



Setting the Standards for  
Home Energy Efficiency

# Results of Reconsideration Ballot of the RESNET Board of Directors on Proceeding with Development of ANSI Candidate Standard on Calculating Embodied Carbon July 5, 2023

On the original ballot of the RESNET Board on recommending that the RESNET Standards Management Board proceed with the standard development process and appoint a Standards Development Committee to oversee the development of a new ANSI standard on the calculation and reporting of embodied carbon in dwelling and sleeping units David Beam and Curt Rich voted no.

The reason why David Beam voted no was:

*I have significant concerns that we could accurately do this. The variables are far too great. Let's stick to things that we know and are good at versus the abstract that could harm the organization's reputation.*

The reason why Curt Rich voted no was:

*The accuracy of environmental product declarations and the life cycle assessments that they are based on remain unregulated and therefore highly susceptible to human error, manipulation or are otherwise flawed because of inaccurate data. As a consequence, EPD's, while providing general guidance on a products embodied carbon content, cannot be relied upon to provide accurate information leading to a consistently fair comparison between competing products in a category.*

*Inability to accurately measure carbon footprint on a consistent basis. The lack of consistent, high-quality life cycle inventory (LCI) data for basic raw materials means that the results of LCAs communicated through EPDs are unable to provide for accurate measurement of carbon footprint improvements.*

*Inability to evaluate competitive product EPD's on an apples-to-apples basis. Many EPDs currently use general data instead of supplier specific data and, depending on the tool that a company uses to develop the LCA/EPD, the data base of each tool can be different. For example, "LCA for Experts" has one database while SimaPro uses different data sets. As a result, current EPD's for competing products are not always comparable. Such variance is a problem when seeking to use EPD's to guide product selection based on GWP.*

*RESNET should refrain from developing a standard for evaluating building material embodied carbon emissions until EPA develops regulatory oversight of LCA's, product category rules and EPD's that guarantee such tools will provide accurate assessments that builders can use without fear of relying on an assessment that may make material misrepresentations on product carbon content.*

A reconsideration ballot was released that noted Mr. Beam's and Rich's no vote and contained their reasons for voting no.

The following are the results of the reconsideration electronic ballot:

**Shall the RESNET Board of Directors adopt the following finding to the RESNET Standards Management Board:**

***Based on the RESNET Embodied Carbon Advisory Committee's ANSI PINS abstract, the RESNET Board of Directors recognizes it is in RESNET's best interest to develop an ANSI standard for a consistent calculation methodology for embodied carbon in low rise homes. This candidate standard would complement current RESNET standards and utilize materials data from RESNET Standard 301 rated building construction feature data. The RESNET Board recommends that the RESNET Standards Management Board proceed with the standard development process and appoint a Standards Development Committee to oversee the development of a new ANSI standard on the calculation and reporting of embodied carbon in dwelling and sleeping units.***

Yes (14)	No (3)	Abstain (0)	Not Voting (2)
Sandra Adomatis	David Beam		Emelie Cuppernell Glitch
Jacob Atalla	Lindsey Elton*		Chris McTaggart
Philip Fairey	Curt Rich		
Matt Gingrich			
David Goldstein			
John Hensley			
Leo Jansen			
Mark Johnson			
Cy Kilburn			
Abe Kruger			
Robert Pegues			
Jonathan Risch			
Brian Shanks			
Clayton Traylor			

\* Lindsey Elton's reason for changing her vote to no:

*Upon further consideration, I would like to change my original YES vote to NO for the following reasons. It's not about whether or not we can do it, but rather about our need to do it right now with everything else we have committed to.*

*While I am very intrigued and excited about this opportunity, I am also hesitant to add another new standard to juggle at this time. I would like to put this on hold and revisit after we've given more thought into the implementation strategies, alongside our new Carbon Index, ESG initiatives, etc. Our staff and committees have done amazing work and I think that we owe it to everyone involved to really see how each piece fits, what resources are needed to maximize their potential, how much (limited) staff time do we dedicate to what and when we should be taking steps, etc. Similar to our membership and marketing, we have all of these great ideas and initiatives, but we are missing the strategic document that guides our decisions and our timing.*

*I would love to see this brought up again once we have a better handle on where each piece fits in our organizational strategy and timeline.*

The RESNET Board of Directors voted to recommend that the RESNET Standards Management Board proceed with the standard development process and appoint a Standards Development Committee to oversee the development of a new ANSI standard on the calculation and reporting of embodied carbon in dwelling and sleeping units.