

Draft Specification for Lower Carbon Concrete

April 2021

Background

We are becoming more and more aware of the importance of embodied carbon, as it currently represents about 49% of the carbon associated with building construction and renovation work. Concrete is one of the most burdensome construction materials, and approximately 2,800 thousand metric tons of cement are used in New York State per year (per the Portland Cement Association). Each pound of cement releases .9 pounds of CO₂e in mining and production.

This specification was built on the already-in-use technical specifications from the Port Authority of NY/NJ and has been developed by volunteers from Port Authority NY/NJ, NYSERDA, DASNY, OGS, NYC Mayor's Office, and NYC Design & Construction. It has also been reviewed, with inputs recorded, by the Concrete Masonry Association and Klepper Hahn and Hyatt, structural engineers. NY DOT has also reviewed the draft specification.