

# ACI International: iniziative e soluzioni per la sostenibilità delle strutture in c.a.

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**Come l'ingegneria e la tecnologia possono garantire la sostenibilità delle strutture in calcestruzzo armato?**

Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II – CAMPUS SAN GIOVANNI  
17 Novembre 2023



# Part I - PREMISE ABOUT ACI

- 1) A few words about ACI: the organization
- 2) ACI Centers of Excellence: ahead of the curve
- 3) ACI Codes, Specifications and Guides

# Essence & Connectivity of ACI...

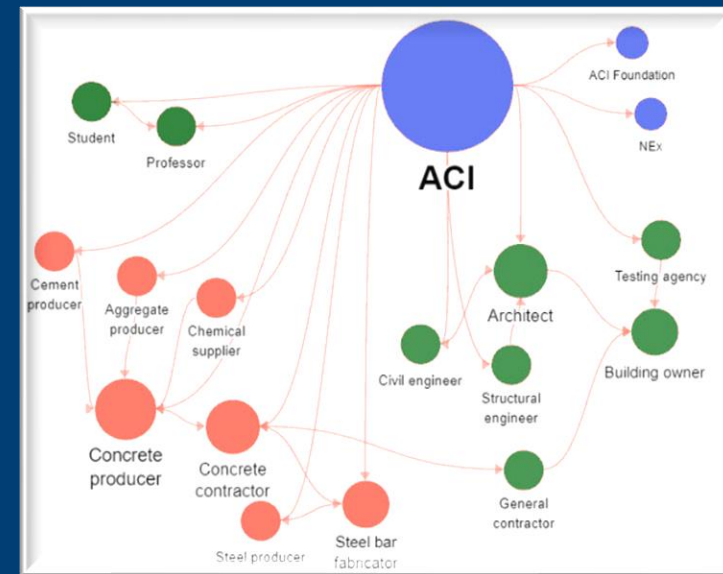
- Founded in 1904, ACI is a professional society, not a trade association

## **Vision:**

- ACI envisions a future where everyone has the knowledge needed to use concrete effectively to meet the demands of a changing world

## **Mission:**

- ACI develops, disseminates, and advances the adoption of its consensus-based knowledge on concrete and its uses



# ACI's Resources...

- 4000 Active Technical Volunteers
  - ✓ ~ \$100+ MM Annual Effort
- Headquartered in Farmington Hills, MI with 150+ Staff
- International Office in UAE
- Regional Offices in CA, IL, and MD
- 140+ Technical & Educational Committees
- 1000+ Technical & Educational Documents
- Calibration with Industry Groups – PCA, CRSI, PTI, ACPA, etc.





# ACI's Physical Locations...



World Headquarters -  
Farmington Hills, MI USA



Middle East Regional Office -  
Dubai, UAE

# ACI's Physical Locations...

## Resource Centers



Southern California  
San Bernardino, CA



Chicago, IL



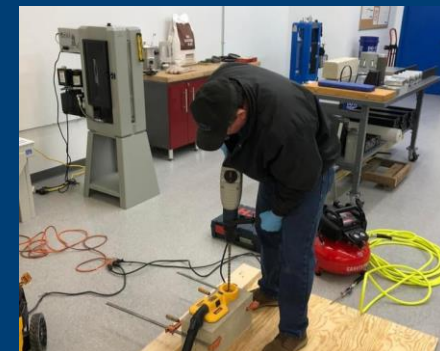
Columbia, MD



# Resource Centers

Provide physical locations for:

- ✓ Training
- ✓ Certification
- ✓ Seminars
- ✓ Chapter meetings
- ✓ Industry events



# ACI's Footprint...

- 33,000+ Members Worldwide
  - ✓ 15,000 Students
- 90+ Chapters
- 250+ Student Chapters
- 60+ International Partners
- Building Code used in over 60 countries
- Credentialed 700,000+ individuals in the concrete industry
- Select Documents available in 15+ languages





# Advancements at ACI...

# Centers of Excellence: PRO



An ACI Center of Excellence  
for Advancing Productivity



Collaborate with designers, material suppliers, builders, and other industry stakeholders to improve design constructability and construction productivity for all concrete structures.

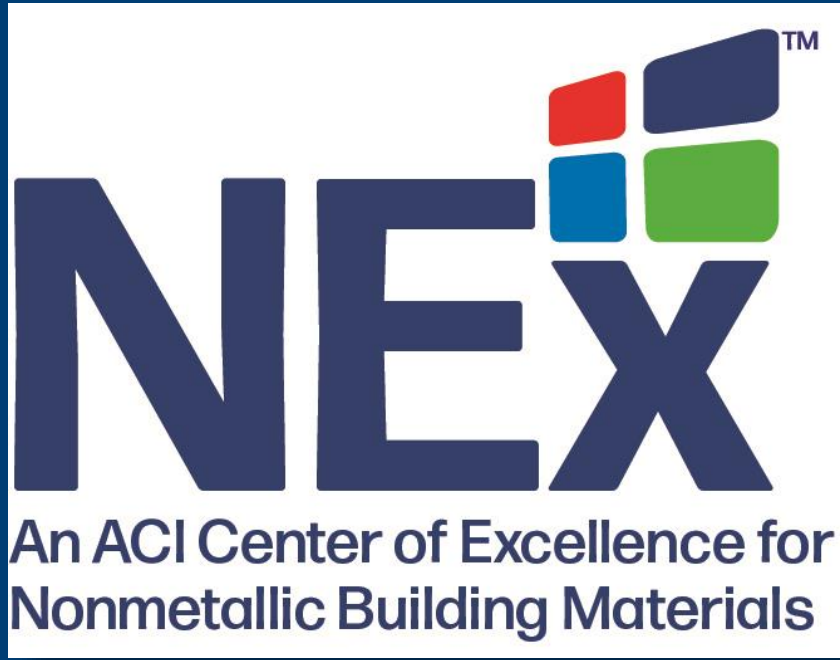
# Centers of Excellence: NEU



Collaborate globally to drive education, awareness, and adoption of the use of carbon-neutral materials and technologies in the built environment.



# Centers of Excellence: NEx



Collaborate globally on the use of nonmetallic building materials to drive research, education, awareness and adoption

# ACI Codes, Specifications and Guides...

# ACI Technical Committees

- *ACI Collection of Concrete Codes, Specifications, and Practices*
- 300+ Documents
  - Codes
  - Specifications
  - Reports
  - Guides
  - Technical Notes

**ACI 318**  
(Main Concrete Code)





# Other ACI Codes



216 - Fire



307 - Chimneys



313 - Silos



332 - Residential



349 - Nuclear Facilities



350 - Environmental



359 - Nuclear Contain.



369 - Seismic Retrofit



376 - RLG Containment



440 - Glass FRP Bar



437 - Strength Evaluation



562 - Repair

# Part II – SUSTAINABILITY OF CONCRETE

- 1) Challenge and Market Response
- 2) ACI Response – Low Carbon Concrete Code

# Current Challenges in the Cement and Concrete Industry

## Carbon Emissions

Cement production is a major contributor to carbon emissions, accounting for approximately 8% of global greenhouse gas emissions

## Environmental Impact

From extraction of raw materials to construction applications, concrete has significant environmental impact, including land degradation and water pollution

## Roadmap for Net Zero Concrete

The industry needs a clear roadmap to transition to net zero concrete, reducing carbon emissions and minimizing environmental impact





# Key Strategies for Achieving Net Zero Concrete

## Low Carbon Cement Alternatives

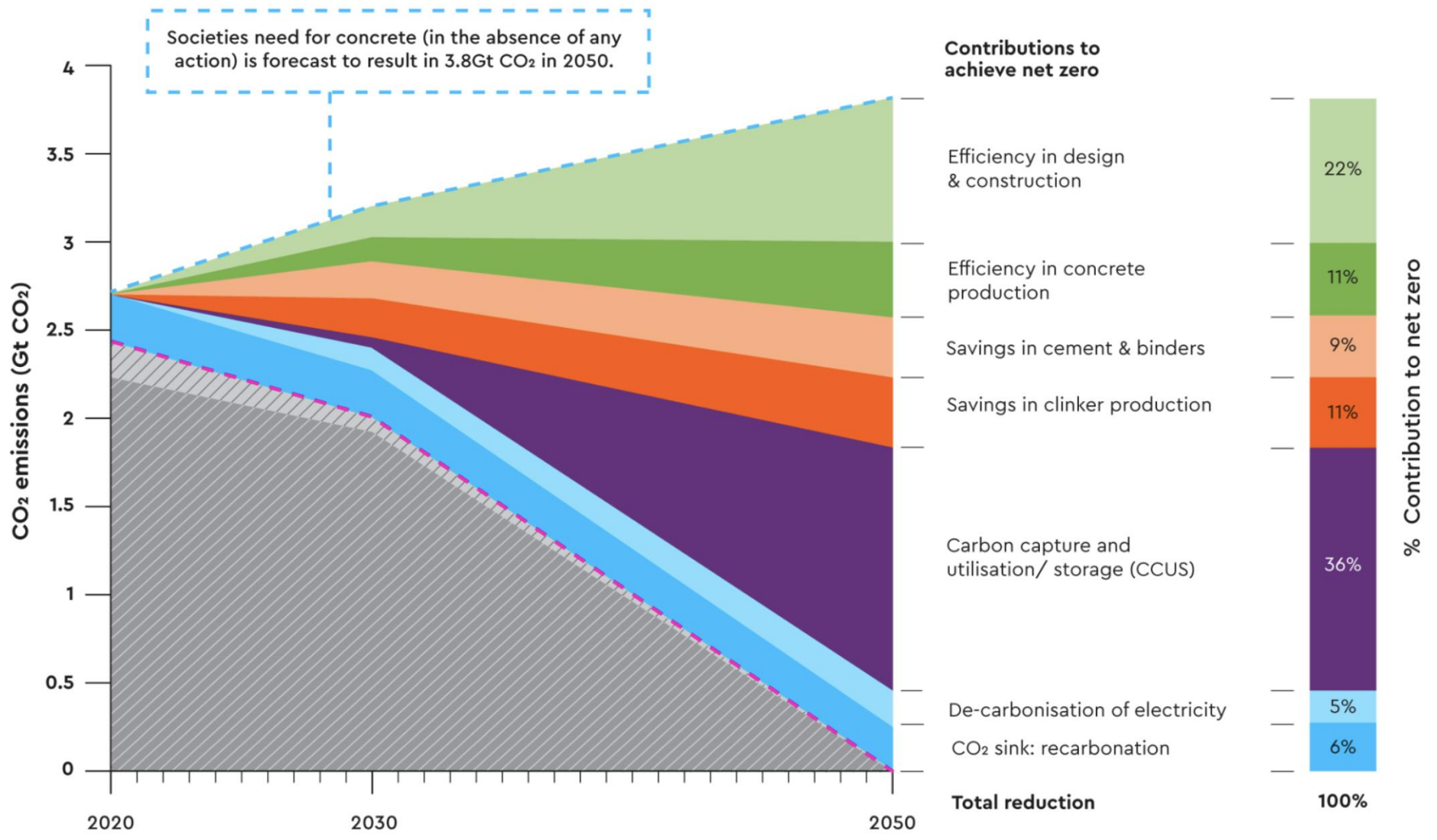
Developing and implementing innovative cement substitutes with lower carbon emissions, such as novel supplementary cementitious materials (SCMs) and alternative cements

## Energy-Efficient Production Processes

Adopting energy-efficient technologies, such as alternative fuels, waste heat recovery, and advanced kiln designs, to reduce energy consumption during cement production

## Enhanced Carbon Capture and Storage

Investing in research and development of carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies to capture and store carbon dioxide emitted during cement production



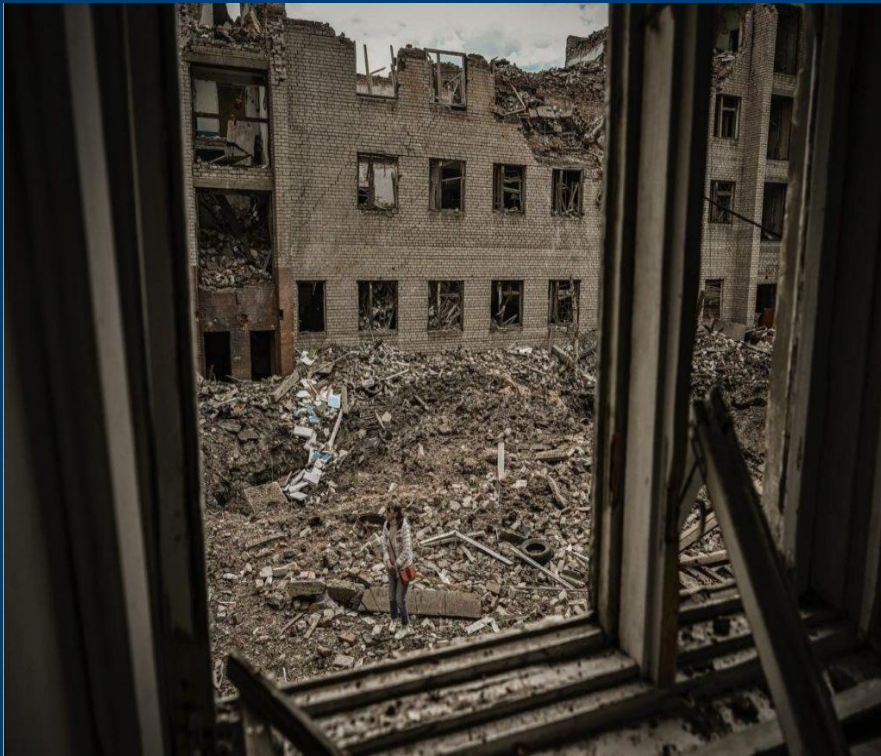


Globally, the  
military  
sector is  
estimated to  
generate  
around **6%**  
of all CO<sub>2</sub>  
emission



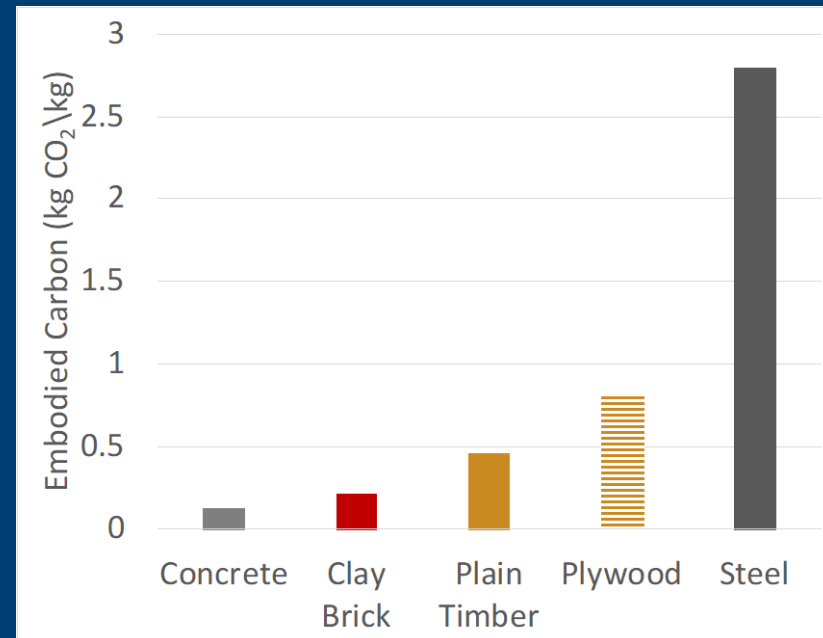
Of the housing stock in conflict-affected areas of Syria, nearly ten percent is totally destroyed and nearly a quarter partially destroyed – estimates suggest the rebuild will emit around

**22 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>**



# Source of Embodied Carbon

- Reinforced concrete has a low embodied carbon per unit volume
- Scale of production of concrete is the main cause of the high level of carbon emissions associated with concrete
- Over 400,000,000 yd<sup>3</sup> produced in U.S. each year, or ~ 615 Hoover Dams



Data from: Scrivener et al. 2014 and Hammond and Jones 2008

# What is “Low Carbon Concrete”



Is there one concrete mixture to rule them all?

No current industry standard definition

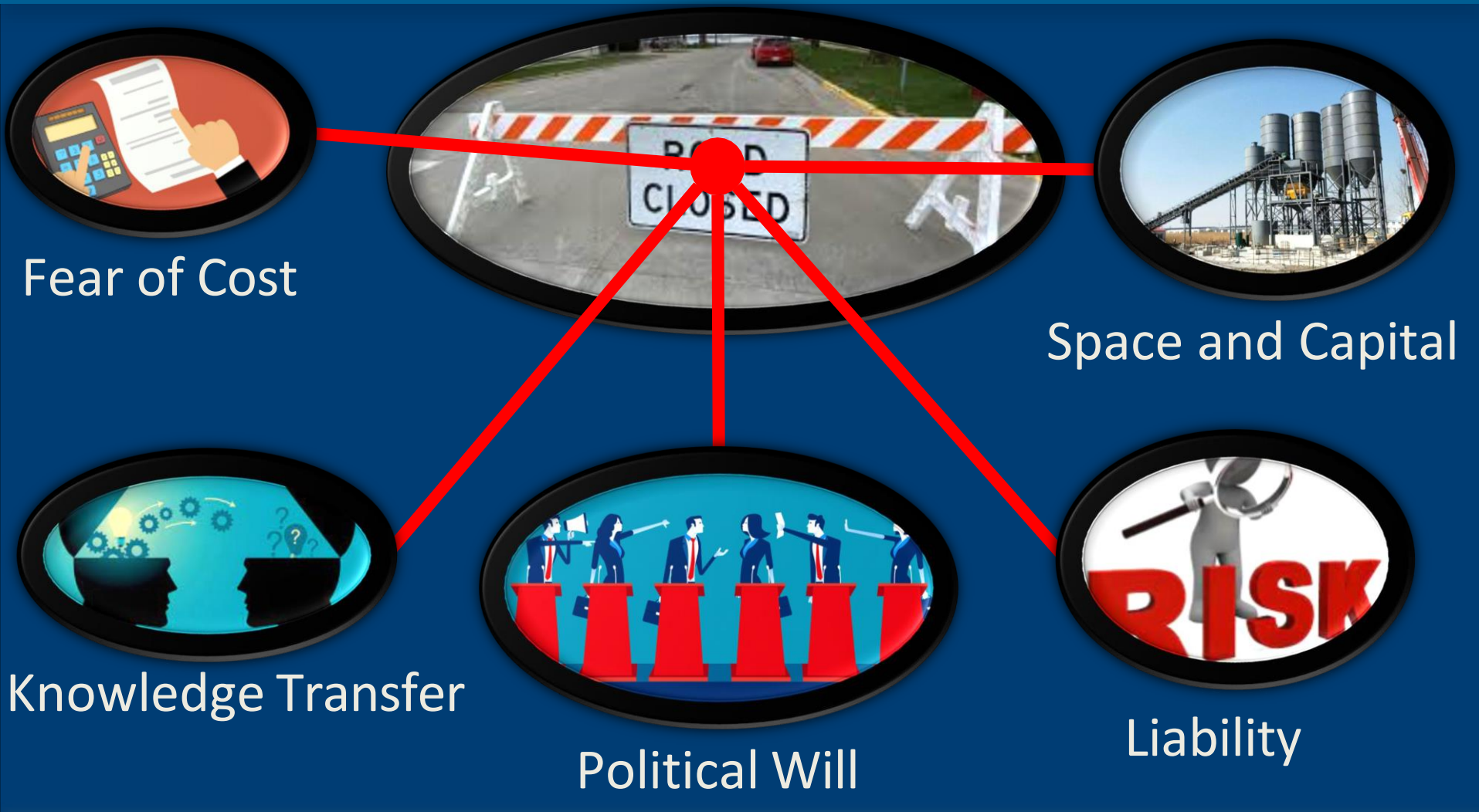
# What is “Low Carbon Concrete”?

- Low carbon concrete is a design goal
- Create concrete that has a lower amount of embodied carbon than the average concrete mixture
- Constantly changing target
- Embodied carbon - expressed as **global warming potential (GWP)** – Quantifiable measurement of greenhouse gas emission’s impact on warming





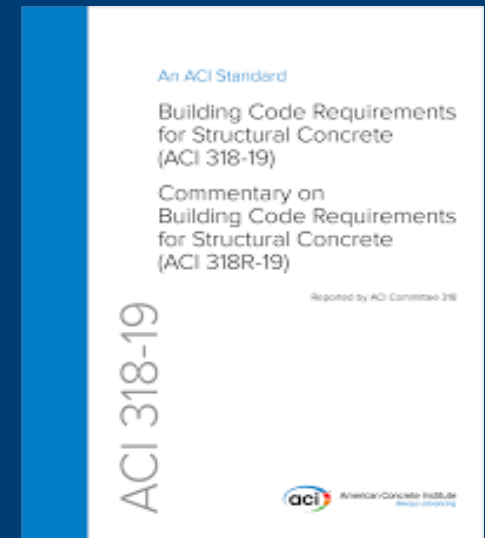
# What's Stopping Us?



# What is needed?

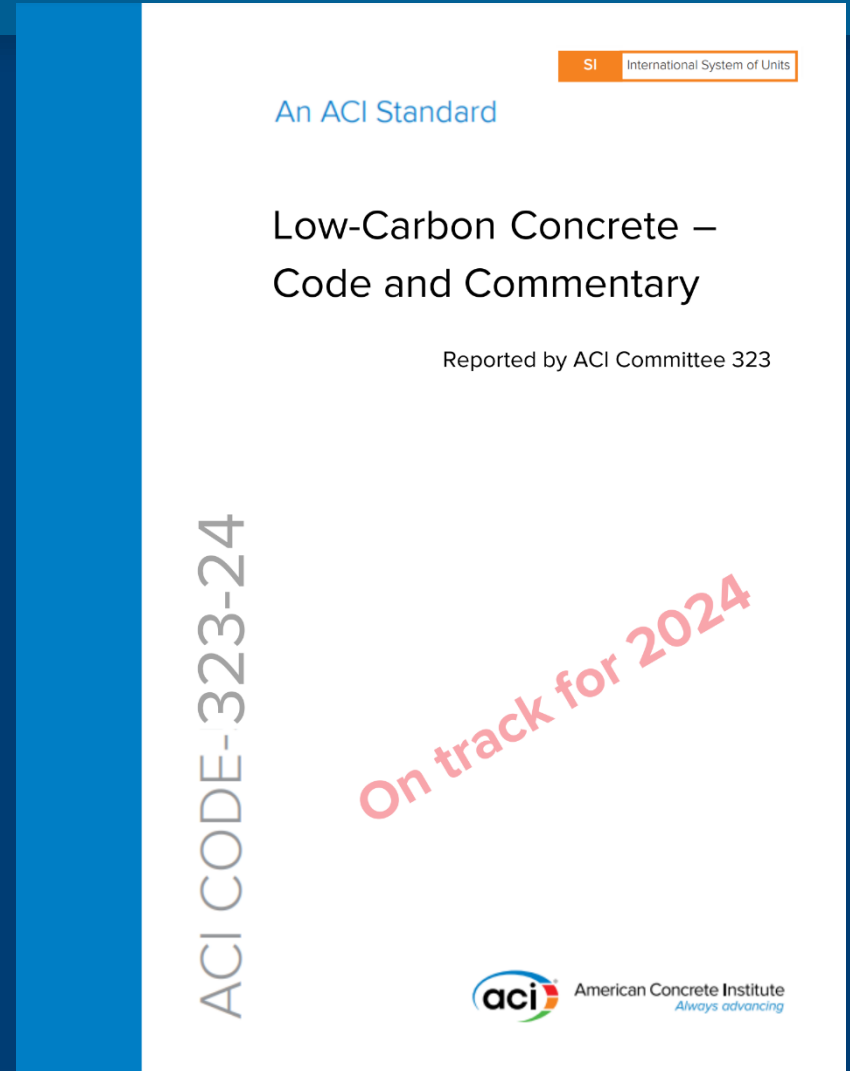
- How to determine the GWP?
- What limits to set?
- How do GWP limits interact with life-safety codes?

Handwritten mathematical derivations for Greenhouse Gas Potential (GWP) calculation, showing various formulas involving  $\frac{dU}{dt}$ ,  $\frac{dH}{dt}$ ,  $\frac{dS}{dt}$ , and  $\frac{dV}{dt}$ .



# ACI Code Committee 323

- Here is first ACI answer:



# ACI Participation at COP28



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*Always advancing*



Global Network of ACI  
■ Country with ACI Partner, Chapter, Student Chapter



An ACI Standard  
Low-Carbon Concrete –  
Code and Commentary  
Reported by ACI Committee 323  
ACI CODE-323-24  
On track for 2024











# Part III – FRP-REINFORCED CONCRETE

- 1) ACI 440.11-22 Building Code & Commentary
- 2) Field Applications
- 3) Conclusions

# Corrosion in Steel-RC

Protecting ferrous reinforcement from corrosion is the current state-of-practice (e.g., additional concrete cover, membranes, corrosion inhibiting admixtures, bar epoxy coating)

Reinforced concrete (RC) constructed with **fiber reinforced polymer (FRP)** rebars does not have durability and longevity issues present when using traditional carbon-steel

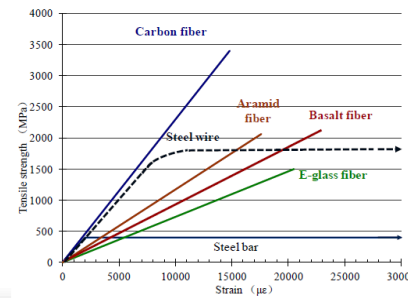
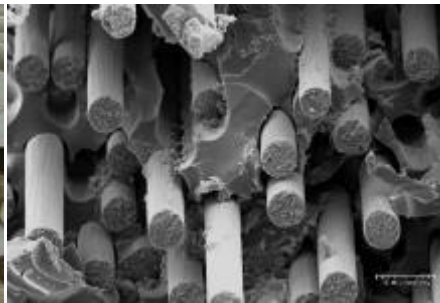


# Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) Bars

There are many fiber and resin types

R&D of rebars with E-CR glass fibers in a vinyl ester resin has shown satisfactory performance

GFRP rebars must meet the requirements of ASTM D7957 that includes physical and mechanical properties based on ASTM test methods for strength of straight and bent bars



# ACI 440.11-22 Building Code & Commentary

ACI CODE-440.11-22

IN-LB

Inch-Pound Units

An ACI Standard  
An ANSI Standard

## Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete Reinforced with Glass Fiber- Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) Bars—Code and Commentary

Reported by ACI Committee 440



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of Composites into  
Infrastructure



# ACI 440.11-22: GFRP Building Code

“Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete Reinforced with Glass Fiber-Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) Bars” (“Code”) provides minimum requirements for the materials, design, and detailing of structural concrete buildings and, where applicable, nonbuilding structures reinforced with GFRP bars that conform to the requirements of ASTM D7957



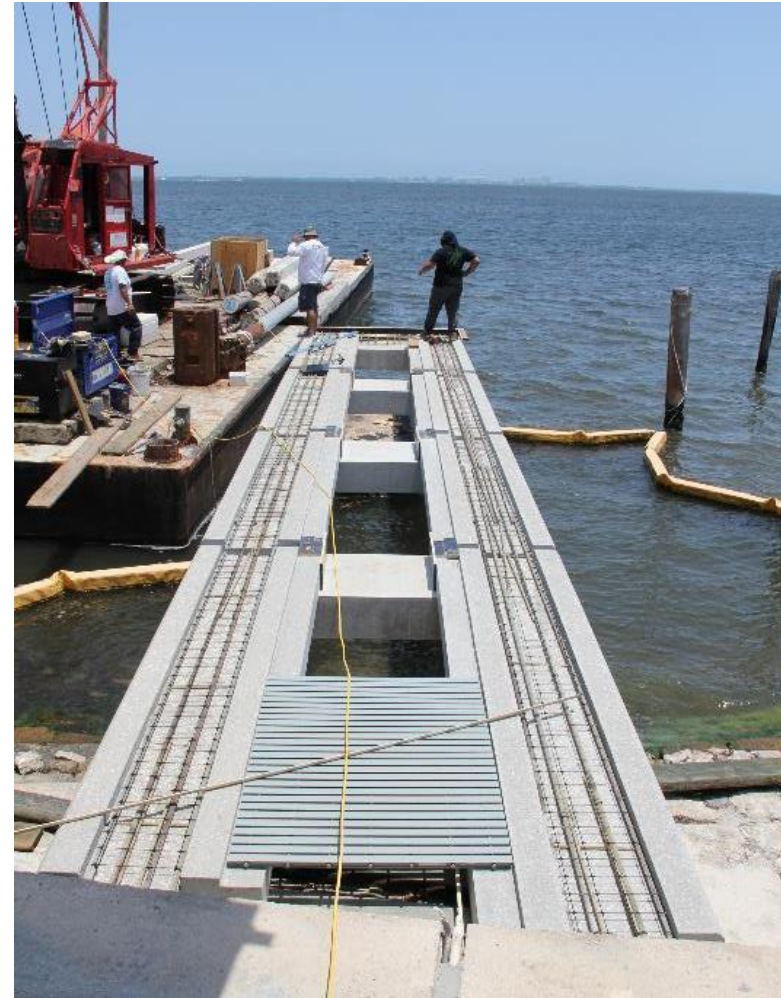
## Field Applications

- iDock (Marine Dock) in Miami, FL
- SR-A1A Flagler Beach (Segment 3), FL
- SeaHive© at Miami Beach, FL

# iDock Construction Intent - Miami, Florida

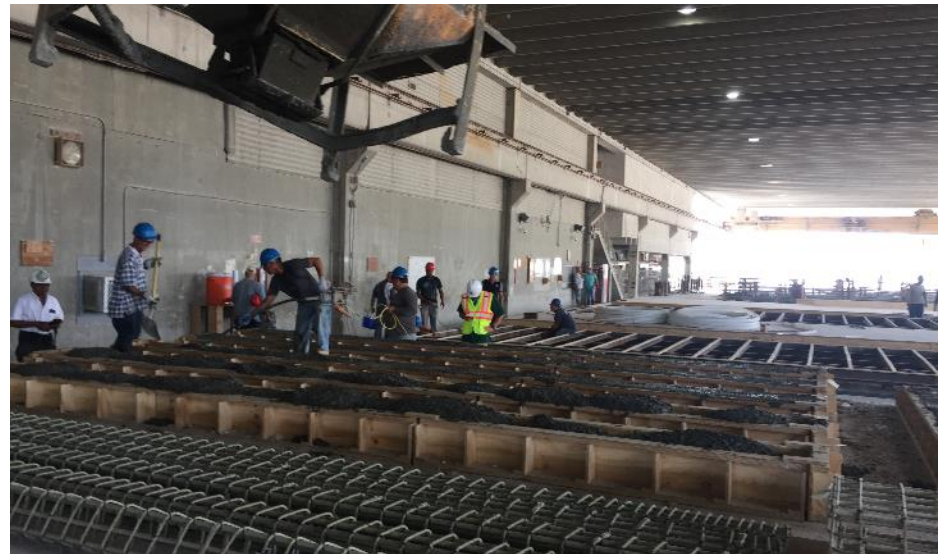
- Replacement of hurricane Irma-damaged dock with GFRP-RC precast concrete components, CIP BFRP-RC continuity pour and GFRP gratings
- Demo prototype for precast-concrete dock modular-system, that exhibits extended durability and resilience to extreme events

Benzecry, V., M. Rossini, C. Morales, S. Nolan and A. Nanni, "Design of Marine Dock Using Concrete Mixed with Seawater and FRP Bars," J. Compos. Constr., 2021, 25(1): 05020006, DOI: 10.1061/(ASCE)CC.1943-5614.0001100, 13 pp.





# Precast Construction



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Infrastructure



# Precast Construction



# Traditional vs. Innovative Approach



- **Traditional:** precast steel-PC piles and cast in-place RC caps with timber decking
- **Innovative:** precast modular-units with rapid assembly time with GFRP & BFRP reinforcement to eliminate corrosion-related maintenance and provide higher resistance



# iDock Precast Element Installation



## Field Applications

- iDock (Marine Dock) in Miami, FL
- **SR-A1A Flagler Beach (Segment 3), FL**
- SeaHive© at Miami Beach, FL



# Flagler Beach, FL (SR-A1A) Damage & Recovery

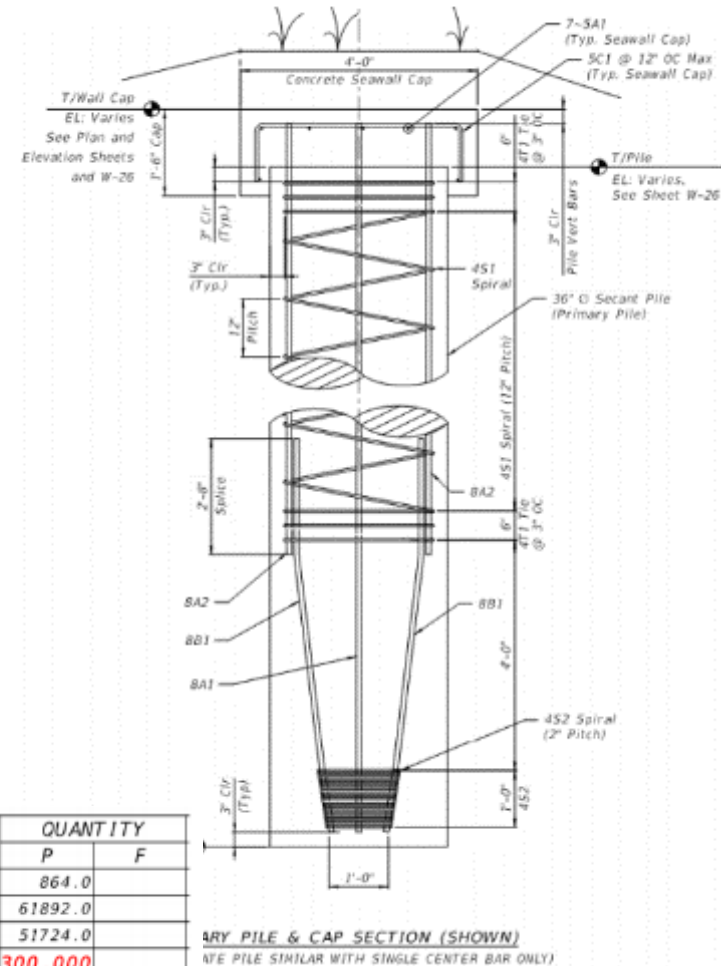


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# GFRP Design for Secant-Pile Seawall

- 4920-ft. long secant pile seawall
- First FDOT project with about 1.5 million linear feet of GFRP bars
- Secant piles in high chloride content sand, high water table and periodically exposed to salt spray



WALL NO.	PAY ITEM NO.	PAY ITEM DESCRIPTION	LOCATION STA. TO STA.	SIDE	UNIT	QUANTITY	
						P	F
W1 Thru W11	0400-4-11	Class IV Concrete (Retaining Wall Cap)		Rt	CY	864.0	
	415-10-5	Fiber Reinforced Polymer Bars, #5			LF	61892.0	
	455-112-6	Pile Auger Grouted, 36" Diameter			LF	51724.0	
		#5 GFRP Reinforcing Bars	approx.		FT	300,000	
		#8 GFRP Reinforcing Bars	approx.		FT	960,000	



# GFRP Bars - Cage Assembly



# Guide Wall for GFRP Secant-Piles



Guide wall trench boxes installed to assure pile alignment

Secant-piles installed via guide wall form



Removal of steel formwork prior to drilling secant-piles



# Flagler Beach - GFRP Pile Cage Installation



GFRP cage  
installation

Auger-cast primary piles 36 in. in diameter and 36 ft. long  
Secondary piles 18 ft. long

# Continuous Pile-cap and Dune Restoration



Pile-cap placement  
and dune  
restoration/re-  
establishment

Project completed  
in 4½ months





# Learning Outcomes from SR-A1A

- Fall of 2022 after Hurricane Ian

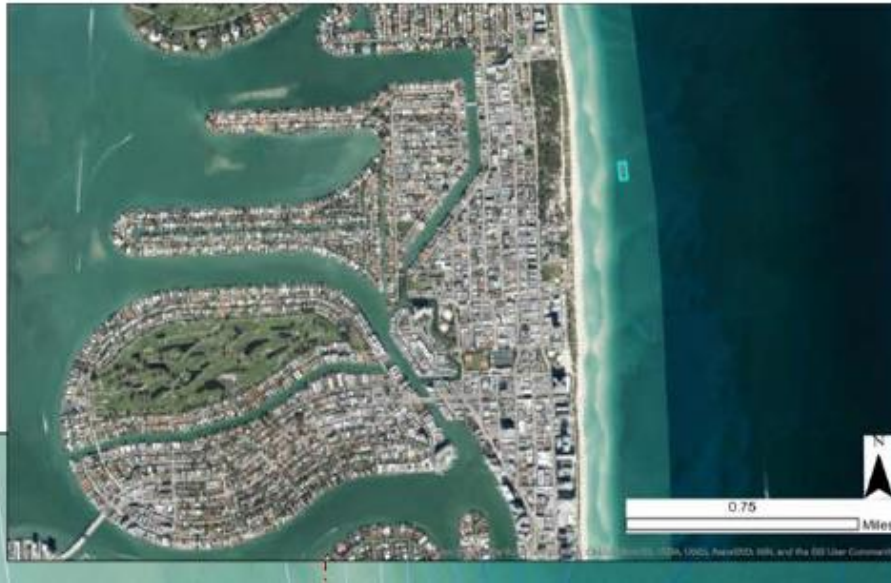


## Field Applications

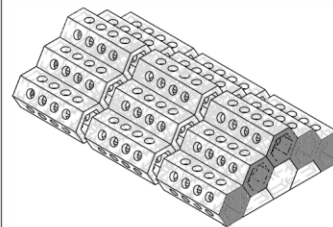
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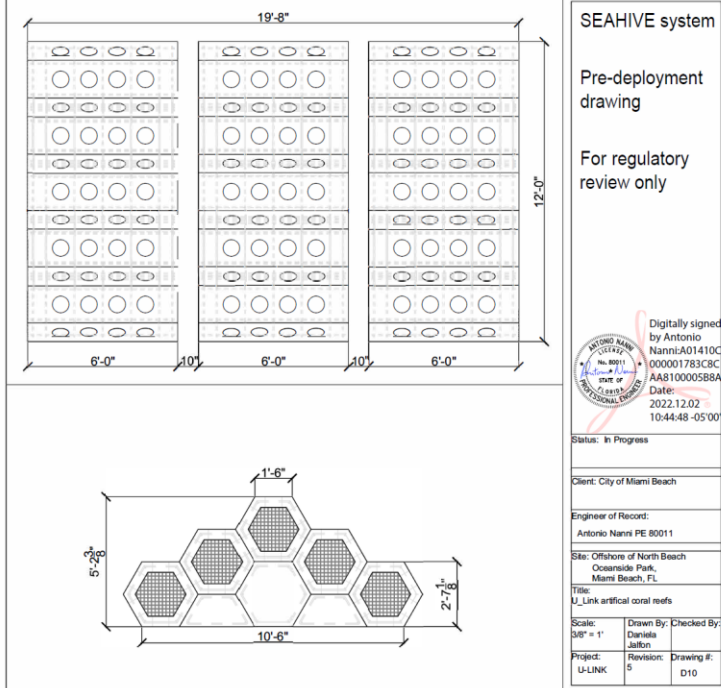
# EcoReef, Miami Beach



## EcoReef with SeaHive®



Note: A 10" spacing between units is required for installation purposes. Terminal end faces will be closed with a fibergrade mesh.



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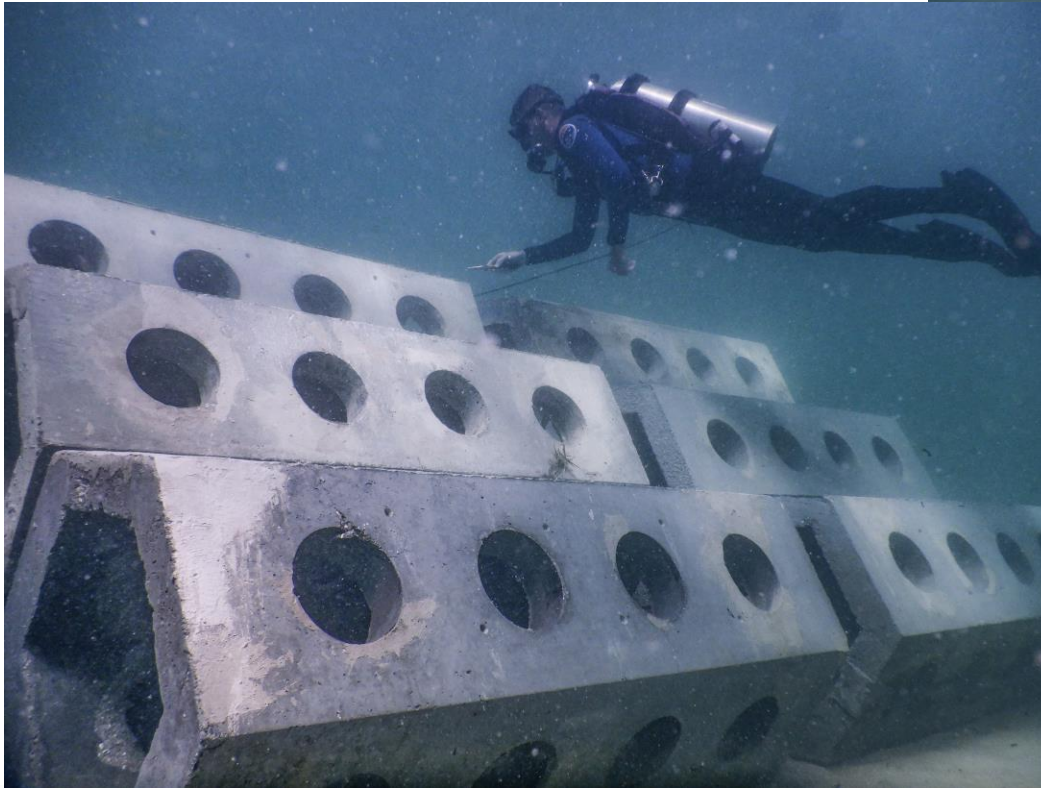
# EcoReef, Miami Beach

EcoReef  
Miami Beach, March 2023



# EcoReef, Miami Beach

EcoReef  
Miami Beach, March 2023





# EcoReef, Miami Beach

EcoReef, Miami  
Beach, October 2023



an oasis in a  
sandy desert





# Part III – FRP-REINFORCED CONCRETE

1. ACI 440.11-22 Building Code & Commentary
  - a. GFRP Bars as per ASTM D7957
  - b. Mechanical Properties
  - c. Specifics of the Code
2. Field Applications
3. Conclusions

# CONCLUSIONS

Due to compelling sustainability and resilience reasons, FRP reinforcement could be a suitable replacement for conventional steel in RC structures exposed to aggressive environments

This technology would allow to:

- Save fresh water and other natural resources
- Eliminate corrosion and reduce maintenance costs
- Increase the service life of concrete structures
- Improve constructability by lowering transportation and installation costs



**Thank you!**

**Questions?**