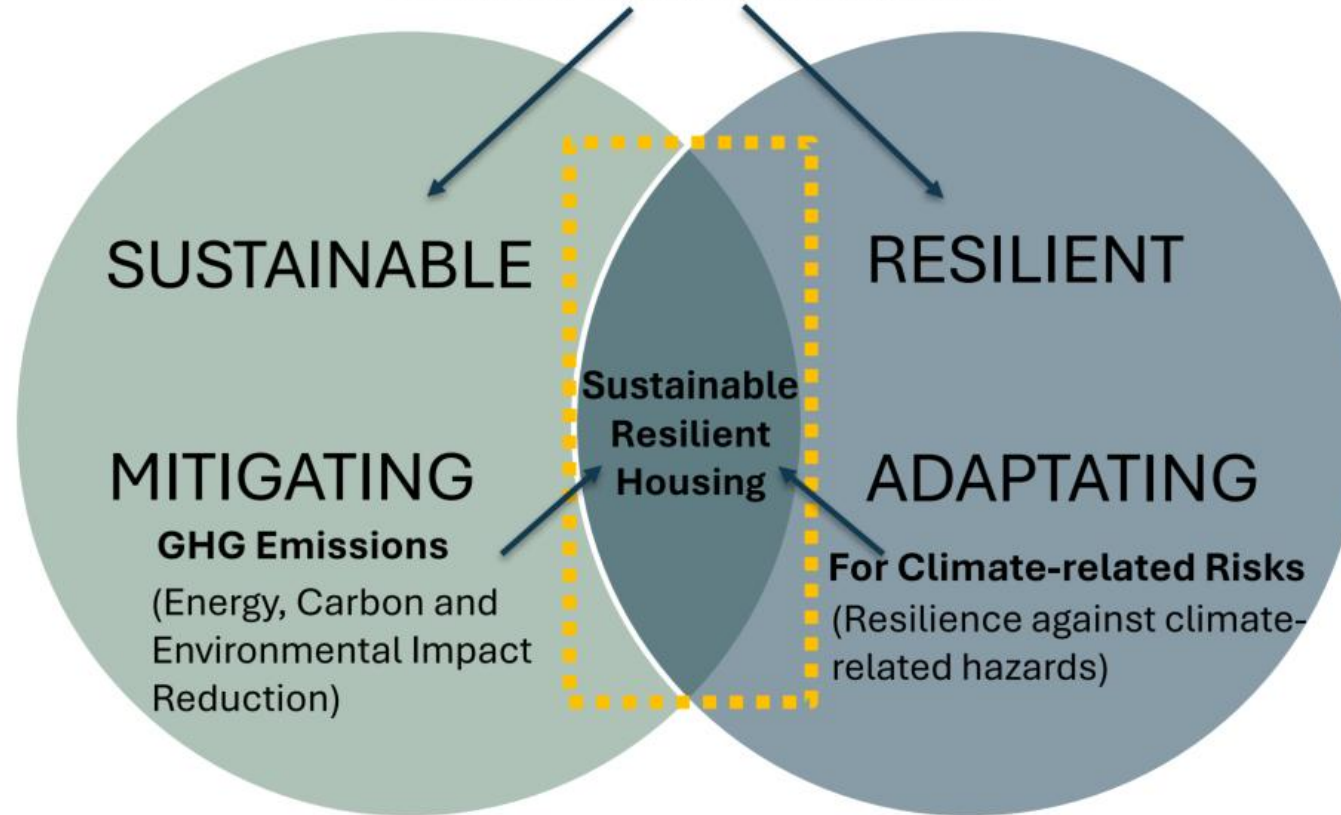
Sustainable Homes have reduced energy demands and carbon emissions.



Resilient Homes have reduced risks from climate-related weather impacts

# MARKET DIRECTION

## ENVIRONMENTAL DISCLOSURES:



# LEEP Sustainable Resilient Homes



Energy  
Efficiency



Operational  
Carbon



Climate  
Resilience



Embodied  
Carbon

## BC Energy Step Code

- Step 1-5
- came into effect in 2018
- mandatory step code 3 in 2023



## BC Zero Carbon Step Code

- EL 1-4
- introduced in 2023
- EL-1 mandatory in 2025



## VBBL

- Unique to City of Vancouver
- Prescriptive & Performance
- Mandatory EnerGuide Ratings since 2015 (Pre, mid, final)



# LEEP Sustainable Resilient Homes



Energy  
Efficiency



Operational  
Carbon

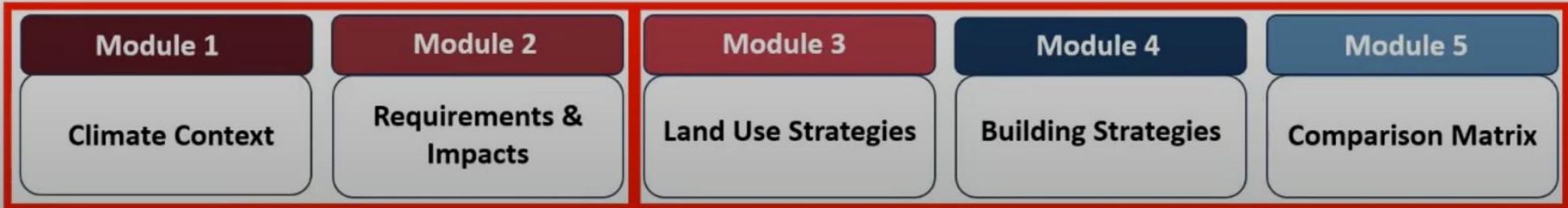


Climate  
Resilience

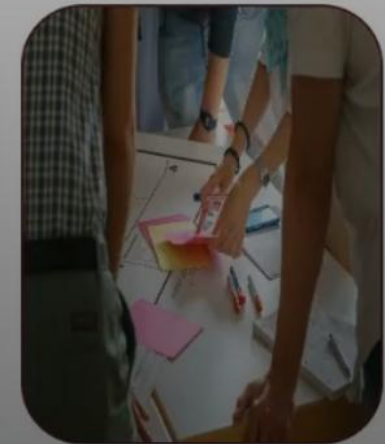


Embodied  
Carbon

# LEEP Sustainable Resilient Homes Tool



Guided interactive workshops with roundtable discussions



Learnings from workshops shared with others for consideration

# CLIMATE RESILIENCE

## KEY FINDINGS



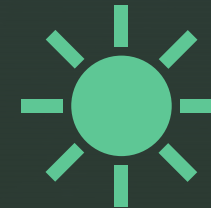
Flooding



Overheating



Wildfire



High wind

British Columbia

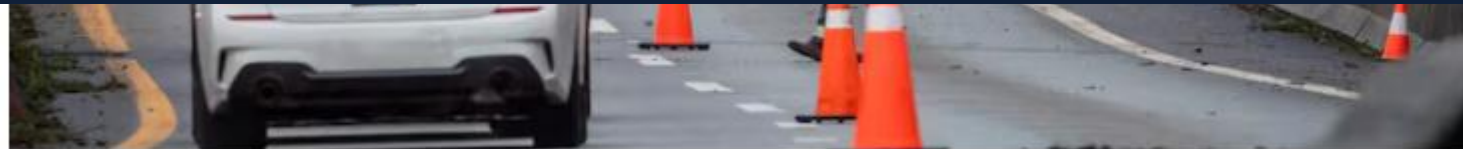
CityNews  
Everywhere News ▾

## B.C. village mourns deaths of 2 longtime residents in landslide

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

# California wildfires: What we know about L.A.-area fires, what caused them, who is affected and more

Fueled by powerful winds and dry conditions, a series of ferocious wildfires erupted the second week of January and roared across the Los Angeles area.



Crews are pictured cleaning up debris just days after a landslide on the Sea to Sky highway near Lions Bay, B.C. (Ben Nelms/CBC)



# Sustainable Resilience

## Key Findings

# BC Case Study Findings: Flooding

Common Practice or Existing Regional Requirements	Emerging Practice	Limited Adoption (buildability/ costs/ uncertainty)
<i>Greater than 75% of participants</i>	<i>Between 40 and 75% of participants</i>	<i>Less than 40% of participants</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limiting development in areas with high groundwater levels or areas with overland flooding</li> <li>• Use lot grading and drainage to direct water away and reduce pooling</li> <li>• Provide surface flood prevention of exterior stairwells</li> <li>• Site-level stormwater infiltration features</li> <li>• Avoid installation of window wells or provide drainage/sealing</li> <li>• Use of gutter guards</li> <li>• Fasten downspouts to foundation walls</li> <li>• Seal flood entry points and cracks</li> <li>• Foundation drainage access points</li> <li>• Install of sump pit/pump system</li> <li>• Backup power for sump pump and alarm system</li> <li>• Grading of pipes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impermeable cap on backfill area</li> <li>• Exaggerate grade next to foundation</li> <li>• Design downspouts to discharge over the ground surface and beyond line of excavation/backfill</li> <li>• Raise building entrances above flood elevation</li> <li>• Foundation drainage does not drain into sanitary or combined sewer system</li> <li>• Use of hydraulic break or backwater valve</li> <li>• Geotextile filters to prevent accumulation of silt/clay in foundation drainage</li> <li>• Provide owner education about operating and maintaining sump pump</li> <li>• Secondary sump pump</li> <li>• Sanitary sewer backflow prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Battery powered sump pumps</li> <li>• No plantings above or near sewer laterals</li> <li>• Enhanced grade (3-8%) on mainline backwater valve</li> </ul>

# BC Case Study Findings: High Wind

Common Practice or Existing Regional Requirements	Emerging Practice	Limited Adoption (buildability/ costs/ uncertainty)
<i>Greater than 75% of participants</i>	<i>Between 40 and 75% of participants</i>	<i>Less than 40% of participants</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install thicker roof sheathing</li> <li>• Use enhanced post base and cap connections</li> <li>• Building bracing complies with Section 7 of CSA S520</li> <li>• Install high impact siding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install roof cover rated for high wind resistance and user more fasteners</li> <li>• Adhere shingles to manufacturer's installation min. temp. requirements</li> <li>• Enhancements to the secondary water barrier and self-adhering water barrier</li> <li>• Roof sheathing and fastening complies with CSA S520</li> <li>• Connect walls to floor through strong connections to resist uplift</li> <li>• Anchor sill plates to the foundation</li> <li>• Utilize a continuous load path in compliance with CSA S520</li> <li>• Brace cantilevered roof overhangs to comply with CSA S520</li> <li>• Install wind-borne debris-resistant windows and skylights</li> <li>• Install single bay and/or wind-resistant doors</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install roof sheathing fasteners using a 6" spacing on edge and intermediate supports</li> <li>• Roof sheathing fasteners provide a certain level of withdrawal resistance (unsure)</li> <li>• Include structural connections to enhance the uplift resistance of roof-to-wall connections</li> <li>• Gable end wall bracing complies with CSA S520</li> <li>• Protect roof penetrations with additional measures</li> <li>• Wind-resistant roof vents</li> <li>• Over framing for hip and gable roof systems follows CSA S520</li> <li>• Solar Panel follows CSA S520</li> </ul>

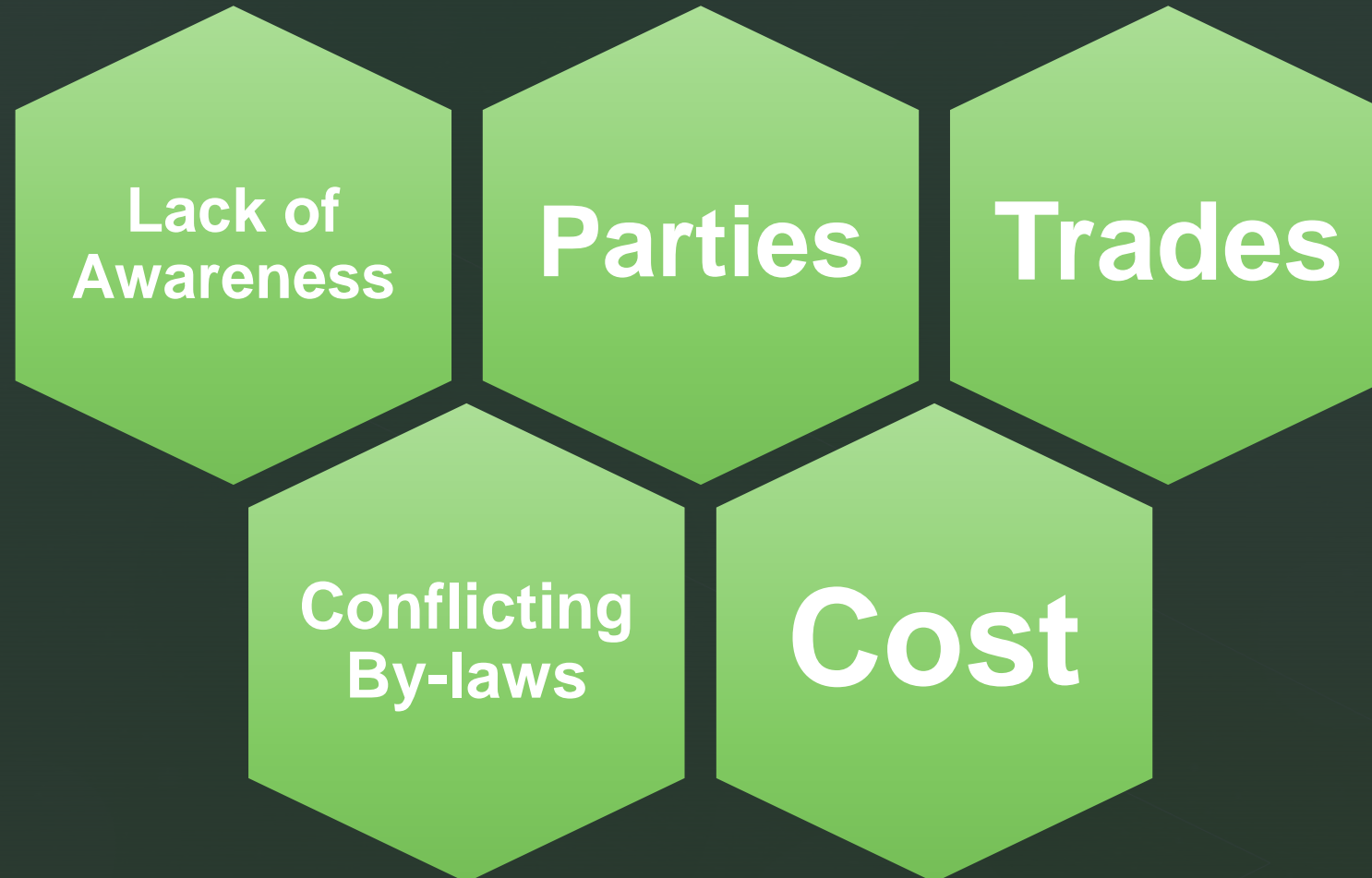
# BC Case Study Findings: Overheating

Common Practice or Existing Regional Requirements	Emerging Practice	Limited Adoption (buildability/ costs/ uncertainty)
<i>Greater than 75% of participants</i>	<i>Between 40 and 75% of participants</i>	<i>Less than 40% of participants</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced building envelope and air tightness</li> <li>• High-efficiency lighting</li> <li>• Back-up energy system for essential loads</li> <li>• Optimize glazing for solar heat gains</li> <li>• Operable windows</li> <li>• Deep roof overhangs</li> <li>• Minimize thermal bridging</li> <li>• Low SHGC windows</li> <li>• Deciduous vegetation</li> <li>• Install mechanical cooling</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orient building, indoor spaces, and windows/skylights to balance light and solar gain</li> <li>• Use of ceiling fans</li> <li>• Exterior shades on windows</li> <li>• Install ERV or HRV system</li> <li>• Design mech systems for future design values (2070s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install high surface reflectivity cladding/roof system</li> <li>• Provide extra space to upsize ductwork, piping, etc. for future mech cooling systems (2070s)</li> </ul>

# BC Case Study Findings: Wildfire

Common Practice or Existing Regional Requirements	Emerging Practice	Limited Adoption (buildability/ costs/ uncertainty)
<i>Both participants</i>	<i>One participant</i>	<i>No participant</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Metal screens for soffit or roof venting</li> <li>• Fire-resistant decking</li> <li>• Non-combustible surfaces below decks, balconies, porches, and raised buildings</li> <li>• Fire-resistant doors</li> <li>• Minimize gaps in envelope</li> <li>• Fire-resistant shingles and following roofing underlayment</li> <li>• A 1hr fire rated assembly tested</li> <li>• Fibre cement cladding</li> <li>• Cast in place foundation walls</li> <li>• Double pane, tempered windows</li> <li>• Vegetation setback 1.5m perimeter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eaves, fascia, and roof projections are finished with non-combustible materials</li> <li>• External fire suppression system</li> <li>• Water efficient irrigation systems</li> <li>• Fire-resistant vegetation</li> <li>• Tree setback from buildings by 10m</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operable windows fitted with metal screens and frame</li> </ul>

# Barriers & Challenges

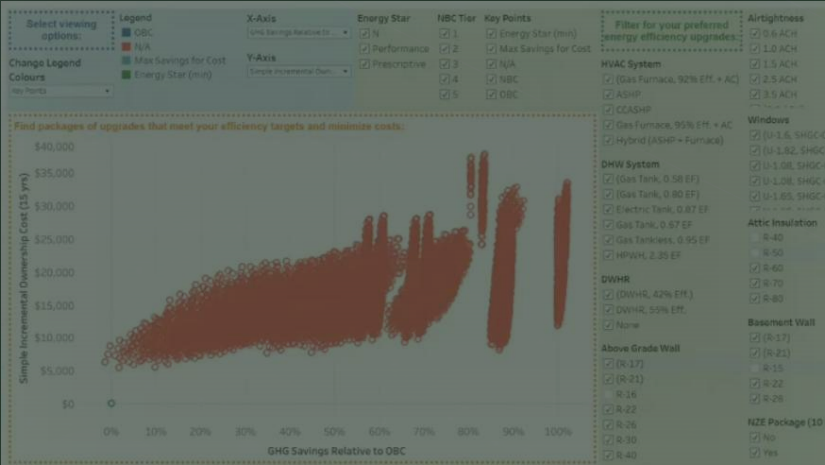


# Actions for Successful Implementation



# Optimization Tools

## LEEP Dashboards for Interactive Home Optimization



Natural Resources Canada / Ressources naturelles Canada

# NRCan Material Carbon Emissions Estimator (MCE<sup>2</sup>)

## User Guide

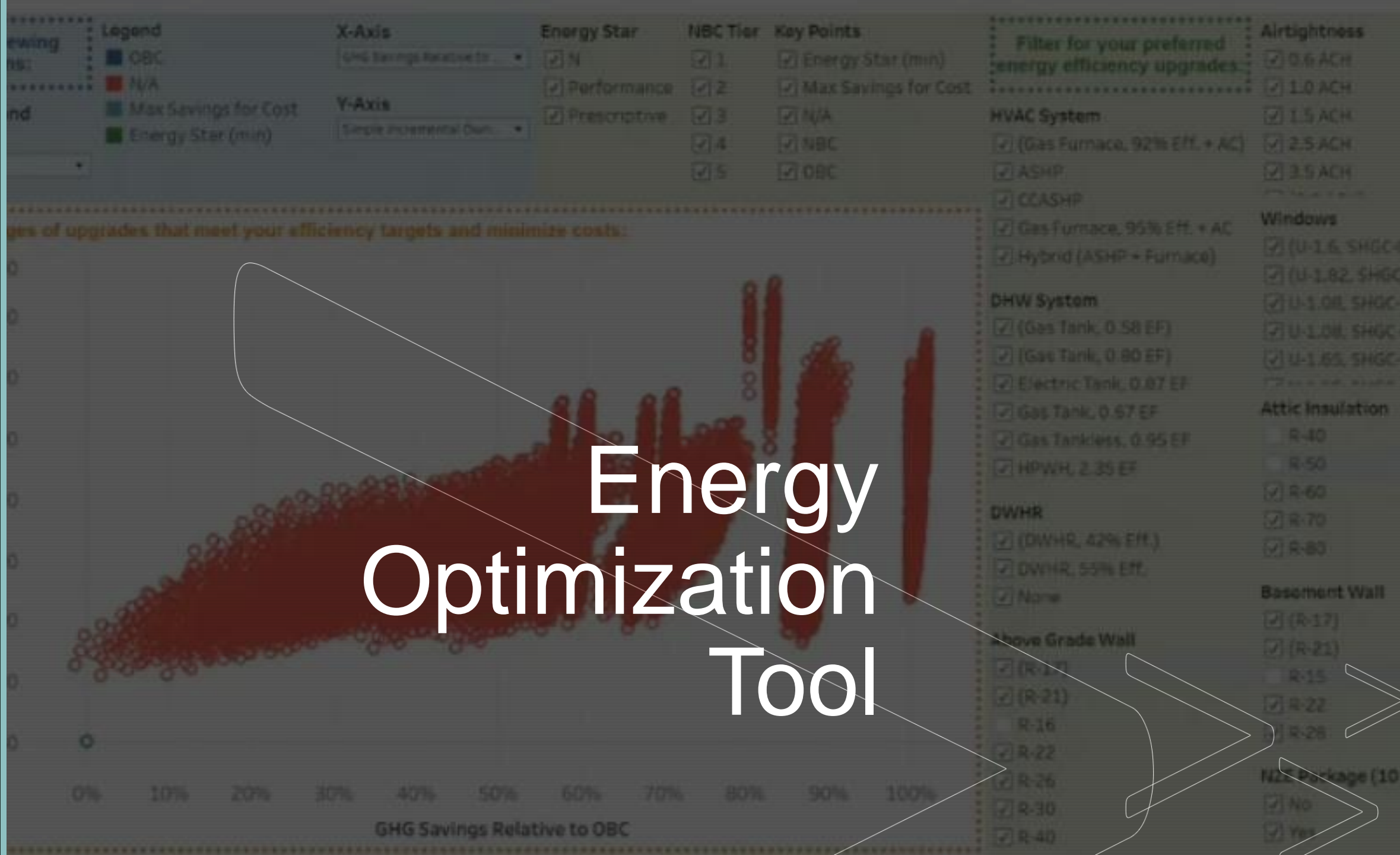
**LEEP** LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIPS

Developed by Natural Resources Canada's Local Energy Efficiency Partnerships (LEEP) team.  
NRCan.LEEP@NRCan@Canada.ca

CanmetENERGY  
Leadership in ecoinnovation

Canada

# Energy Optimization Tool



A large elephant is the central focus, standing in a savanna landscape. The elephant is dark in color, and its trunk is curled. The background is a hazy, open plain with some sparse vegetation. The text 'The elephant in the room' is overlaid in a large, white, sans-serif font. The overall image has a dark, monochromatic aesthetic.

# The elephant in the room



Natural Resources Canada  
Ressources naturelles Canada

# NRCan Material Carbon Emissions Estimator (MCE<sup>2</sup>)

User Guide



Developed by Natural Resources Canada's  
Local Energy Efficiency Partnerships (LEEP) team.  
[NRCan.LEEP.RNCan@Canada.ca](mailto:NRCan.LEEP.RNCan@Canada.ca)

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## Embodied Carbon

*Net Carbon Emission*

$$= \sum (\text{Amount of Material Used} \times \text{Material GWP Factor})$$

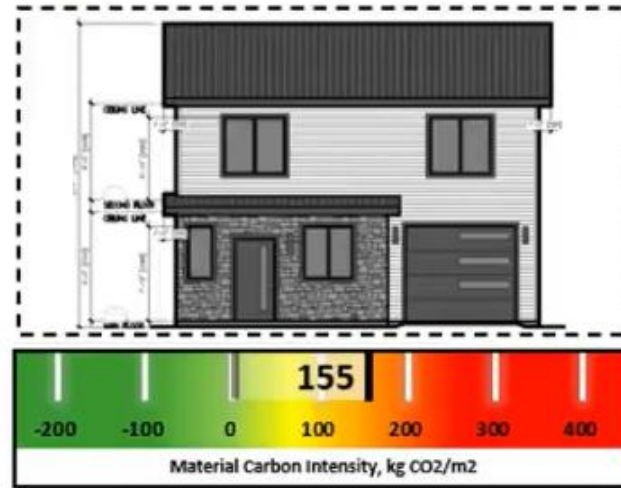
## Material Carbon Emissions Estimator (MCE2)

Project Carbon Emissions Estimates

Save This Scenario

- Tier 5 increases embodied emissions by 10%
- Tier 5 reduces operational emissions by 96%
- How much embodied carbon for Resilience measures (BC - Wildfire, Flood, Overheating, High Wind)?
- How far can we go on Embodied?

### PROJECT SUMMARY



Project: Riva Construction
Evaluator: Patric
Location: British Columbia
Home description: 2 story single
Building Size: 1844 ft <sup>2</sup> above grade (plus 824 ft <sup>2</sup> basement)

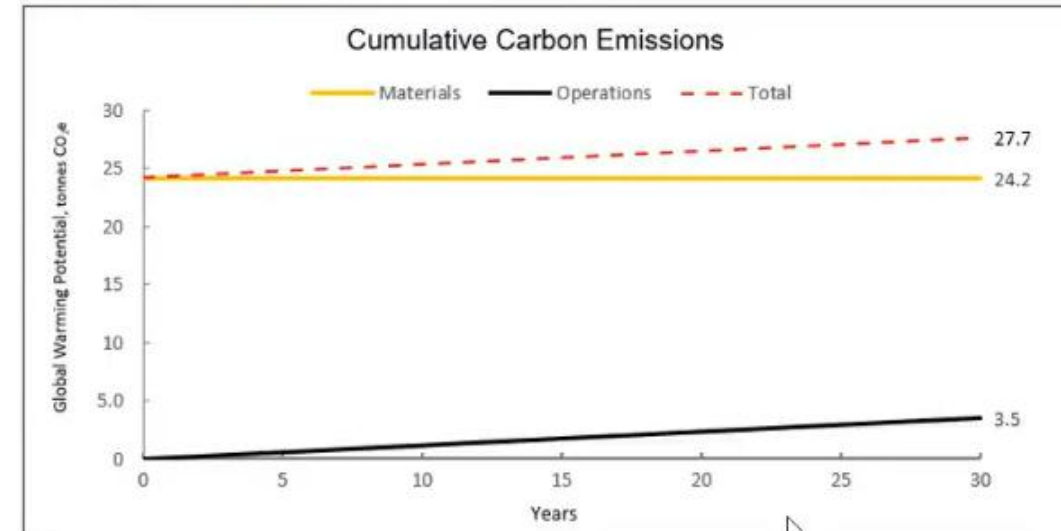
### Material Emissions

tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e	kg CO <sub>2</sub> e / m <sup>2</sup>
24.2	155

### Operational Emissions

tonnes CO <sub>2</sub> e / yr	t CO <sub>2</sub> e / 30 yrs
0.1	3.5

### PROJECT EMISSIONS TIMELINE



# EA Perspectives



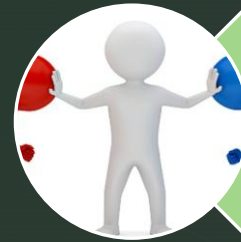
Valuable  
Homes



Regulation  
Consistency



Resiliency vs.  
Embodied  
carbon



Conflicts



Eventual  
Adaptation



New  
Learnings

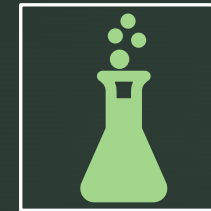
# Are we doing more harm than good ?



Conflicts ?



Operational Carbon vs  
Embodied Carbon vs  
Resilience



Available materials ?

# Q & A Session



Thank you!



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