

Energy Prices and Heritage Buildings REM Side Event October 6, 2022

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Rehabilitation vs New Construction



50,000 square foot warehouse – Rehabilitate as compared to new construction at edge of city







20% to 40% Reduction in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs)



Reduction of travel related CO₂ Emissions by 92 – 123 Metric Tons

 CO_2 saved relative to suburban construction = 18,700 to



22,000 gallons of gasoline



Embodied energy retained 55,000 MBTU



Greenfield land preserved 5.2 acres



Less construction debris in landfills 2500 Tons



Infrastructure investment saved = \$500,000 to \$800,000



Landfill Impact



The average Historic House that was Retained rather than Razed reduced the impact on the landfill by 116.6 Tons

Environmental Cost of Demolition





2,000 s.f. house

- 295 cy of debris (84 tons)
- Embodied energy 900 Million BTUs = 7826 Gallons of Gasoline
- 40 Recycled Aluminum Cans = 1 Gallon of Gasoline
- Therefore 1 small demolished building = 313,000 recycled aluminum cans



Who is using the energy?





Linergy Use Intensity Multifamily Buildings by Year of Construction



A multifamily structure built since 1980 uses 13% more energy per square foot than one built before 1920



(4) UNEC

What building materials are energy hogs?



UNECE Real Estate



Embodied Energy



Embodied energy is the energy consumed by all of the processes associated with the production of a building, from the mining and processing of natural resources to manufacturing, transport and product delivery.

Embodied Energy = ~15 years of operational energy use





Are Green Gizmos the Answer?





PRESERVATION GREEN LAB: Looking for the Greenest Building? Start with the one that already exists.

It takes 10 to 80 years of an energy efficient new building to make up for the negative climate change impacts of construction

Building reuse almost always offers environmental savings over demolition and new construction



Heritage Conservation – The Real Sustainable Development





