

# Assembly Bill 2446- Embodied Carbon Emissions: Construction Materials

## Assemblymember Chris R. Holden

### SUMMARY

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This bill would require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to develop a framework for measuring and then reducing carbon intensity in the construction of new buildings, including those for residential uses.

### BACKGROUND

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In 2018, Governor Jerry Brown issued Executive Order B-55-18, which ordered a statewide goal to achieve carbon neutrality as soon as possible, but no later than 2045, and achieve and maintain net negative emissions thereafter.

Under the updated Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), cities will face significant increases in housing production goals over the next 10 years. To meet these increased goals from the RHNA, a considerable expansion of construction will have to occur statewide.

In recent years, building decarbonization has become a growing priority for the state. As a result, the California Air Resources Board and California Energy Commission may include building decarbonization in future updates to the Scoping Plan and Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR).

California is currently facing a housing shortage and it is imperative that the state meet its housing goals, however meeting those goals should not come at the expense of California's climate goals. It is the responsibility of the state to find solutions that allow housing and climate targets to reinforce one another. The rising costs of building materials are a threat to affordable housing in the state.

Through conscious design to reduce materials used and the employment of low carbon construction materials, the embodied carbon of a building can be reduced with no incremental cost to the owner.

There has been a growing early market for low carbon building materials, including companies inside California. Further growth of this sector can create economic benefits for the state.

There is momentum at the Federal and State level to decarbonize the building sector. California can continue to be a leader on climate by taking early steps to measure and reduce the embodied carbon of building materials.

### EXISTING LAW

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Section 38561.2 of the Health and Safety Code  
Public Contract Code 3500

### THE SOLUTION

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AB 2446 would require the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission to design the framework to achieve an 80 percent net reduction in new construction by 2045, with interim goals of 20% below 2020 levels by 2030 and 40% below 2020 levels by 2035. The bill would require the commission to take certain actions to facilitate the achievement of these goals.

### SUPPORT

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#### Support:

Mighty Buildings  
BAMCORE, LLC  
BURO Happold Consulting Engineers INC  
Carbon Cure  
Climate Reality Project, San Fernando Valley  
Dupont

HB+A Architects  
NRDC  
One Way Ventures  
Open Air  
U.S. Green Building Council, I (USGBC)  
WAP Sustainability  
California Association of Professional Scientists  
Eco Builder Network  
Independent Energy Producers Association

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