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MAGNUSSON KLEMENCIC ASSOCIATES RELEASES SE 2050 EMBODIED CARBON ACTION PLAN

SEATTLE, WA — As part of the firm's ongoing effort to take meaningful steps toward significantly reducing embodied carbon in the built environment, Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) has released its SE 2050 Embodied Carbon Action Plan (ECAP) for 2022.

SE 2050 is a coalition of structural engineering firms committed to reducing embodied carbon by 2050. As a signatory firm of SE 2050, MKA's 2022 ECAP outlines the firm's strategy for more sustainable design and construction practices. The ECAP also sets goals to improve education; measuring and reporting; communication, innovation, and reduction; and advocacy and investment surrounding embodied carbon—the emissions associated with material production and building construction.

The Architecture, Engineering, and Construction (AEC) industry is responsible for at least 39 percent of carbon emissions worldwide, [according to the Carbon Leadership Forum](#), and embodied carbon will be responsible for almost half of total new construction emissions between now and 2050. In addition, [Architecture 2030 reports](#) that between now and 2060, the amount of floorspace worldwide will double—this is equivalent to adding an entire New York City to the world every month for 40 years.

"We are building for the future, but the time to act is now," said MKA President Don Davies, PE, SE. "This ECAP highlights MKA's efforts to push, pull, and collaborate our way to a lower-carbon future."

"With a collective effort, our industry has the potential to impact climate change on a global scale," said MKA Senior Design Engineer Catherine Cai, PE, who also leads the firm's sustainability efforts and is MKA's designated ECAP Champion. "It's exciting to own our role as engineers, set tangible and achievable goals, and challenge each other in this important movement."



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MKA's ECAP contains two-dozen pledged action items, the highlights of which include commitments to:

- Track, measure, and report on material quantities and carbon footprint reductions for selected MKA projects, including two projects to be used as Case Studies for external publication and four projects to be submitted to SE 2050 for inclusion in their database.
- Engage in advancing and developing non-proprietary, open-source embodied carbon and Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) tracking tools, including MKA providing both in-kind and funding support toward the development of the OpenIMPACT Life Cycle Inventory database and the tallyCAT LCA tool.
- Continue MKA's in-house Sustainability Technical Specialist Team, which meets quarterly to share innovations, discuss strategies, review case study successes, and serve as a resource surrounding embodied carbon reduction. In addition, MKA will present at least six presentations to industry peers to highlight advancements, foster collaboration, and even challenge each other on the issue of reducing embodied carbon.
- Create an embodied carbon guide to establish its approach toward measuring embodied carbon—from the materials procurement to construction to the Whole Building LCA.

Another proactive measure outlined in the ECAP is MKA's collaboration with Hines to create the [Hines Embodied Carbon Reduction Guide](#), which was released this year on Earth Day. Developed over two years, this free, comprehensive, 108-page guide aims to create more sustainable development practices at Hines while establishing an industry standard for quantifying, tracking, and reducing embodied carbon in the commercial real estate development process. MKA's complete ECAP for 2022, which is available online at mka.com/leadership/sustainability or at se2050.org, represents the firm's latest ongoing efforts to curb embodied carbon in the built environment.

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Magnusson Klemencic Associates (MKA) is an award-winning, 185-person structural and civil engineering firm founded in 1920 and with locations in Seattle, Washington, and Chicago, Illinois. MKA has worked on projects in 48 states and 61 countries, serving clients worldwide. MKA's passion is



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creating structural systems for buildings of all shapes, sizes, and complexities, and civil site and infrastructure designs for architectural projects.

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