



# MASSDEP

## DECONSTRUCTION WORKGROUP

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**SWAC UPDATE**

**JUNE 22, 2023**



# WHAT IS DECONSTRUCTION?



Photo courtesy of Timonie Hood, US EPA

- The process of dismantling a structure to maximize the recovery of reusable material.
- Sometimes called “construction in reverse” or “unbuilding,” deconstruction removes a building by selective disassembly of structural and non-structural building components.
- This stands in contrast to conventional demolition, which uses mechanical equipment like bulldozers and wrecking balls, resulting in limited reusability.

Definition courtesy of [Build Reuse](#)

# GOALS FOR THIS DECONSTRUCTION WORKGROUP

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- ❑ Increase awareness about our waste disposal crisis
- ❑ Grow the Reuse Industry in MA for valuable building materials
- ❑ Connect stakeholders and share ideas
- ❑ Align with MassDEP's R&R Action Plan
- ❑ Reduce climate impacts
- ❑ Enable Job Training and Workforce Development
- ❑ Support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



*Basic Operating Principle:  
Work for the greater good, collaborate, include all stakeholders*

# WHO ATTENDS THESE MEETINGS



GENERAL CONTRACTORS

ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS

DECONSTRUCTION CONTRACTORS

DEMOLITION CONTRACTORS

HISTORIC PRESERVATIONISTS

BUSINESSES, INSTITUTIONS AND SCHOOLS

REUSE ORGANIZATIONS

SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING INDUSTRY

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL OFFICIALS

CONSULTANTS AND NGOS

# MEET THE PLANNING TEAM

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**Christine Beling**  
US EPA Region 1



**Susan Cascino**  
City of Boston



**Mike Elliott**  
MassDEP C&D Lead



**Dave Giese**  
Deconstruction Works



**Pam Howland**  
Old Window Workshop Cooperative



**Abbey Massaro**  
Center for Ecotechnology



**Kathi Mirza**  
MassDEP



**Brooke Nash**  
MassDEP



**Michael Orbank:** STO Building Group,  
Carbon Leadership Forum Boston



## PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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- ***Demystifying Deconstruction***, September 2022
- ***Inspiration and Practice: Taking Buildings Apart***, December 2022
- ***Reuse Markets for Building Materials***, March 2023

Recordings and presentations from previous meetings can be found [at this link](#).



**CLIMATE, CULTURE & COMMUNITY:**

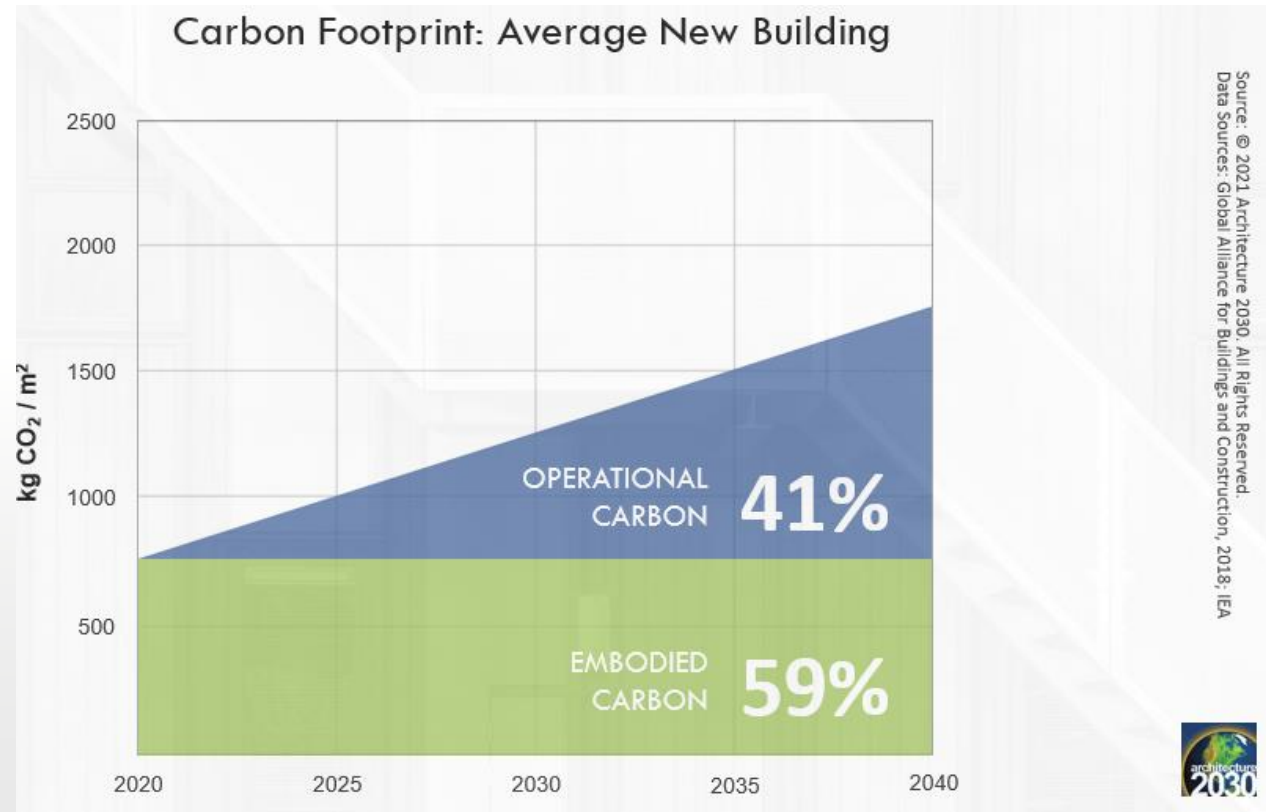
**HOW REUSING BUILDINGS PRESERVES HISTORIC SPACES AND LOWERS OUR CARBON FOOTPRINT**

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The Convent of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Lourdes in Holyoke was converted to housing using tax credits.

Courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Commission

THE GREENEST  
BUILDING IS  
THE ONE THAT  
IS ALREADY  
BUILT





Within urban environments, **existing buildings** are typically responsible for the majority of emissions.

New York City	71%	Mumbai	60%
Seoul	63%	Beijing	53%
Boston	73%	Copenhagen	76%
London	69%	Chicago	71%
Washington DC	76%	Shanghai	55%

Source: UN Habitat, Paulson Inst., city data, etc.



# **HISTORIC PRESERVATION IS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**MEASURABLE IN JOBS, LABOR INCOME,  
BUSINESS CREATION, HOUSING CREATION,  
PROPERTY VALUE GROWTH, RETURNS TO  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, AND MORE.**



# NEXT DECONSTRUCTION WORKGROUP MEETING

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September 20, 2023, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. (virtual)

[Register at this link](#)

Reduce and Reuse Working Group

<https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massdep-reduce-reuse-rr-working-group>

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