



2021 Grid of the Future Symposium

## **Improving Grid Infrastructure Sustainability by BIM and Optioneering Design Approach**

**October 18, 2019**

Presented By:

Lyndsey Covert



# Burns & McDonnell Lineup

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## **Impact of Extreme Events on Electrical Substation Infrastructure in Coastal Areas**

Paper Session 4B // October 19th 9:45 am

Connor Bowen



## **Embracing Carbon Abatement in Concrete for the Construction of Electrical Utility Networks**

Paper Session 4B // October 19th 10:15 am

Alex Pagnotta

# Outline

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- Background
- Sustainability Metrics
- Challenges to Sustainable Design
- Building Information Modeling (BIM) & Optioneering
- Substation Design Case Study
- Summary
- Q&A

# Background

## Climate Change

Background

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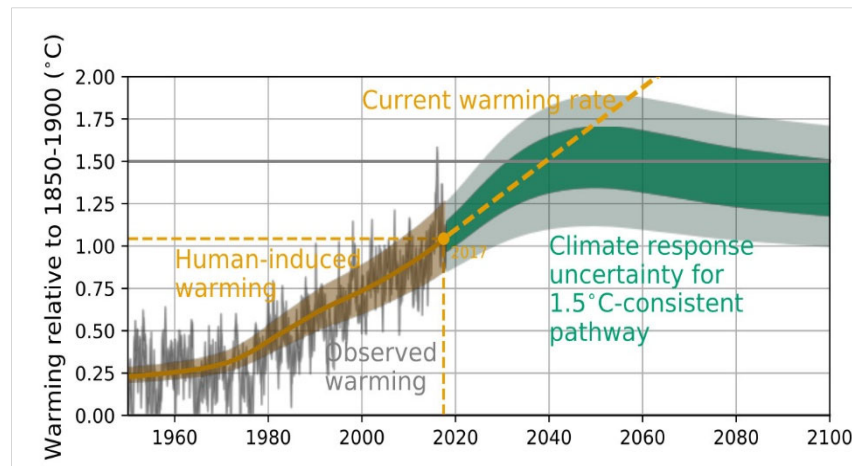
Building Information Modeling (BIM) & Optioneering

Substation Design Case Study

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Q&A

- Human-induced rise in global average temperature
- Results in increased drought, famine, frequency and severity of weather events
- World leaders in 2015 Paris Climate Accord identified 1.5°C rise in global average temperature as limit to mitigate looming humanitarian crisis



\* Source: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>



\* Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/12/12/world/paris-climate-change-deal-explainer.html>

# Background

## Transmission & Distribution (T&D)

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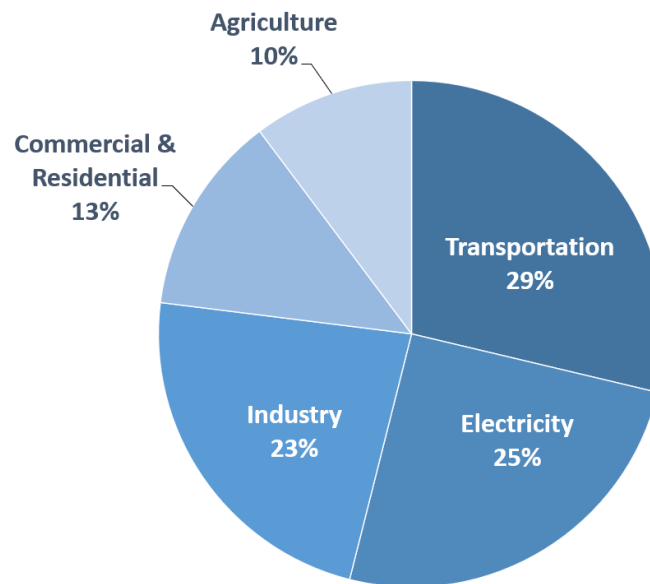
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Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector in 2019



\* Source: <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

- Only 62% of electricity sector emissions are attributed to burning fossil fuels, what about the rest?
- Energy generation is often the focus, but T&D also contributes to emissions
- Increasing number of utilities are making emissions reductions commitments in line with Science Based Targets
- Transitioning to renewable energy sources contributes to new development

# Sustainability Metrics

## Measuring Emissions

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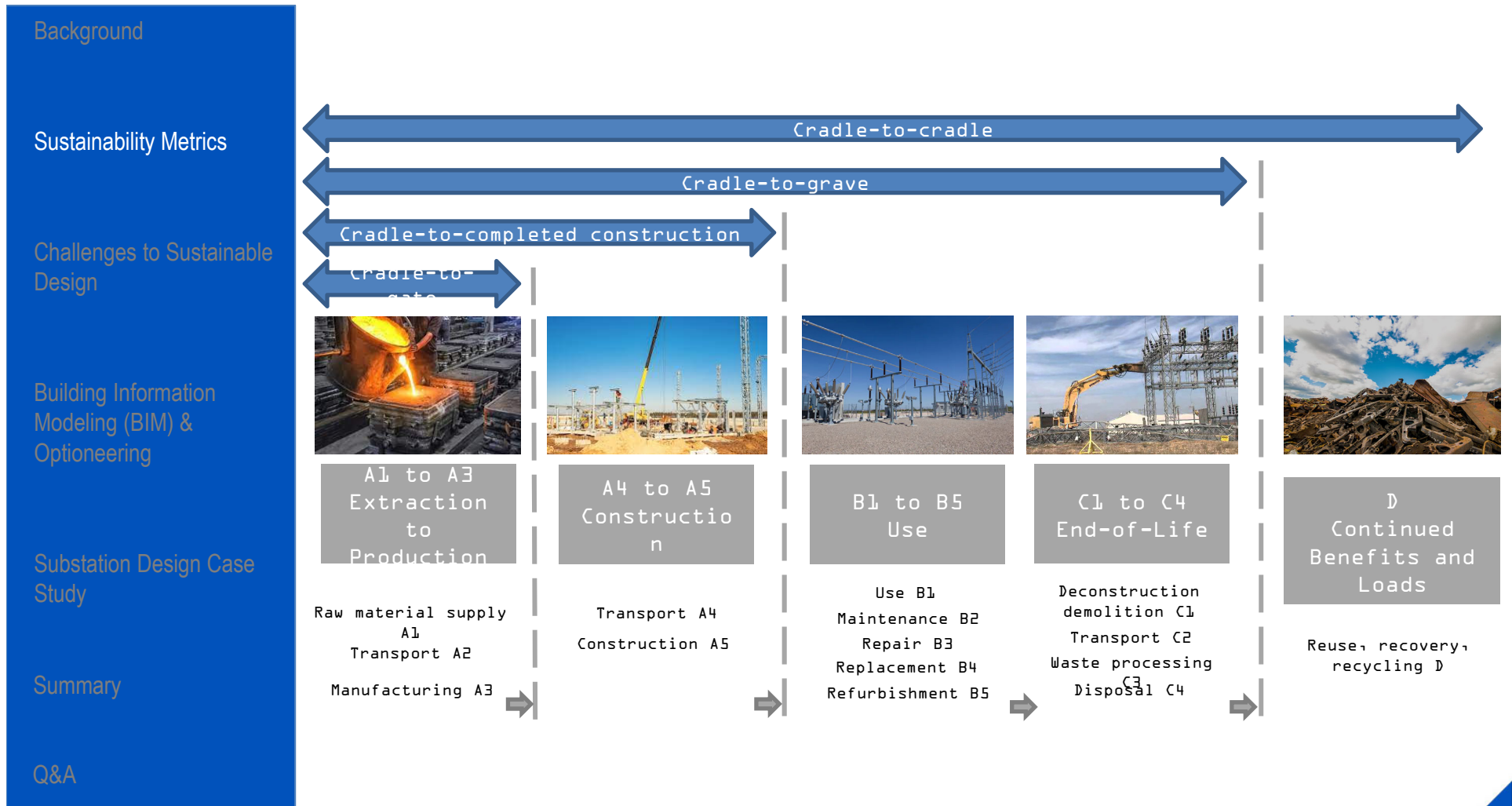
Common Chemical Name (Chemical Formula)	Global Warming Potential (GWP) (100 years)	Atmospheric Life (years)
Carbon dioxide (CO <sub>2</sub> )	1	5-200
Methane, fossil (CH <sub>4</sub> )	28	12.4
Methane, biogenic (CH <sub>4</sub> )	30	12.4
Dinitrogen monoxide (N <sub>2</sub> O)	265	121
Sulfur hexafluoride (SF <sub>6</sub> )	23,500	3,200

\* Source: <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/understanding-global-warming-potentials>

- To understand the T&D industry contribution to emissions, we must be able to measure them.
- Greenhouse gases are calculated based on their Global Warming Potential (GWP), or the amount a given gas warms the earth over a 100-year time compared to a unit of CO<sub>2</sub>.

# Sustainability Metrics

## Boundary Conditions





# Sustainability Metrics

## Environmental Product Declaration (EPD)

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- Transparent and comparable lifecycle environmental impact reporting of products
- ISO 14025 compliant Type III environmental declaration
- Several free and publicly accessible databases (EC3, GloCoMDat, etc.)

### THOMAS CONCRETE

ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCT DECLARATION  
Mix 407 • Buckhead Plant



This Environmental Product Declaration (EPD) reports the impacts for 1 m<sup>3</sup> of ready mixed concrete mix, meeting the following specifications:

- ASTM C94: Ready-Mixed Concrete
- UNSPSC Code 30111505: Ready Mix Concrete
- CSI Section 03 30 00: Cast-in-Place Concrete

### COMPANY

**Thomas Concrete**  
2500 Cumberland Pkwy, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30339

### PLANT

**Buckhead Plant**  
740 Lambert Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30324

### EPD PROGRAM OPERATOR

**ASTM International**  
100 Barr Harbor Drive  
West Conshohocken, PA 19428



### DATE OF ISSUE

10/03/2017 (valid for 5 years until 10/03/2022)

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

#### Declared Product:

Mix 407 • Buckhead Plant  
4000 CARBON CURE  
Compressive strength: 4000 psi at 28 days

Declared Unit: 1 m<sup>3</sup> of concrete

Global Warming Potential (kg CO <sub>2</sub> -eq)	359
Ozone Depletion Potential (kg CFC-11-eq)	9.5E-6
Acidification Potential (kg SO <sub>2</sub> -eq)	1.01
Eutrophication Potential (kg N-eq)	0.49
Photochemical Smog Creation Potential (kg O <sub>3</sub> -eq)	19.5
Total Primary Energy Consumption (MJ)	2,340
Nonrenewable (MJ)	2,240
Renewable (MJ)	100
Total Concrete Water Consumption (m <sup>3</sup> )	3.14
Batching Water (m <sup>3</sup> )	0.14
Washing Water (m <sup>3</sup> )	0.05
Nonrenewable Material Resource Consumption (kg)	2,336
Renewable Material Resource Consumption (kg)	2.47
Hazardous Waste Production (kg)	0.02
Nonhazardous Waste Production (kg)	9.33

**Product Components:** crushed aggregate (ASTM C33), Portland cement (ASTM C150), natural aggregate (ASTM C33), fly ash (ASTM C618), batch water (ASTM C1602), admixture (ASTM C494).

The Carbon Leadership Forum PCR: Product Category Rules (PCR) for ISO 14025 Type III Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) for Concrete, Version 1.1 dated 12/4/2013, serves as the PCR for this EPD. <http://www.carbonleadershipforum.org>

PCR review was conducted by: Nicholas Santero • thinkstep (formerly PE International).

Independent verification of the declaration, according to ISO 14025:2006: ☐ internal ☒ external

Third party verifier: Thomas P. Gloria ([tgloria@industrial-ecology.com](mailto:tgloria@industrial-ecology.com)) • Industrial Ecology Consultants

LCA and EPD developer: Laurel McEwen ([laurel.mcewen@climateearth.com](mailto:laurel.mcewen@climateearth.com)) • Climate Earth

\* Source: <https://buildingtransparency.org/ec3/epds/ec38ppcy>



# Challenges to Sustainable Design

## Accessing and Leveraging Data

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Goals	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Track material and equipment embodied carbon (kgCO<sub>2</sub>e)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Large amount of new data to be tracked</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Leverage embodied carbon data as decision driver</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Assigning appropriate value to embodied carbon as decision drivers</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Weigh all possible options during early design stages</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Investigating many alternative designs instead of a couple standard layouts</li></ul>

# Building Information Modeling (BIM)

## Multidisciplinary Data Management

Background

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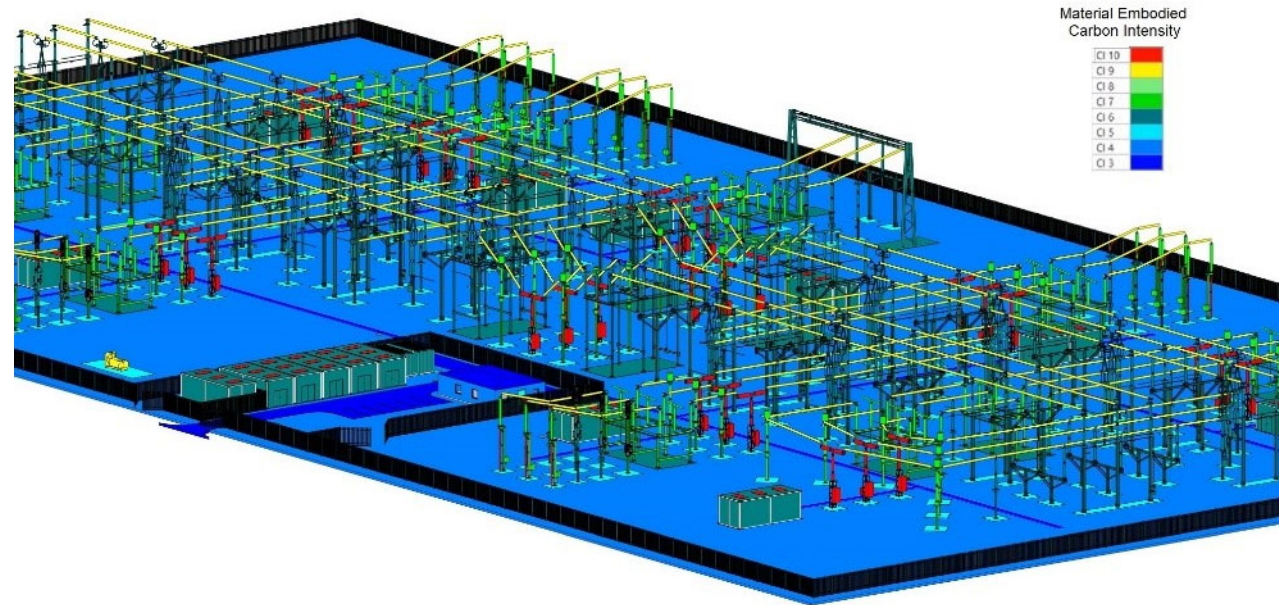
Challenges to Sustainable Design

Building Information Modeling (BIM) & Optioneering

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- Building Information Modeling framework can handle a large amount of data for sustainability purposes
- Input: Embodied carbon data (in kgCO<sub>2</sub>e) of all individual model elements, sourced from EPDs
- Outputs: design's total embodied carbon & individual elements carbon intensity

# Optioneering with BIM

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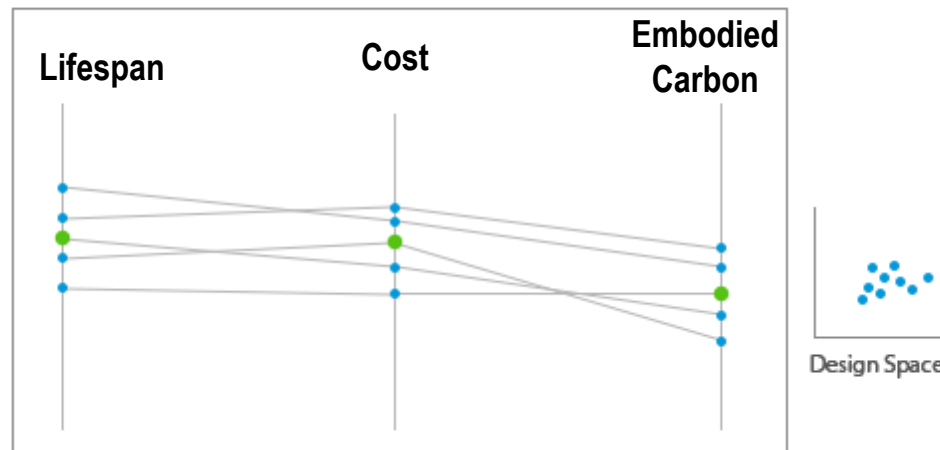
Substation Design Case Study

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- Weigh all relevant inputs (cost, weight, embodied carbon, lead time, etc.) and select the optimal design option
- User can document their decision-making and justify their design, as well as any deviations in relevant inputs.
  - Ex: A 10% increase in cost results in a 30% carbon reduction

## Decision Drivers



\* Source: <https://knowledge.autodesk.com/support/revit/learn-explore/caas/CloudHelp/cloudhelp/2021/ENU/Revit-Model>

# Substation Design Use Case

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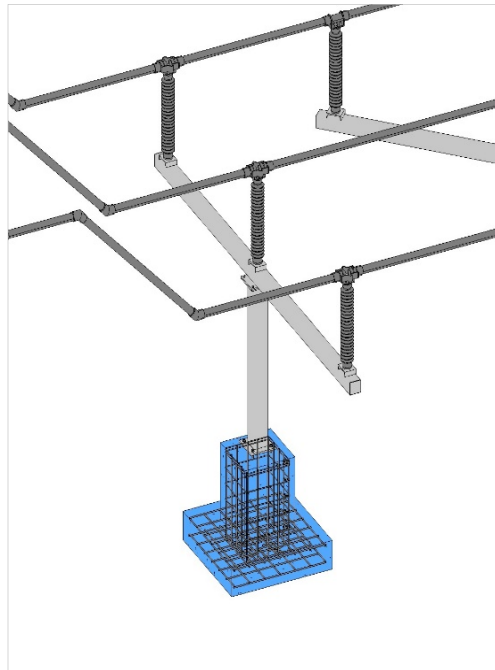
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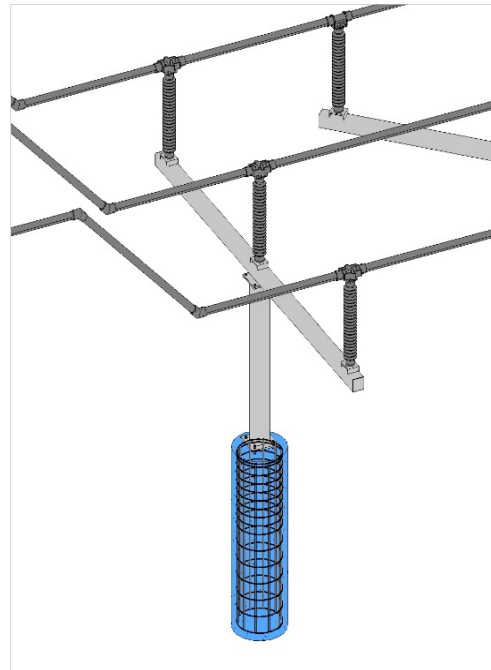
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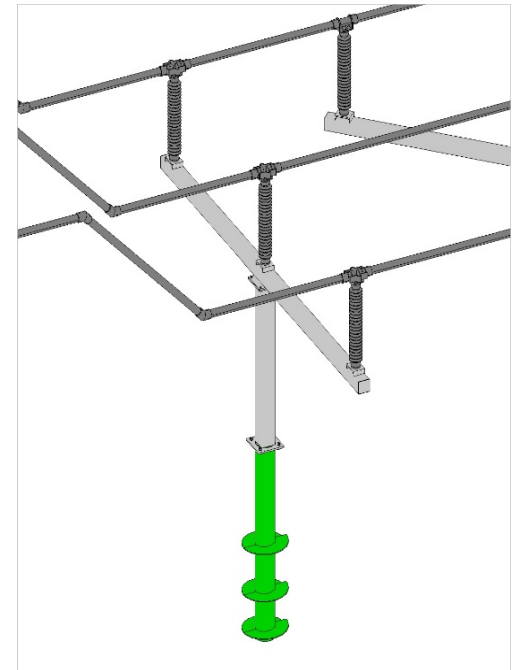
Q&A



**FDN: Option 1**  
Spread Footing FDN



**FDN: Option 2**  
Drilled Shaft FDN



**FDN: Option 3**  
Helical Pile FDN

# Substation Design Use Case

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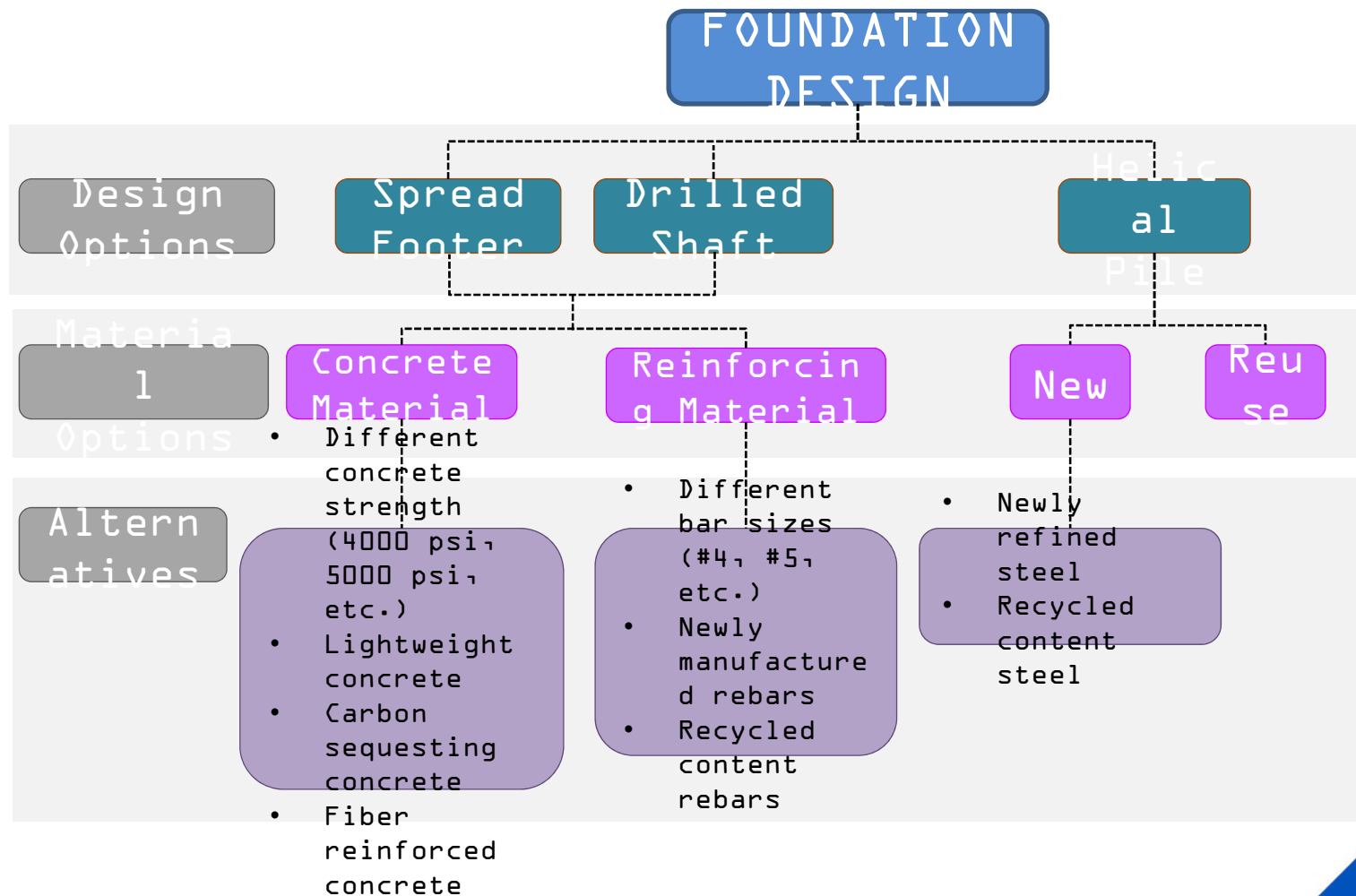
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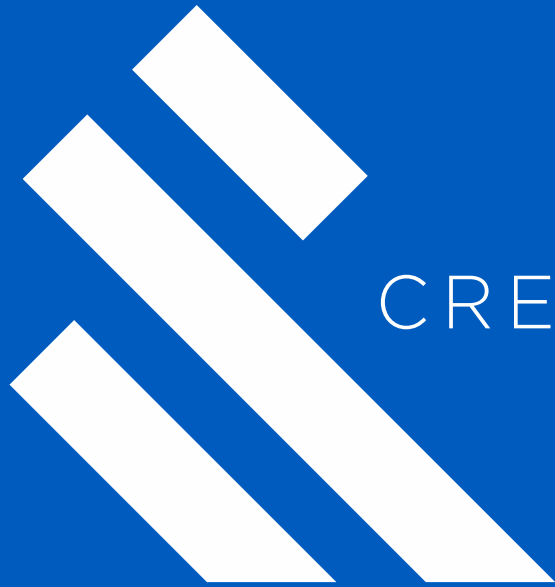
Building Information Modeling (BIM) & Optioneering

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Q&A

- 25% global GHG gas emissions from electric power industry
- Increased adoption of Science Based Targets
- Challenged with data management for more sustainable design
- Leveraging BIM technology to effectively manage data
- Document and justify design decision-making for optimized sustainable result



CREATE AMAZING.



# Thank you!

