

## WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

**38% of global carbon emissions** from the built environment and construction sector. Globally we build the equivalent of a city the size of Paris every week

**Concrete/ cement production** worldwide generates 9% of all human CO2 emissions.

**Carbon in development is front loaded:** 50% - 60% of the emissions over 60 year lifetime of energy use is in construction i.e. more carbon emitted in construction than in energy a building consumes over 60 years

**Embodied carbon emissions** unregulated, measurement and mitigation typically voluntary

**Emissions from concrete production** equivalent to over 30% of all transport emissions across London - the Mayor takes action to reduce car use, but not concrete use??

**Tall buildings** require proportionately much higher amounts of concrete to build them (and to run them).

**Mayor and councils** routinely approve enormous 'carbon factory' development despite 'Climate emergency' rhetoric - do they understand? No!

**Carbon assessments + Circular economy principles** required but: input/ calculations provided by developer's consultants to their advantage + carbon analysis process is overwhelmingly post-design + cannot be effective unless it is checked by the Council planning departments themselves - not happening

## WHAT ARE WE PROPOSING?

**Legislation and national policy** to measure and limit embodied carbon must be introduced asap

**Retrofit First:** Circular Economy policy needs to be aggressively pursued from site designation + acquisition

**Change in law** requiring permission for demolition of significant structures to ensure re-use

**Low carbon construction alternatives:** Cross Laminated Timber (CLT)

**Better design:** from those who are experienced in low carbon design and construction: carbon impact of key design decisions (and planning requirements) need to be assessed from the beginning of process

**Whole Life Carbon Regulations:** rigorously checked, failing to meet benchmarks => refusal

**VAT reforms** need to enable prioritising reuse of existing buildings

**Industrial de-carbonisation** of key material supply chains

**Speculative office proposals discouraged:** The new London Plan needs to curb permissions for speculative development without a clear needs case which would generate such hefty carbon emissions.

**Act Now!**

**Recovery Plan**

**Policy 33: Decarbonisation of district heating systems**

**Policy 34: tackling fuel poverty** with London-wide public energy company

**Policy 35: Circular economy** - pre-demolition audits

**Policy 36: Decarbonisation of Transport**