



BAMCORE®

BamCore Prime Wall™ System (Generation 3)

The BamCore Prime Wall™ is a high-performance framing solution for commercial and residential low-rise construction. This patented hybrid bamboo-wood system eliminates up to 90% of thermal bridges for enhanced energy efficiency. BamCore's Load Optimized Biogenic Industrialized Construction (LOBIC) methodology and 3D BIM technology enable builders to reduce waste and double efficiency, halving time and crew size without requiring cranes. Twice as strong, the Prime Wall outperforms conventional stud-built walls and stores more carbon than is emitted during harvest and manufacturing. This revolutionary system offers cost, time, and labor savings while swiftly aligning with ESG goals.



Performance dashboard

Features & functionality

When comparing the high-performance Prime Wall™ to conventional 2 x 6 wood framing:

Nearly twice as strong¹, it can stop a small caliber bullet²

50% improved thermal performance lowers operating costs & emissions³

50% improved acoustic dampening⁴

50+% faster to install with half the crew and no cranes

Low to no rework waste

Nail patterns & MEP mapping for fast, easy installation

¹ ASTM E72 Assembly Vertical load

² NIJ-STD-0108.01 ballistics

³ ASTM C1363 Assembly Thermal Resistance

⁴ ASTM E90 Assembly Acoustic Transmission

Environment & materials

Timber bamboo vs wood:

Sequesters 4x more MT CO₂ per hectare

Sustainably harvest 20% annually (vs. 25-75 year rotation cycles)

No clear-cutting, avoiding a mass carbon event and loss of biodiversity

Needs one fifth the land area to grow

Restores degraded lands & provides phytoremediation

Certifications, rating systems & disclosures:

NGBS Certified Green



Visit BamCore for more product information:

[The Prime Wall™](#)

MasterFormat® 06 12, 06 16, 06 17

[Technical Evaluation Report TER 1507-03](#)

[Typical Details 1](#)

[Typical Details 2](#)

For technical help, contact BamCore or call (707) 737-0288

[See LCA, interpretation & rating systems](#)



SM Transparency Report (EPD)™

VERIFICATION

LCA

3rd-party reviewed



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3rd-party verified



Validity: 2023/10/23 – 2028/10/22

Decl #: BAM – 20231023 – 001

This environmental product declaration (EPD) was externally verified by Industrial Ecology Consultants, according to ISO 21930:2017; UL Part A; UL Part B: Structural and Architectural Wood Products EPD Requirements; and ISO 14025:2006.

Industrial Ecology Consultants

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Industrial Ecology Consultants

SUMMARY

Reference PCR

ULE PCR Part B: Structural and Architectural Wood Products EPD requirements v1.1, 2019

Regions; system boundaries

North America; Cradle-to-gate

Declared unit / reference service life:

1 cubic meter (m³) of wall panel; 75 years

LCIA methodology: TRACI 2.1

LCA software; LCI database

SimaPro Developer 9.5; ecoinvent 3.8

LCA conducted by: BamCore & Sustainable Minds

Public LCA:

Life Cycle Assessment of BamCore Prime Wall Panel

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LCA results & interpretation

Life cycle assessment

Scope and summary

Cradle to gate Cradle to gate with options Cradle to grave

Product description

The BamCore Prime Wall™ system serves as a structural framing system for commercial and residential buildings. The panels are made from a hybrid of bamboo and plywood and serve as interior and exterior of the dual-panel wall assembly. The panels are attached to top and bottom wood plates and connected to adjacent panels with lap joints. The panels are customized to project-specific engineered plans via off-site fabrication.

Declared unit

The declared unit is one cubic meter (m³) of wall panel. The results in this report are also expressed in one square foot (ft²) of nominal 1-1/4 inch (in) thick BamCore Prime Wall™ panel so that they can be more easily applied.

Manufacturing data

Reporting period: September 2021 – August 2022
Locations: Primary data were collected from BamCore's plant in Ocala, Florida. Secondary data were collected from selected raw material suppliers and external literature.

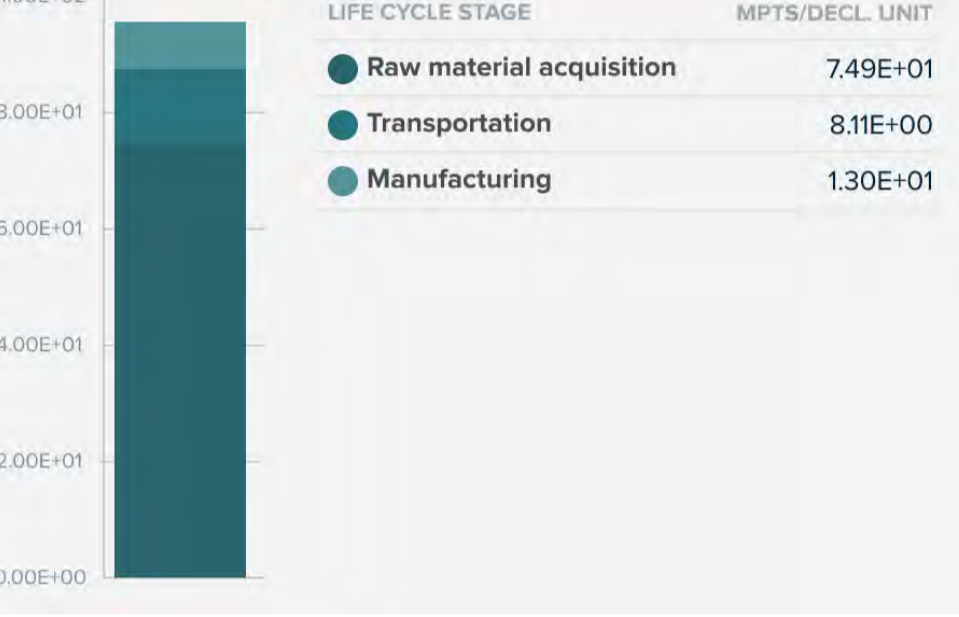
Sensitivity analysis

Sensitivity analyses were performed to check the robustness of the results where the highest potential environmental impacts are occurring. As a significant portion of impacts are attributed to the electricity consumed at the manufacturing facility, the amount of electricity consumed at each site was changed ±20%. The results show that GWP impacts in the A3 stage vary by ±18% while changes in overall cradle-to-gate emissions change by ~7%.

Material composition greater than 1% by weight

MATERIAL	% WT.
Plywood	50-60%
Bamboo	40-50%
Adhesive	1-3%
Others	<1%

Total impacts by life cycle stage [mPts/decl unit]



What's causing the greatest impacts

All life cycle stages

Across all the environmental indicators considered within the production stage (A1-A3), raw material acquisition (A1) contributes the most to the total impacts, with manufacturing operations (A3) contributing the second most. Another key finding is that the cradle-to-gate (A1-A3) global warming impact potential to produce a Prime Wall™ panel is less than the biogenic carbon storage across the same system boundary, confirming the carbon-negativity of the product across the production stage.

Raw materials acquisition

Raw material acquisition (A1) contributes the most to the total impacts across the panel's cradle-to-gate life cycle. Harvesting and processing of plywood and bamboo are the main contributors in this stage.

Transportation

Transportation of raw materials (A2) is a relatively small contributor to the cradle-to-gate life cycle impacts of a panel in comparison with the other life cycle stages (A1 and A3). Materials are transported via truck and sea freight.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing (A3) is the second highest contributor to most impact categories. As is expected for highly engineered products, the primary driver of environmental impacts within the manufacturing stage is the energy required to run the machinery. However, impacts from the manufacturing stage are lower than the upstream transportation for three impact categories: smog, acidification, and ecotoxicity.

Taking a dynamic approach

Biobased construction materials provide carbon storage for the life of the building and in the process drive building decarbonization. When discussing carbon storage in buildings, the choice of accounting method is important because it can lead to counter-productive conclusions. Static life cycle assessments consider the potential impact of greenhouse gases at a fixed time horizon (typically 100 years). Static LCAs often report biogenic carbon either using a '0/0' approach, implying any carbon sequestered initially will be re-emitted, or a '-1/+1' approach, including it as "negative emissions" in life cycle stage A and an equivalent positive emission in life cycle stage C. In both cases, the speed of the carbon capture (rotation cycle) of the biogenic material is completely ignored.

Alternatively, dynamic life cycle assessments account for the timing of emissions. The key difference is the focus on the rotation period or the time a new plant needs to grow to reach harvest maturity. This is important as the carbon benefit of bio-based construction is not the transfer of biogenic carbon from nature to the building stock, but the carbon sequestration that occurs with the replacement plant. Results of dynamic LCAs show that fast-growing materials achieve net atmospheric cooling impacts much sooner due to their shorter rotations. This is because the emissions from the production of the building material are directly compensated by the regrowth of the new plant, resulting in a net cooling effect on the atmosphere from the regrowth. The faster the regrowth, the faster or more near-term the lowering of atmospheric temperatures. In contrast, materials with longer rotation periods contribute in the short term to atmospheric warming and only achieve a cooling effect decades after implementation into a building.

Wall assemblies made of fast-growing fibers like bamboo (which is harvestable annually after reaching maturity in 6-9 years) are found to have a negative impact on radiative forcing and, in fact, prove to be better than climate neutral. For these reasons, BamCore is an adamant supporter of leveraging dynamic approaches and adopting fast-growing bio-based materials for use in the built environment. BamCore believes that over time, the policies driving carbon accounting will align more fully with the underlying science of carbon sequestration and climate change.

[See how we make it greener](#)

LCA results

LIFE CYCLE STAGE	RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY	UPSTREAM TRANSPORT	MANUFACTURING
Information modules: Included (X) Excluded (MND)*	(X) A1 Raw material supply	(X) A2 Transport	(X) A3 Manufacturing
*Modules A4, A5, B, C, and D are excluded.			

SM Single Score [Learn about SM Single Score results](#)

Impacts per cubic meter of wall panel	7.49E+01 mPts	8.11E+00 mPts	1.30E+01 mPts
Materials or processes contributing >20% to total impacts in each life cycle stage	Energy consumed during bamboo harvesting and pre-processing (electricity and fuels).	Truck transportation to bamboo pre-processing facility and production facility.	Energy consumed during panel production (electricity and fuels).

TRACI v2.1 results per declared unit (1 cubic meter)

LIFE CYCLE STAGE	A1 RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY	A2 TRANSPORT	A3 MANUFACTURING	
Ecological damage				
Impact category	Unit			
Acidification	kg SO ₂ eq	3.22E+00	1.46E+00	6.24E-01
Eutrophication	kg N eq	3.91E+00	6.34E-02	1.49E-01
Global warming	kg CO ₂ eq	3.44E+02	1.26E+02	3.38E+02
Ozone depletion	kg CFC-11 eq	7.35E-06	1.92E-06	3.39E-06
Human health damage				
Impact category	Unit			
Carcinogenics	CTU _h	4.51E-04	1.08E-05	1.38E-05
Non-carcinogenics	CTU _h	5.32E-01	1.01E-01	2.65E-01
Respiratory effects	kg PM _{2.5} eq	5.04E-06	9.90E-08	7.80E-07
Smog	kg O ₃ eq	9.72E+01	2.67E+01	7.90E+00
Additional environmental information				
Impact category	Unit			
Fossil fuel depletion	MJ, LHV	6.76E+02	2.49E+02	4.85E+02
Ecotoxicity	CTU _e	1.30E+03	2.06E+02	3.03E+01

See the additional content required by the UL Part B for Structural and Architectural Wood Products on page 4 of the [Transparency Report PDF](#).

TRACI v2.1 results per square foot

LIFE CYCLE STAGE	A1 RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY	A2 TRANSPORT	A3 MANUFACTURING	
Ecological damage				
Impact category	Unit			
Acidification	kg SO ₂ eq	9.49E-03	4.30E-03	1.84E-03
Eutrophication	kg N eq	1.15E-02	1.87E-04	4.40E-04
Global warming	kg CO ₂ eq	1.01E+00	3.73E-01	9.96E-01
Ozone depletion	kg CFC-11 eq	2.17E-08	5.66E-09	1.00E-08
Human health damage				
Impact category	Unit			
Carcinogenics	CTU _h	1.33E-06	3.20E-08	4.08E-08
Non-carcinogenics	CTU _h	1.57E-03	2.99E-04	7.82E-04
Respiratory effects	kg PM _{2.5} eq	1.49E-08	2.92E-01	2.30E-09
Smog	kg O ₃ eq	2.87E-01	7.88E-02	2.33E-02
Additional environmental information				
Impact category	Unit			
Fossil fuel depletion	MJ, LHV	1.99E+00	7.34E-01	1.43E+00
Ecotoxicity	CTU _e	3.82E+00	6.07E-01	8.95E-02

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References

- LCA Background Report**
 BamCore Prime Wall™ Panel LCA Background Report (public version), BamCore 2023. SimaPro Developer 9.5, ecoinvent 3.8 database.
- PCRs**
 ISO 21930:2017 serves as the core PCR along UL Part A.
- ULE PCR Part A: Life Cycle Assessment Calculation Rules and Report Requirements v3.2**
 December, 2018. Technical Advisory Panel members reviewed and provided feedback on content written by UL Environment and USGBC. Past and present members of the Technical Advisory Panel are listed in the PCR.
- ULE PCR Part B: Structural and Architectural Wood Products EPD requirements v1.1**
 May 2020. PCR review conducted by: Dr. Thomas Gloria (Industrial Ecology Consultants); Dr. Indro Ganguly (University of Washington); and Dr. Sahoo (University of Georgia).
- Sustainable Minds serves as the program operator: SM Transparency Report / EPD Framework Governance and Program Rules Version 3.2 | August, 2023**
- ISO 14025, "Sustainability in buildings and civil engineering works -- Core rules for environmental product declarations of construction products and services"**
- Download PDF** SM Transparency Report, which includes the additional EPD content required by the UL Environment PCR.

SM Transparency Reports (TR) are ISO 14025 Type III environmental declarations (EPD) that enable purchasers and users to compare the potential environmental performance of products on a life cycle basis. Environmental declarations from different programs (ISO 14025) may not be comparable. Comparison of the environmental performance using EPD information shall consider all relevant information modules over the full life cycle of the products within the building. This PCR allows EPD comparability only when the same functional requirements between products are ensured and the requirements of ISO 21930:2017 §5.5 are met. It should be noted that different LCA software and background LCI datasets may lead to differences results for upstream or downstream of the life cycle stages declared. LCIA results are relative expressions and do not predict impacts on category endpoints, the exceeding of thresholds, safety margins or risks. These six impact categories are globally deemed mature enough to be included in Type III environmental declarations. Other categories are being developed and defined and LCA should continue making advances in their development. However, the EPD users shall not use additional measures for comparative purposes. Comparison of the environmental performance of structural and architectural wood products using EPD information shall be based on the product's use and impacts at the construction works level, and therefore EPDs may not be used for comparability purposes when not considering the construction works energy use phase as instructed under this PCR. Full conformance with the PCR for structural and architectural wood products allows EPD comparability only when all stages of a life cycle have been considered, when they comply with all referenced standards, use the same sub-category Part B PCR, and use equivalent scenarios with respect to construction works. However, variations and deviations are possible. Example of variations: Different LCA software and background LCI datasets may lead to differences results for upstream or downstream of the life cycle stages declared.

Rating systems

- The intent is to reward project teams for selecting products from manufacturers who have verified improved life-cycle environmental performance.
- LEED BD+C: New Construction v4 - LEED v4**
 Building product disclosure and optimization
Environmental product declarations
- Industry-wide (generic) EPD 1/3 product
 - Product-specific Type III EPD 1 product
- LEED BD+C: New Construction v4.1 - LEED v4.1**
 Building product disclosure and optimization
Environmental product declarations
- Industry-wide (generic) EPD 1 product
 - Product-specific Type III EPD 1.5 product
- Collaborative for High Performance Schools National Criteria MW 7.1 – Environmental Product Declarations**
- Third-party certified type III EPD 2 points
- Green Globes for New Construction and Sustainable Interiors Materials and resources**
- NC 3-5-1-2 Path B: Prescriptive Path for Building Core and Shell
 - NC 3-5-2-2 and SI 4-1-2 Path B: Prescriptive Path for Interior Fit-outs
- BREEAM New Construction 2018**
 Mat O2 - Environmental impacts from construction products
Environmental Product Declarations (EPD)
- Industry-average EPD .5 points
 - Multi-product specific EPD .75 points
 - Product-specific EPD 1 point

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How we make it greener

Prime Wall

Collapse all

See LCA results by life cycle stage

RAW MATERIALS ACQUISITION

BamCore is actively seeking out opportunities to work with suppliers to improve the efficiency and sustainability of their harvesting and processing operations. High-yield recovery is one of the key ways BamCore is trying to increase biogenic fiber utilization as a way of increasing efficiency and decreasing waste. Bamboo culm flattening and veneer peeling are both examples of approaches we are exploring. Similar to efforts around reducing the impact of waste generated from BamCore's manufacturing processes, the company is exploring alternative uses for the waste generated during bamboo harvesting, such as biochar.



TRANSPORTATION

All packaging plywood that BamCore receives from suppliers (predominantly as pallets) is reused to transport panels between BamCore facilities and to end customers. In addition, wood dunnage and non-conforming panels are reused as packaging materials. The company is also evaluating more sustainable transportation partners including those that use alternative biofuel for shipping or leverage electric fleets.



MANUFACTURING

BamCore recycles/reuses materials whenever possible. For example, plastic sheets and wood dunnage are reused multiple times within operations and outgoing pallets are all made with plywood from incoming pallets or rejected panels. Furthermore, steel strapping used in Ocala is recycled and all bamboo sawdust is sent to a chicken farm. BamCore is also looking into non-toxic, bio-based adhesives to further reduce embodied emissions. To address energy consumption, BamCore is working to reduce the overall use of electricity, as well as utilize clean energy sources, predominantly by installing solar panels at their facility. Lastly, to reduce impacts of waste generation, alternative uses for the bio-based material are being explored, such as burning for energy or producing biochar, which has several environmental benefits of its own.



OTHER (USE, END OF LIFE)

BamCore delivers a greener building envelope on multiple dimensions. The Prime Wall™ presents a 76% lower mold risk than a 2x6 wall ([Thermal and Mold Index Comparison](#)). The Prime Wall™ also significantly mitigates sound pollution, enjoying an OITC rating of 42 – a substantial and perceptible 10-point improvement over a 2x6 stud wall. Additionally, BamCore aims to further decarbonize its Prime Wall™ through a series of innovations funded by the [DOE's HESTIA program](#). These include replacing the wood core with faster-growing, annually harvested alternatives, substituting high embodied carbon insulation with bio-based equivalents, and replacing gypsum with a thin, factory-applied fire-resistant layer. The initiative also seeks to leverage circular design practices to enhance material reusability and end-of-life options.



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