

Draft Specification for ‘Foam Insulation’

April 2021

Background

We are becoming more and more aware of the importance of embodied carbon awareness, as it currently represents about 49% of the carbon associated with building construction and renovation work. Foam based insulations, in boards and in site-applied sprays, are especially concerning because we will be using so much more insulation materials in reducing our energy use in building. And they represent an easy “win” because so much is already in transition, regarding blowing agents, to reduce embodied carbon.

This specification compiles the existing industry-awareness and supports to current transitions, and the insulation industry is not centralized as is the steel or concrete industry. Because of this, the specification was not created with a team, but was written based on EPA and DEC guidance about blowing agents, and articles and research from Building Green, one of the most influential green building resources in use.