

The Embodied Carbon Challenge: Bridging the Gap Between Decarbonization, Speed, and Scale

Summit on Sustainable Construction
By CWSC, EPFL – Jan 2025

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🌐 <https://www.lodhagroup.in/netzerourbanaccelerator/>



Energy Transition – What’s Different this time?



Demand Driven

- *Failure is fine*
- *Time not a constraint*
- *Prepared - Empty stomach*



Crisis Driven

- *One chance*
- *Relevance of time*
- *Unprepared - Innumerable Constraints*

India's Growth Trend

Speed and Scale

15%

India's contribution to global GDP growth

100 m

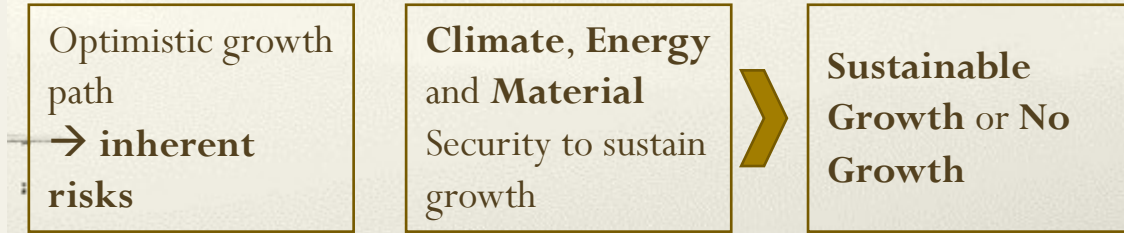
Household becoming home ownership capable in coming decade

USD 15k

India's target per capita income by 2047

70%

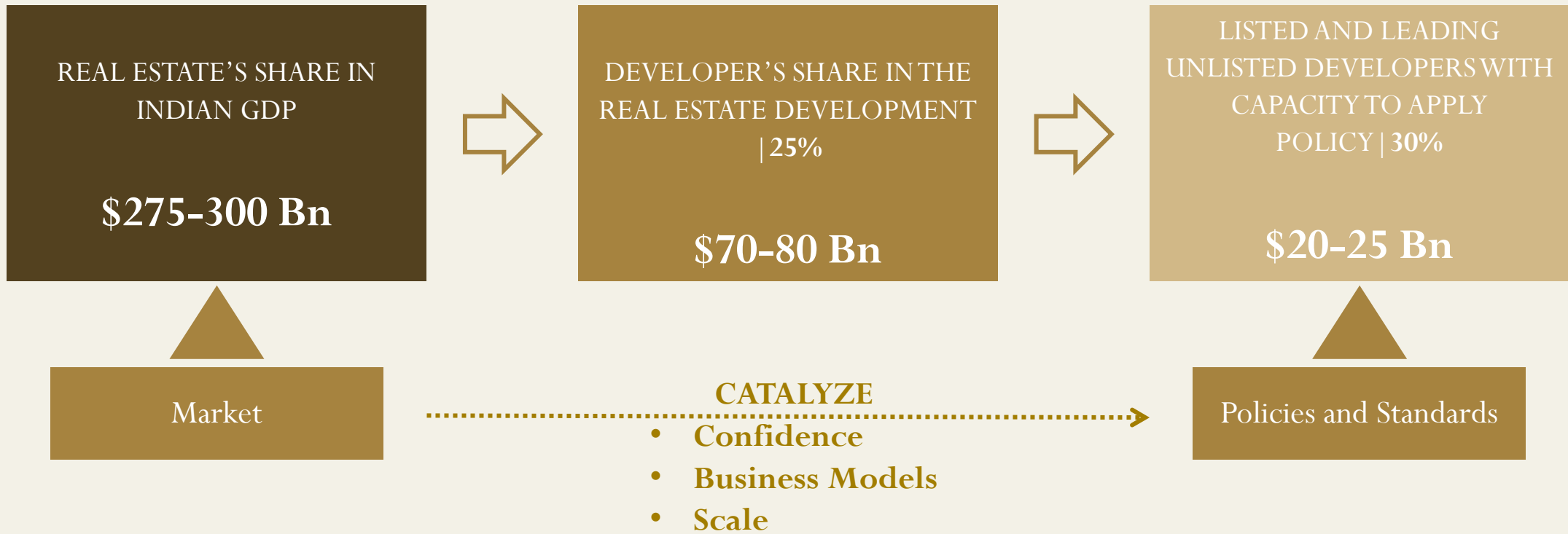
Urbanization shift: From scattered, owner driven to concentrated, developer led



Climate Action, Decarbonization – Policies and Markets

...and increasing

↑ 7-8% in India → 10-15% in developed economies



Market-based solutions can enhance, speed up, and expand the implementation of policies, codes, and standards aimed at decarbonizing the economy.

Urban Chaos: Mumbai



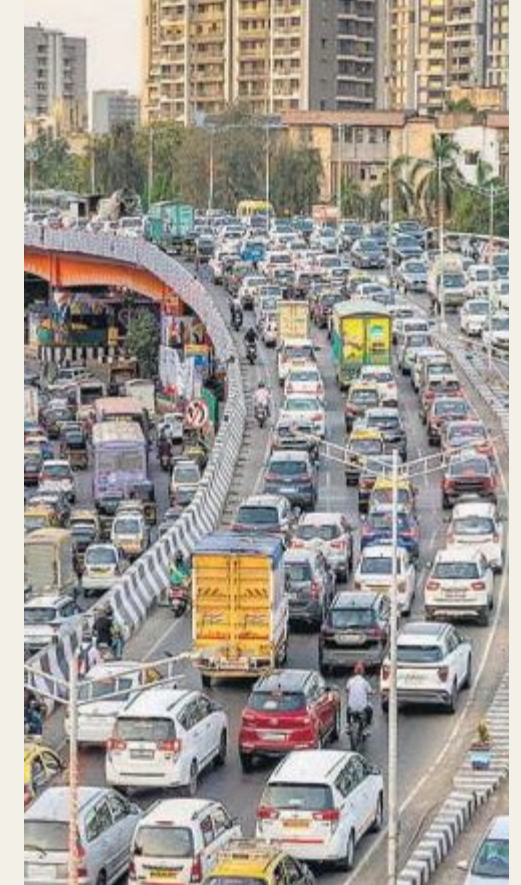
164th out of 241 in Mercer's Liveability Index (2023)



75% housing is of substandard quality



Disregard of common spaces



Long transit times for short distances

Our vision: Palava City

- One of the Top 50 Livable Cities
- Economically Feasible, High Quality and Sustainable Urbanization
- 5-10-15 Minute Walkability Strategy
- Post Occupancy Governance and Civic Upkeep



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One of India's largest real estate developers, also **pioneering sustainable urbanization** in India, exemplified by **Palava**, our flagship city development



Purpose: To make a **tangible difference to the goal of enabling India to become a developed economy** (per capita income of US\$22,000+ in 2023 terms) by 2047



Women



Children & Education



Sustainable Urbanization



Indian Culture



An international think tank focused on **transforming the global energy system to secure a clean, prosperous, zero-carbon future for all.**



Mission: To support the **transformation of India's economy into a clean, thriving, and inclusive energy future.**



Mobility



Power

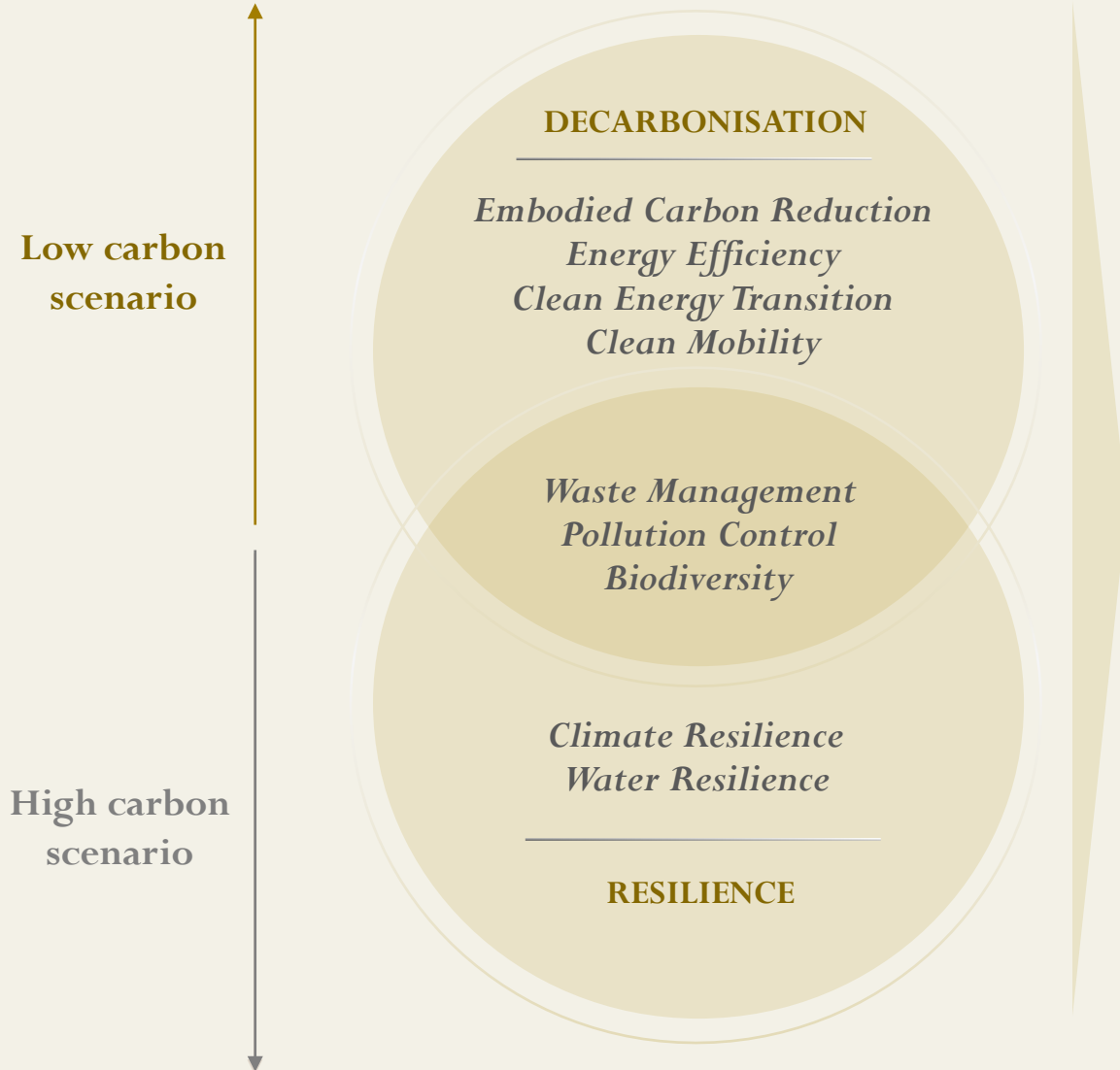


Built Environment



Industries

Introduction to Net Zero Accelerator

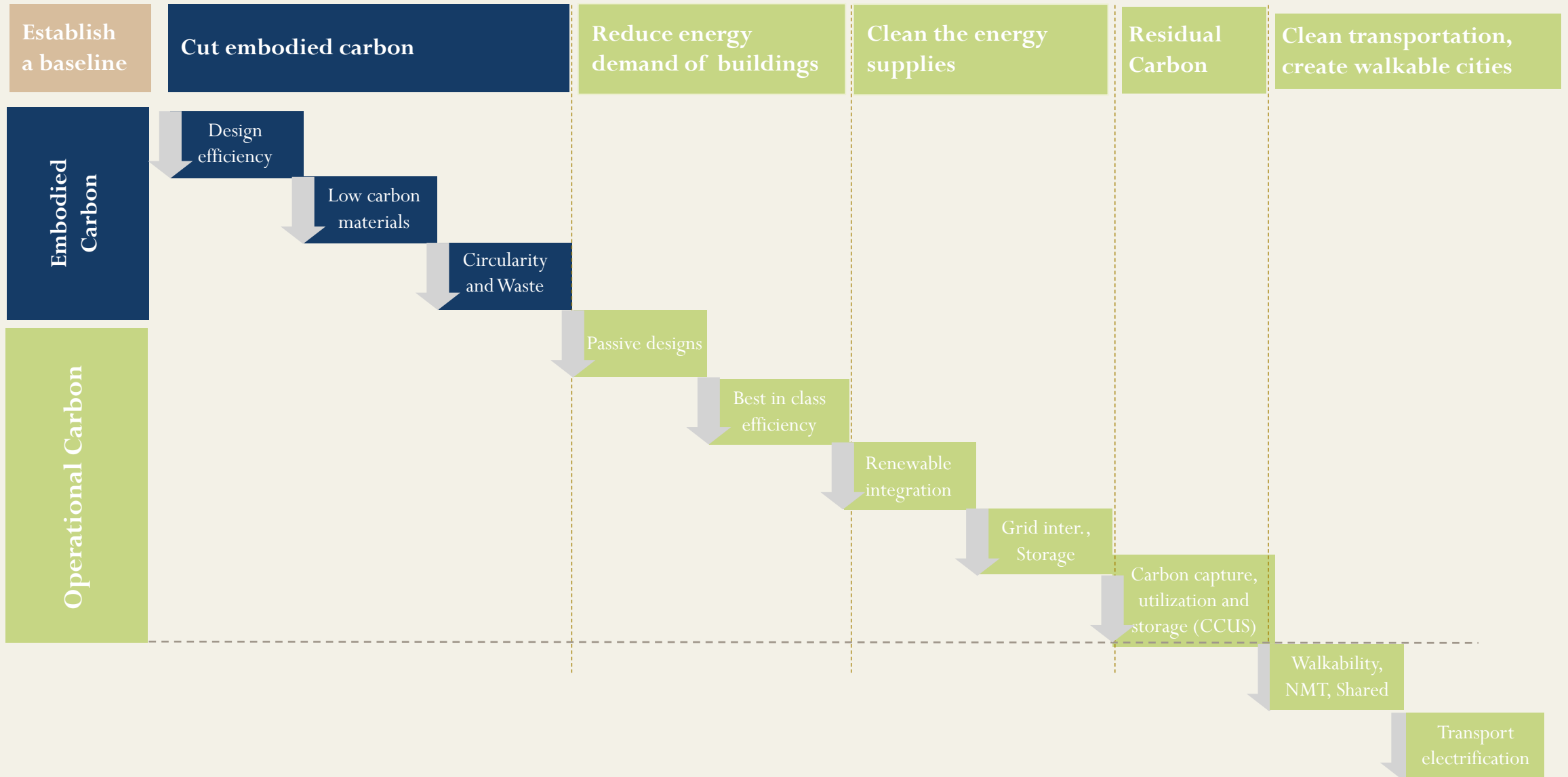


Key objectives

- Conduct research and implementation to drive the urban resilience & decarbonization agenda for the development of “Built Environment” in India
- Lead by example: Enable Lodha to become a global exemplar for sustainable urban development by 2030



Decarbonisation – Steps to Net Zero



The Carbon Stack (SCOPE 3)

Baseline Year
FY2022

EMBODIED CARBON | 40%

400 kgCO₂e/m²

Cement and Concrete, 45%-50%

Steel, 15-20%

Aluminum, 10%-15%

Blocks, Paints, Tiles, 4-5% each

Others, 5-10%

290 kgCO₂e/m² (-30%)

OPERATIONAL ENERGY* | 57%

36 kgCO₂e/m² | EUI 41

Urban Heat, 20%

Building Envelope, 25%

Equipment, 35%

User Behavior, 20%

Renewable energy Integration

20 kgCO₂e/m² (-60%) | EUI 25

50% REDUCTION

Target FY2030



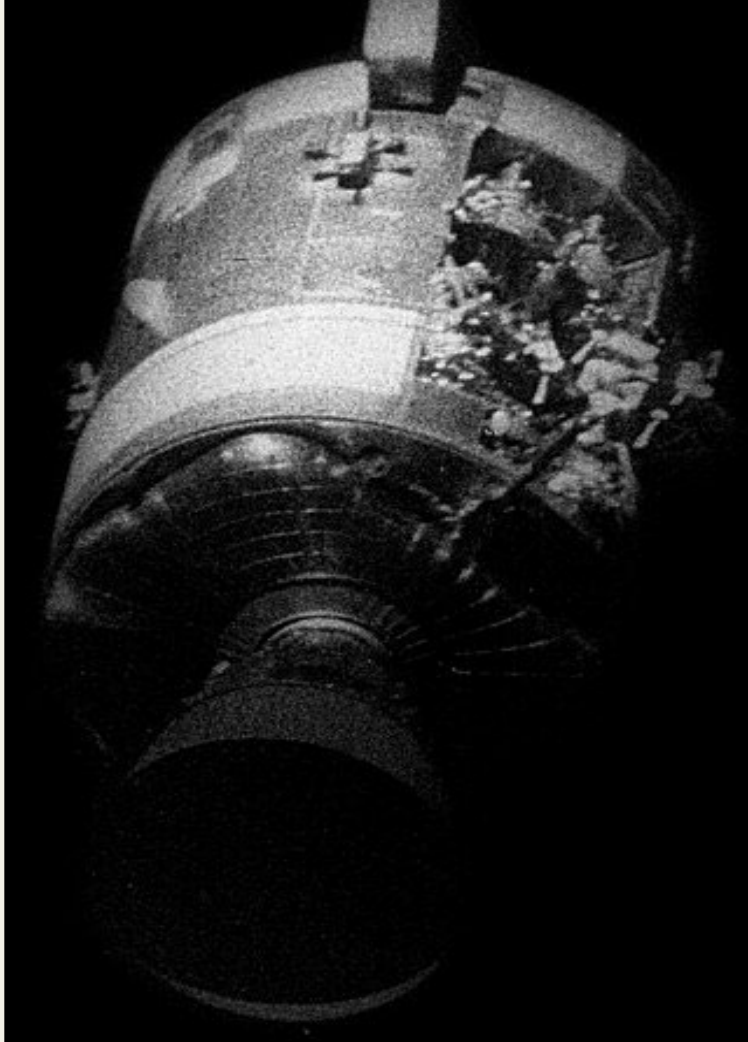
* Indicative segregation of potential impact by factors contributing to operation energy demand

Net Zero Accelerator – Embodied Carbon Reduction Effort

Cement and Concrete 45%-50%	Steel 15-20%	Aluminum 15%-20%	Blocks, Paints, Tiles 4-5% each	Others 5-10%
Resource-efficient designs (Right-sizing)	Benchmarking (cost, quality, carbon)	Optimise window sections (plus thermal performance)	Thermal performance plus EC reduction potential	Design innovative incentive mechanisms and business models
Greener concrete mixes (GGBS, LC3, etc.) – Global Concrete Challenge	Increased recycled steel content	Supply chain fragmentation and decarb. potential	Bio-based alternatives – TRL and FRL	Supplier engagement & Awareness creation – for data and decarbonization
Codal comparison (permissible use of SCMs)	Increased durability	Enhanced procurement criteria (increased scrap, RE integration, etc.)	Lifecycle comparison of solvent-based and water-based paints	
De-materialisation (novel technologies)	Light-weighting (use of high-strength steel)	Aluminum quality wrt to scrap quality	Kiln electrification, heat recovery and tile re-dimensioning	
Efficient waste management	Use of Glass-fibre rebar	Aluminum circularity	Supply chain defragmentation	
Applicability & Market readiness (AI, CCUS, etc.)		Lifecycle comparison with alternatives		
35% > 60%	30% > 75%	20% > 60%	20% > 50%	

Ingenuity Under Constraints: *Lessons from Crisis*

Apollo 13: When failure is not an option



Thank You!

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