

# A4 2022 Quarterly Webinar:

## Forging Tighter Connections Between Goals for Climate and Safer Chemicals

Wednesday, July 12, 2022  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM ET

TOPICS IN  
ALTERNATIVES ASSESSMENT

Free Webinar Series Hosted by the Association  
for the Advancement of Alternatives Assessment





## HOW WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE

- Advancing the science, practice, and policy of alternatives assessment and informed substitution
  - Fostering international and interdisciplinary collaboration
  - Supporting a community of practitioners dedicated to the adoption of safer chemicals
- 

## WHY JOIN A4 OR PARTICIPATE

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- ✓ Best way to engage with A4
- ✓ Get access to member exclusive content
- ✓ Discounts to A4 events

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# Goals for Today



Our Climate Crisis: A current focus on decarbonization solutions related to the use of fossil fuels mainly in the energy and transportation sectors

- These solutions miss the fact that fossil fuels are also the fundamental building blocks of the chemicals and materials ***that are embedded in more than 96% of manufactured goods.***

## ***Goals for today:***

- Learn about current initiatives, policy and business strategies as well as resources and tools that are supporting both climate and safer chemical goals.
- Hear from you: ***what opportunities can you share that are forging tighter connections between needs that are addressing climate mitigation and a transition to safer chemicals?***

# Today's Speakers



**Dorren Fedrigo**  
Climate Action  
Network - Europe



**Mikhail Davis**  
Interface



**Teresa McGrath**  
Healthy Building  
Network

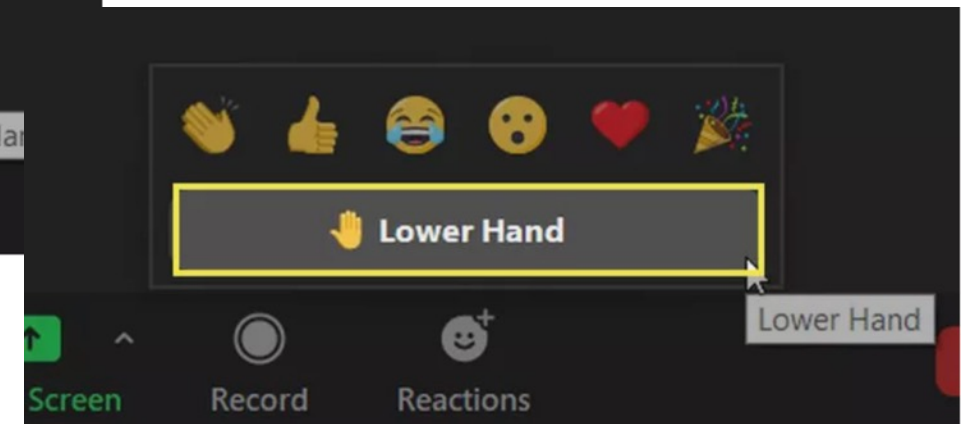
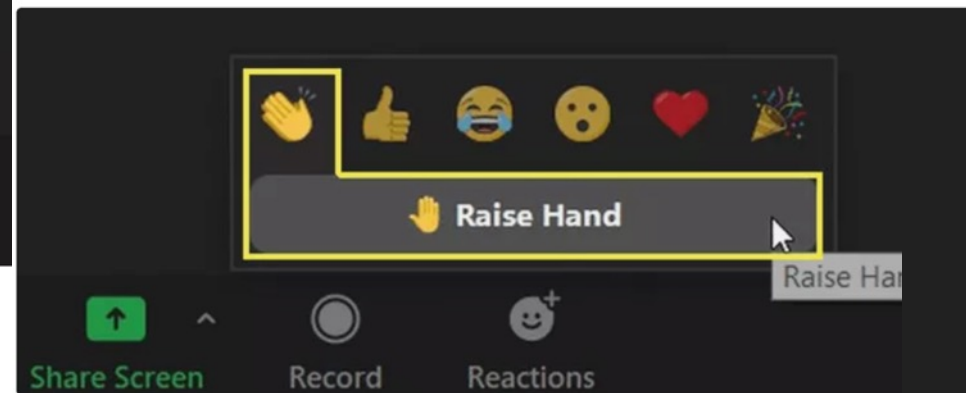
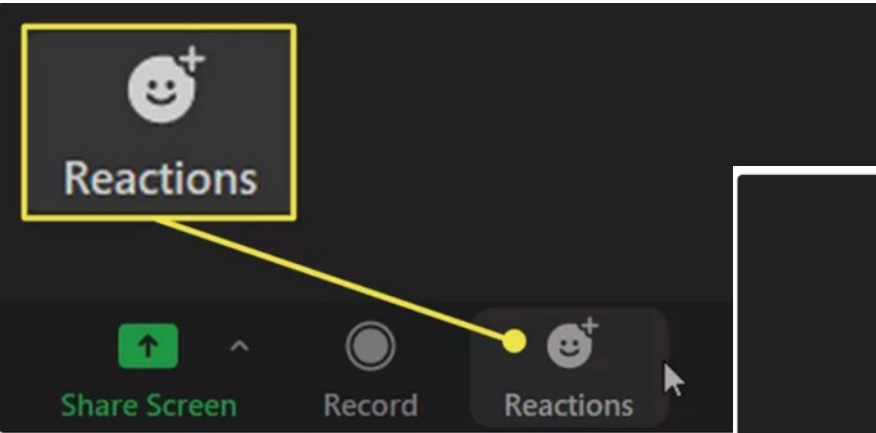


# Webinar Logistics



- We are using Zoom Meeting. **Please keep your lines muted and your videos off.**
- Use “**speaker view**” in Zoom – it will offer the best viewing experience.
- During the Q&A portion of the session, if you wish to ask a question or offer a comment, **please raise your hand** [we’ll show you how in the next slide]
  - Feel free to unmute your line and turn on your video so engage more voices/faces in the conversation.
  - Also feel free to use the chat.
- This session is being recorded and will be posted with the slide deck on the A4 website: [www.saferalternatives.org](http://www.saferalternatives.org)
- An inventory of resources described on this webinar will also be posted on the A4 website.

# We want to engage you during the Q&A - Please raise your hand in Zoom



## To raise your hand

1. Open the “reactions” button
  2. Hit “raise hand” button
  3. Please “lower hand” button afterwards
- ✓ The chat will work too



# **Association for the Advancement of Alternatives Assessment (A4): Webinar on toxics-climate nexus**

Doreen Fedrigo  
Industrial Transformation Policy Coordinator,  
Head of Production and Consumption team  
12.07.2022

# CAN Europe's industry work

- from organisation's historical industrial *decarbonisation* approach to industrial *transformation*, beyond 'technological decarbonisation'
- not just fuel/feedstock shifts and energy efficiency and carbon capture and storage (and use)
- linking climate and biodiversity and pollution through 'circularity' and pushing for 'integrated approaches'
- Taking up from CAN-EEB 2020 Paris Agreement Compatible (PAC) Scenario report and adding more detail to demands
  - ecodesign of **products/production** processes
  - **technologies** in a context (technologies when needed, environmental & social profiles, no burden-shifting)
  - **business models** for sharing/leasing/circularity
  - **demand-side management**
  - **sufficiency** (absolute reduction of resource & energy use)



# CAN Europe's industry work



- **EU ETS** (*Emissions Trading System*)
- CBAM (*Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism*)
- **Ecodesign of Sustainable Products Regulation** (Sustainable product policy initiative) – *ESPR/SPPI*
- IED (*Industrial Emissions Directive*)

priority files



(Soft law)

- **Industrial Forum**
- Alliances
  - (**European Clean Hydrogen Alliance**)
  - (**European Raw Materials Alliance**)
- High Level Group on Energy-Intensive Industries
- **High Level Roundtable on Safe and Sustainable Chemicals**
- **Processes4Planet Partnership Feedback Panel**
- **Just Transition Platform** – steel and horizontal



# CAN Europe's transition pathway recommends



## CAN Europe's transformation pathway recommendations for the chemical industry

*Climate Action Network (CAN) Europe is Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change. With over 185 member organisations active in 38 European countries, representing over 1.700 NGOs and more than 40 million citizens, CAN Europe promotes sustainable climate, energy and development policies throughout Europe.*

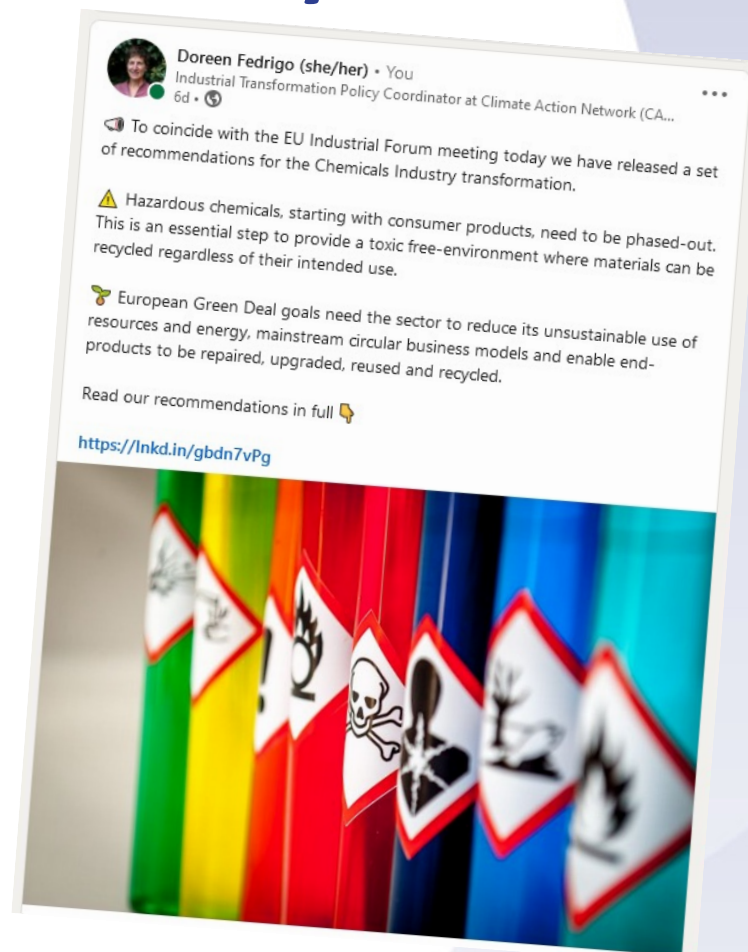
### Executive Summary

The chemical industry is one of the central energy-intensive industries (EIs) to be targeted in EU efforts to reduce environmental and social impacts through the European Green Deal. As a dynamic and heterogeneous sector, it features considerable potential to help address climate-related and wider environmental and social crises. Opportunities to transform the industry to reduce its negative impacts are significant and this transformation must go beyond pure decarbonisation to make it a pollution and toxic-free, net zero emission, circular, and socially just industry.

The sector's transformation needs are various, not least because of its extreme dependency on fossil fuels and its unsustainable product profiles – whether as pesticides, chemicals or plastics, many of its products are problematic. The transformation that began with a sea-change revolution in chemicals management legislation is complex and explains why the EU has published a Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability while also introducing a chemicals chapter to an EIs transition pathway process to be published in late 2022. Instead of addressing key negative impacts at the heart of its business activities - especially its fossil fuel dependency for both energy and feedstock, its pollution profile and the hazardousness of most of its products - the sector continues to resist profound structural changes needed to achieve its transformation.

For the chemicals industry to truly contribute to wider efforts to step back from several environmental and social brinks - from climate and habitat destruction, to pollution and impacts on human and non-human health - a transformation pathway is needed. The issues to address are systemic and horizontal in relation to the different policies involved and the sector's creativity and dynamism must be harnessed to:

- Phase-out hazardous chemicals and their export
- Reduce material and energy use
- Design plastic for clean circularity and reduce plastic production
- Improve product design to extend its lifetime
- Mainstream circular business models in the chemical industry



<https://caneurope.org/can-europes-transformation-pathway-recommendations-for-the-chemical-industry/>



# Phase-out hazardous substances



# 75%

of chemicals produced in Europe are hazardous to human health and/or the environment - EEA

- **Majority of the EU citizens is worried** about the impact of chemicals present in everyday products on both the environment (90%) and human health (85%) (Eurobarometer)
- **Substitute** them with already existing safer alternatives
- **Multiple sources of exposure**
- Risk assessments generally conducted on a **single chemical basis**, not on combined/multiple exposures
- Safer/cleaner product **design is suitable for circularity** approach as the presence of hazardous substances hampers recyclability

# Reduce material and energy use

- **Top energy consumer for all industry sectors** (18.5% of all industry final energy use)
- **0.6%** of total energy consumption from **renewables and biofuels**
- Feedstock data showing disproportionately dependence on mineral oil with only **9% being represented by renewable materials**
- **Forecasts about electrification, hydrogen and biomass use, coupled with growth, indicating that efficiency needs to be coupled with sufficiency**





# Develop product design to extend its lifecycle

## Overstepping Ourselves

As our Ecological Footprint continues to exceed Earth's biocapacity, we overdraw from our future.



- **Design phase:** where the majority of emissions can be **avoided from the start** (up to 80% of products' environmental impacts determined at the design phase)
- **Mismatch between available products** and their **recycling profiles**
- Delivery of safer and more durable **products able to enter a clean circular loop** (repair, upgrade, remanufacture, reuse and finally recycling)
- **The majority of waste** deriving from different waste streams **is not recycled** (European Environment Agency)



# Thank you for your attention

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Resources:  
Industrial Transformation position:  
<https://caneurope.org/can-europe-position-on-industrial-transformation/>

PAC Scenario report:  
<https://caneurope.org/achievements/paris-agreement-compatible-pac-scenario-vision-transition/>

# Embodied Carbon & Material Health

Teresa McGrath



# Why Materials Matter



People spend up to 90% of their time in buildings, and indoor air contains some pollutants at 2 to 5 times higher levels than outdoor air. (EPA Report on the Environment)

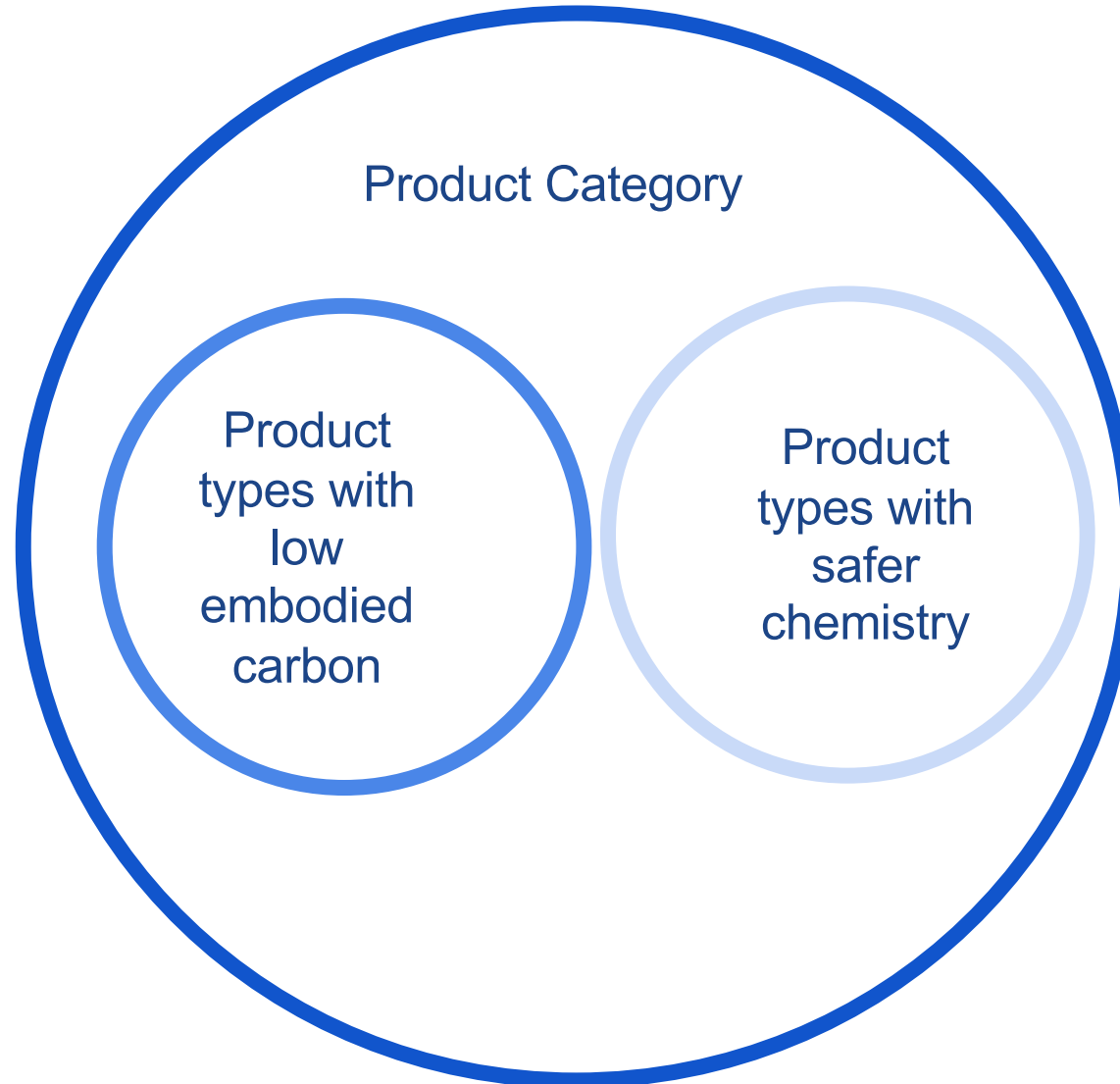


# Climate and Chemicals

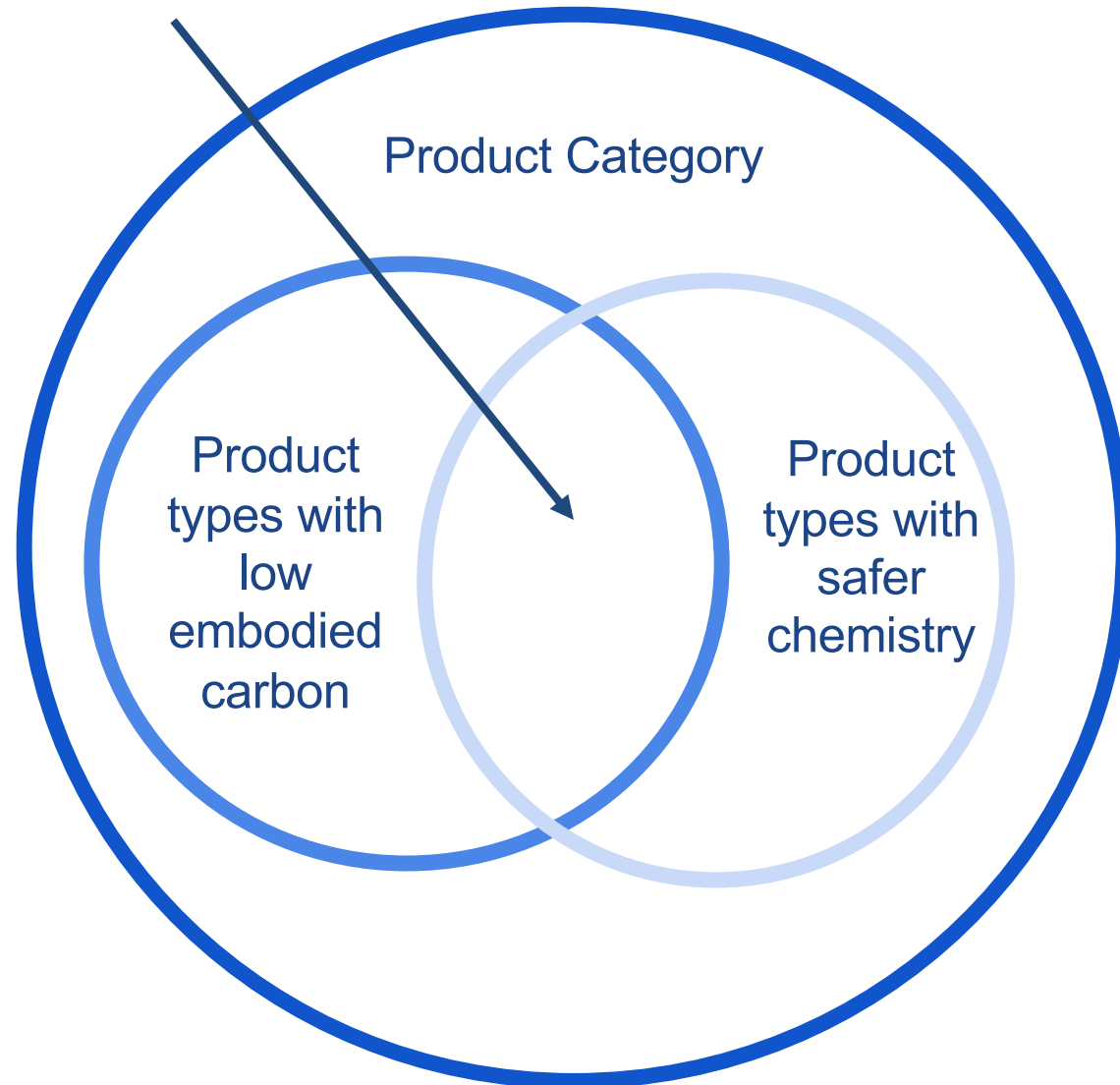


- Direct impacts of high global warming potential chemicals
- Toxic chemicals increase communities' vulnerability to climate change effects
- Tighter buildings can trap more chemicals inside

# Current perception



# Preferred product types



# Flooring: Carpet & Resilient



# Material health drivers flooring

- Toxic heavy metals in fly ash
- Manufacturing releases from vinyl and polyurethane production
- Per and polyfluoroalkyl substances PFAS

# Product types first! Material health

Linoleum

Solid Wood Floor Pre-finished

Ceramic Tiles  
USA made

PVC-Free Resilient Flooring

Solid wood floors Site-finished

Carpet: No fly ash, no vinyl/PU, No PFAS

Vinyl floors - with phthalates or organotin stabilizers

Carpet: w/fly ash, vinyl/pu, and PFAS

Vinyl w/orthophthalates, organotin, and fly ash



Prefer

<https://healthybuilding.net/products>



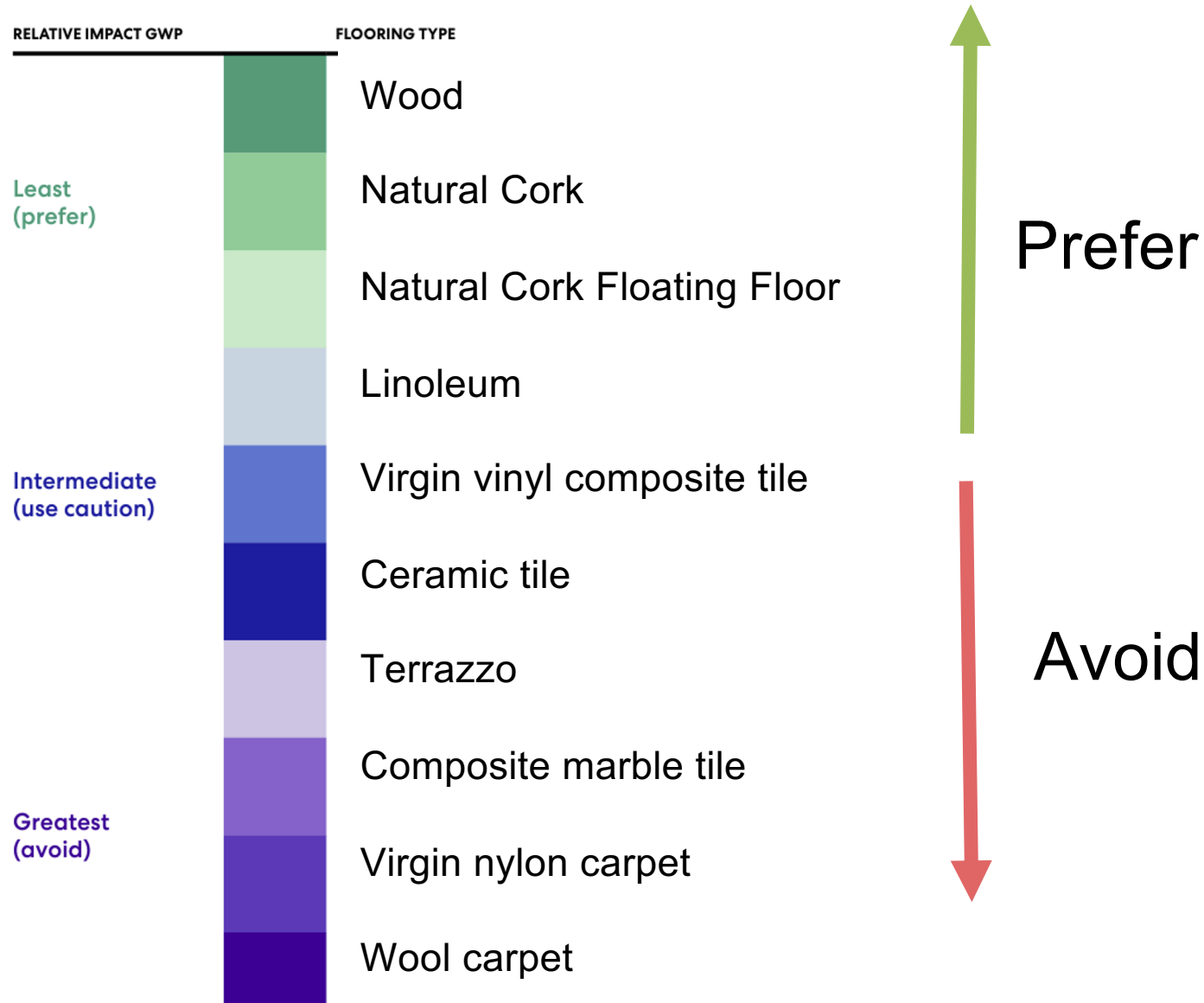
Avoid

# Embodied carbon drivers flooring

- Carpet fiber (nylon) raw material production
- Resin production
- Service life



# Product type first! Embodied carbon



Bowyer, Jim. "Comparison of Environmental Impacts of Flooring Alternatives". Dovetail Partners Consuming Responsibly Report No. 4. January 14, 2019  
<https://dovetailinc.org/upload/tmp/1579549416.pdf>

# Intersection of material health and carbon - Flooring

- Alignment
  - Long service life
  - Biobased product types: e.g. wood, linoleum, cork
  - Avoid virgin nylon carpet
  - Use circular and safe materials
- Conflict
  - PVC product types

# Product Categories



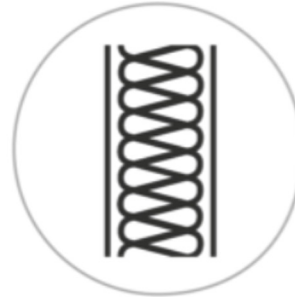
Flooring



Paint



Drywall



Insulation



Flooring Installation



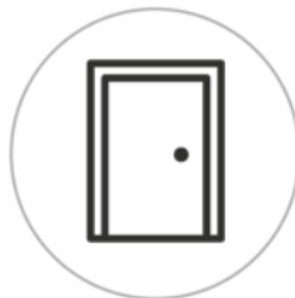
Sealants



Countertops



Cabinetry & Millwork



Doors



Turf



Water Pipes



Roofing

# Know Better, Do Better



# Thank You

Teresa McGrath  
[tmcgrath@healthybuilding.net](mailto:tmcgrath@healthybuilding.net)



# Three Lenses of Materials & Health

Transparency, Trade-offs and Transformation in the Flooring Industry

Mikhail Davis, Director of Technical Sustainability  
July 11, 2022



A modern office interior with a blue ceiling, glass walls, and a patterned carpet. Two women are sitting at a white table, working on laptops. A whiteboard with diagrams is on the wall. A person is walking in the background. A green semi-transparent box with white text is overlaid at the bottom.

**How do you know if these products are healthy and sustainable?**





Courtesy of BrightWorks Sustainability







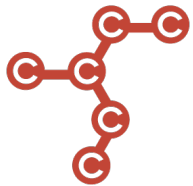
# This is how we see it.

We use three lenses to make decisions on materials. These are our guideposts.

## Embodied Carbon

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Measuring Embodied Carbon in everything you make and choose.



## Green Chemistry

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Choosing products based in Green Chemistry



## Circular Economy

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Partnering with businesses engaged in Circular Economy practices.



# AIA Materials Pledge



- **Support Climate Health** by preferring products which reduce carbon emissions and ultimately sequester more carbon than emitted.



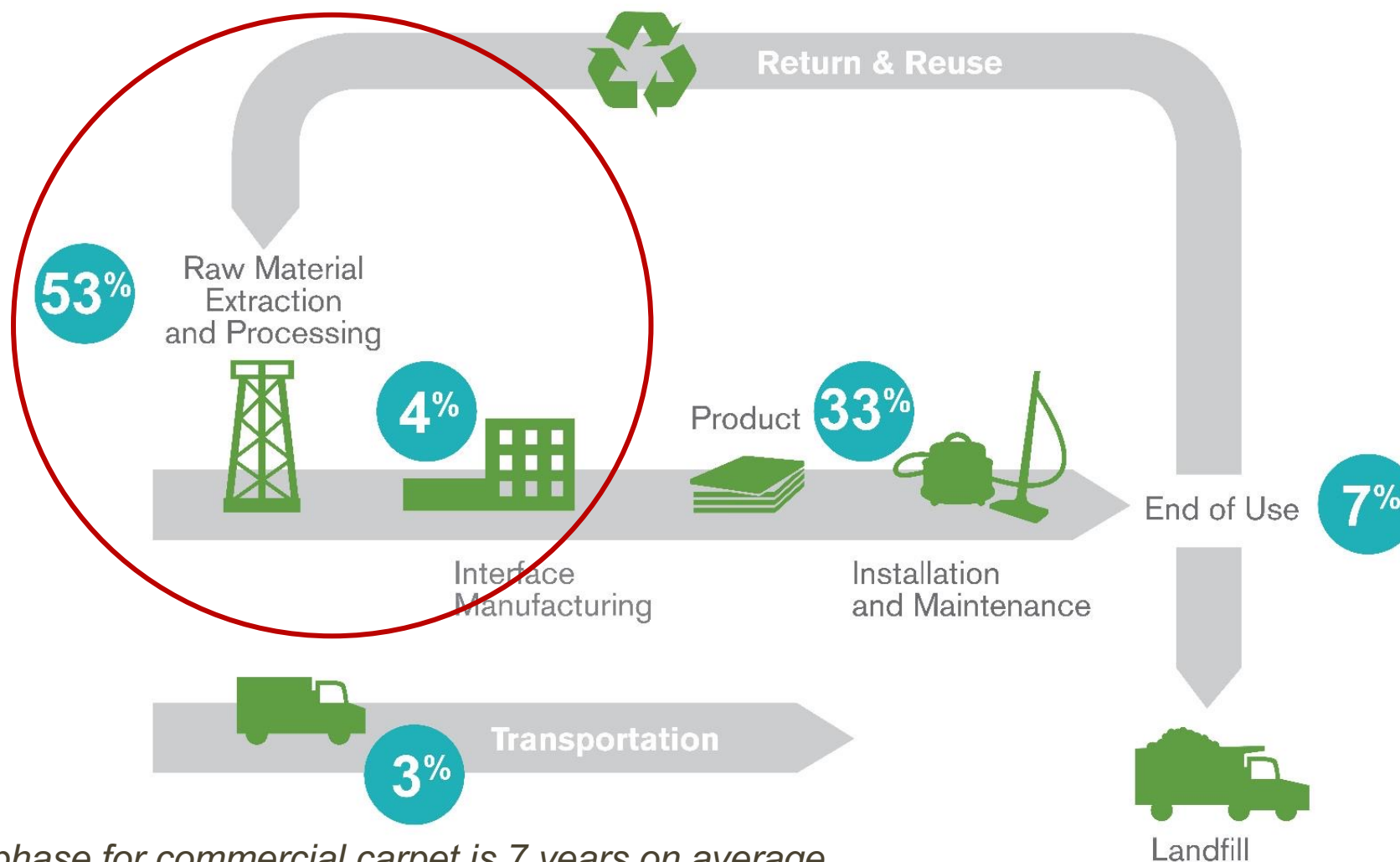
- **Support Human Health** by preferring products which support and foster life throughout their lifecycles and seek to eliminate the use of substances that are hazardous.




- **Support a Circular Economy** by reusing buildings and materials; and by designing for material efficiency, long life, and perpetual cycling
- **Support Ecosystem Health** by preferring products which support and regenerate the natural air, water, and biological cycles of life through thoughtful supply chain management and restorative company practices.
- **Support Social Health and Equity** by preferring products from manufacturers who secure human rights in their own operations and in their supply chains, and which provide positive impacts for their workers and the communities where they operate.

# Interface Carpet Tile | Lifecycle Carbon Impacts

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS ARE PREDOMINANTLY FROM RAW MATERIALS



*\*Note: Use phase for commercial carpet is 7 years on average*



A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a black long-sleeved top, stands behind a game show podium. The podium is dark brown with two white horizontal stripes on each side. A blue rectangular sign with the text "\$1,200" in white is mounted on the front of the podium. The background consists of a blue screen with a wavy pattern, and a blue curtain is visible at the top. To the right, a portion of a ladder-like structure is visible.

**\$1,200**



# Introducing Our CQuest™ Backings Line

## CQUEST™ GB

The next evolution of our GlasBac™ backing. It features the same superior performance with a construction of post-consumer recycled content from carpet tiles, bio-based additives, and pre-consumer recycled materials, which are net carbon negative.

## CQUEST™ BIO

A non-vinyl bio-composite backing made with bio-based and recycled fillers which are net carbon negative.

## CQUEST™ BIOX

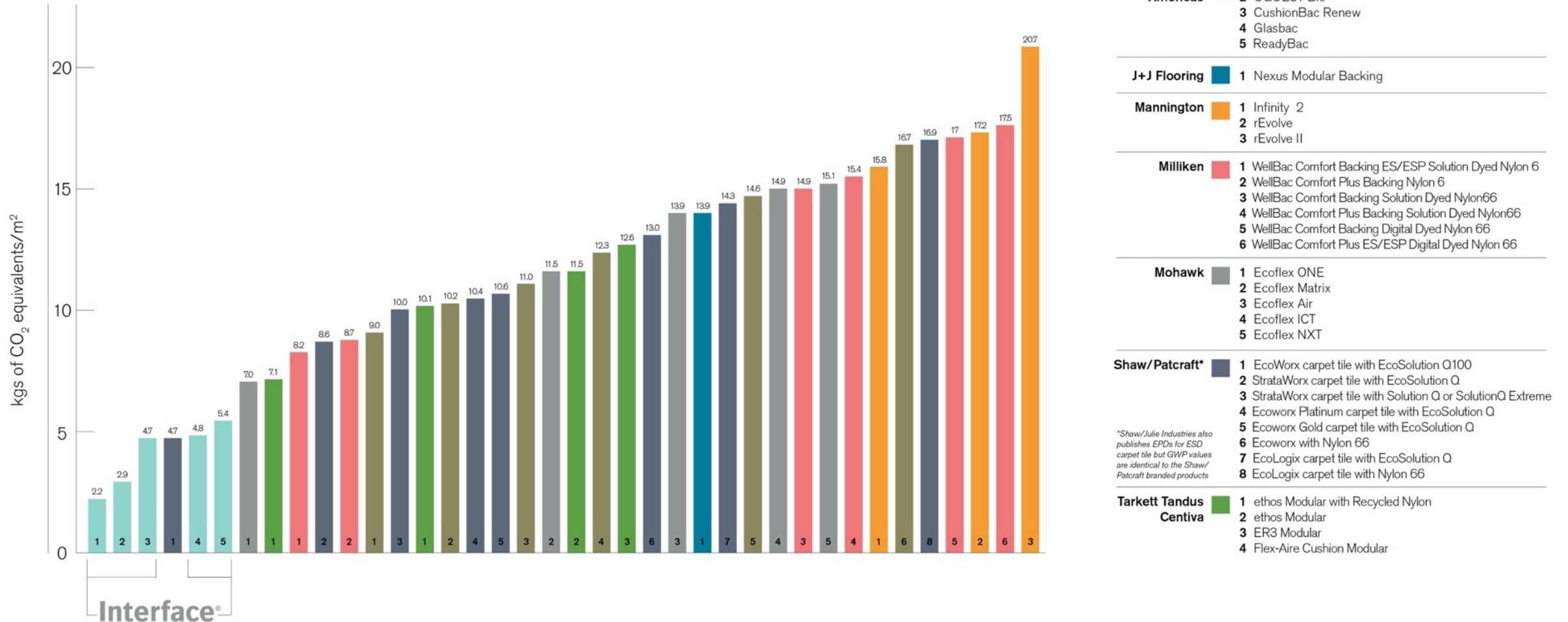
Our backing that stores the most carbon. It's the same material make-up as CQuest™ Bio with a higher concentration of carbon negative materials.

To learn more about our complete line of backings visit [interface.com/backings](https://interface.com/backings) and to learn more about carbon negative backings visit [interface.com/carbonnegative](https://interface.com/carbonnegative)

*NOTE: Carpet tiles made with CQuest™ Bio and CQuest™ GB, while they do not have a negative embodied carbon footprint, are carbon neutral throughout their full product life cycle through our Carbon Neutral Floors™ program.*

## CRADLE-TO-GATE, FROM RAW MATERIAL EXTRACTION THROUGH MANUFACTURING

## Carpet Tile Carbon Footprint Comparison

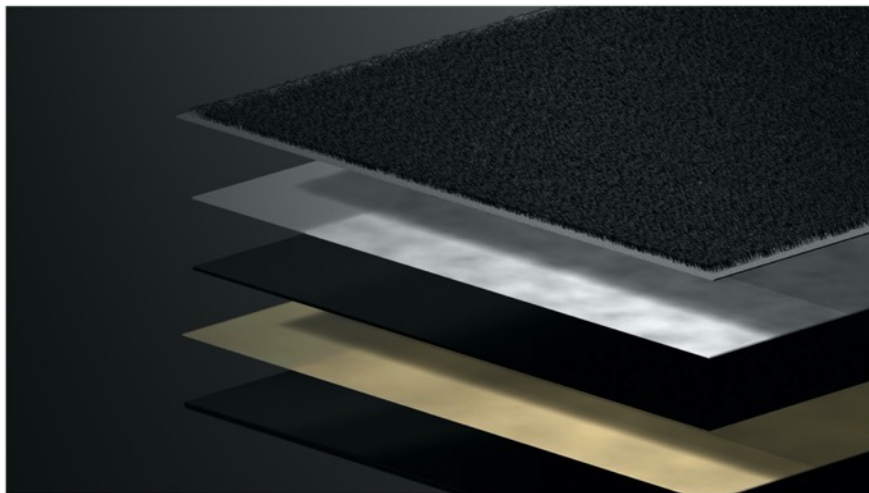


The carbon footprint values are taken from publicly available third party verified Environmental Product Declarations. Although Environmental Product Declarations generally have limited comparability, the characterization factor for each product's carbon footprint is the same across all of these Environmental Product Declarations. This data is geographically limited to United States manufacturing and the above metrics do not compare any product outside of the United States. Updated May 2022

EMBODIED BEAUTY

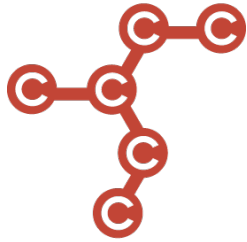
# OUR PATH TO CARBON NEGATIVE.

Our path to carbon negative products is part of bringing our Climate Take Back™ mission to life, with the aim to reverse global warming.



**PRODUCT** TOKYO TEXTURE [-CO2] **COLOR** 106621 TAUPE **INSTALLED** HERRINGBONE  
**PRODUCT** VINTAGE KIMONO **COLOR** 106593 TAUPE **INSTALLED** ASHLAR

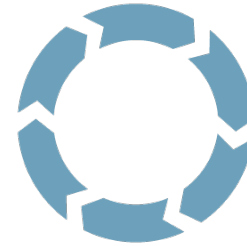
# What about Green Chemistry?



Embodied Carbon



Green Chemistry



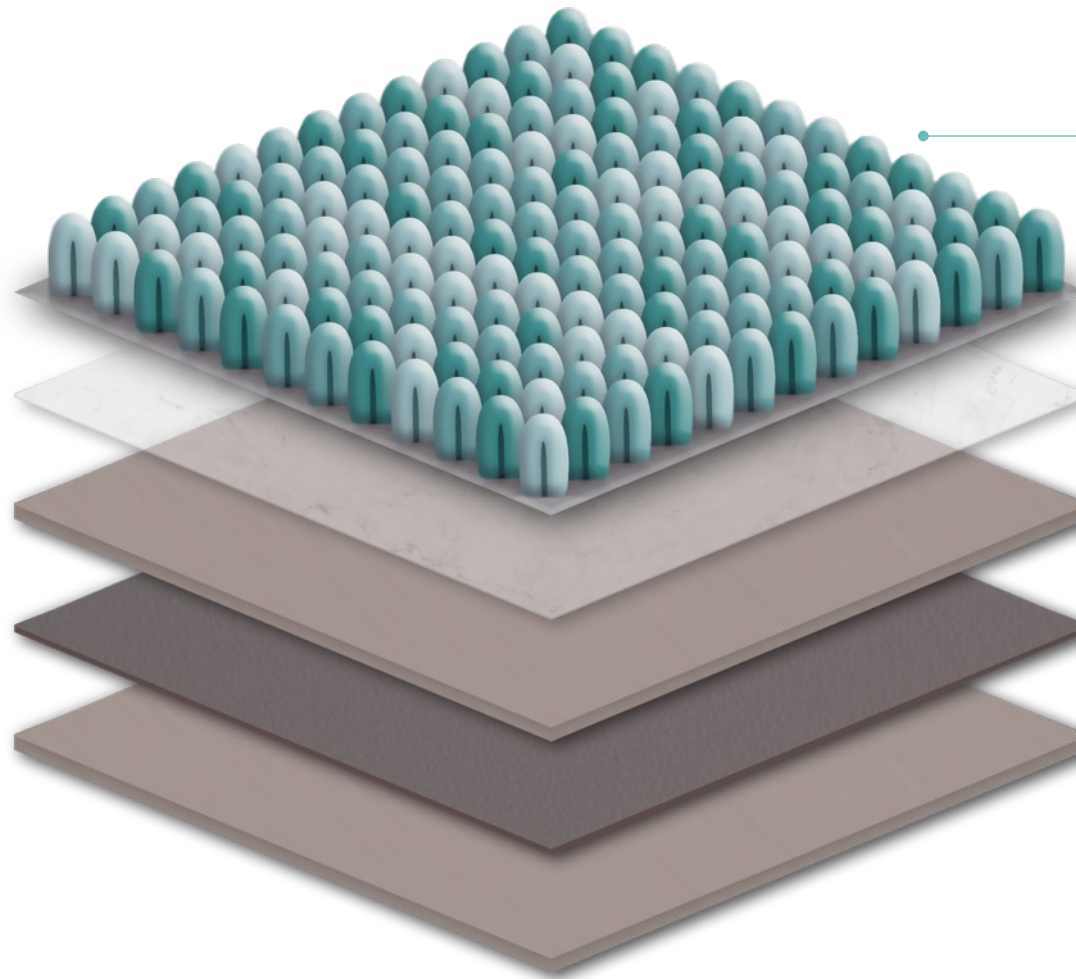
Circular Economy



# What is Interface CQuestGB carpet tile made of?

**85-91% recycled or bio-based content with 18-26% post-consumer recycled content**

**42% USDA certified bio-based content**



**Yarn / Pile: 75-95% total recycled content, PCR content (50% standard) from sources like fishing nets and old carpet**

**Primary Backing**

**Latex: 82% recycled** (post-industrial limestone and recycled & VAE plastic w/ carbon capture content)

**Thermoplastic Composite: 97% recycled or bio-based:** post-industrial vinyl and scrap, PCR ground carpet tile/LVT with bio-oil and bio-filler

**Fiberglass**

**Thermoplastic Composite (see above)**

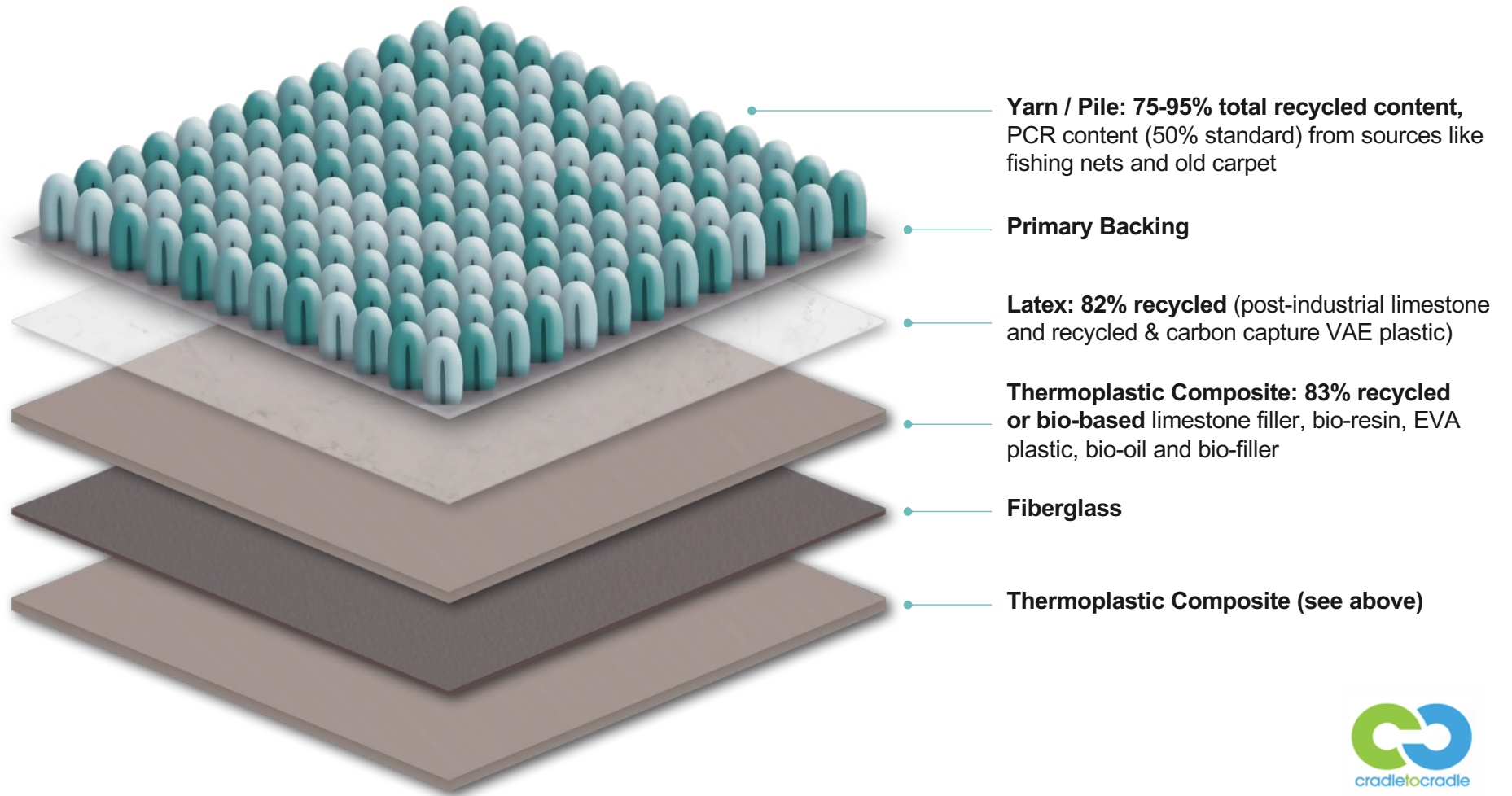


Certified Closed Loop Product (12%) and at least 66% Recyclable

# What is Interface's non-vinyl CQuestBio carpet tile made of?

**77-84% recycled or bio-based content with 1-18% post-consumer recycled content**

**47% USDA certified bio-based content**



# Declare.



Antimony oxide (Sb<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub>)

**Benzene, 1,1'-methylenebis[2-isocyanato-**

1314-60- 0.1-  
2536- < 1%  
05-2 0.1%

Benzene, 1,1'-oxybis-, tetrapropylene derivs., sulfonated, sodium salts

119345- <  
04-9 0.1%

Benzene, C10-13-alkyl derivs.

67774- <  
74-7 0.1%

VOC Content: N/A

**Third Party  
Verified** ✓

FLUOROALKYL ACRYLATE COPOLYMER

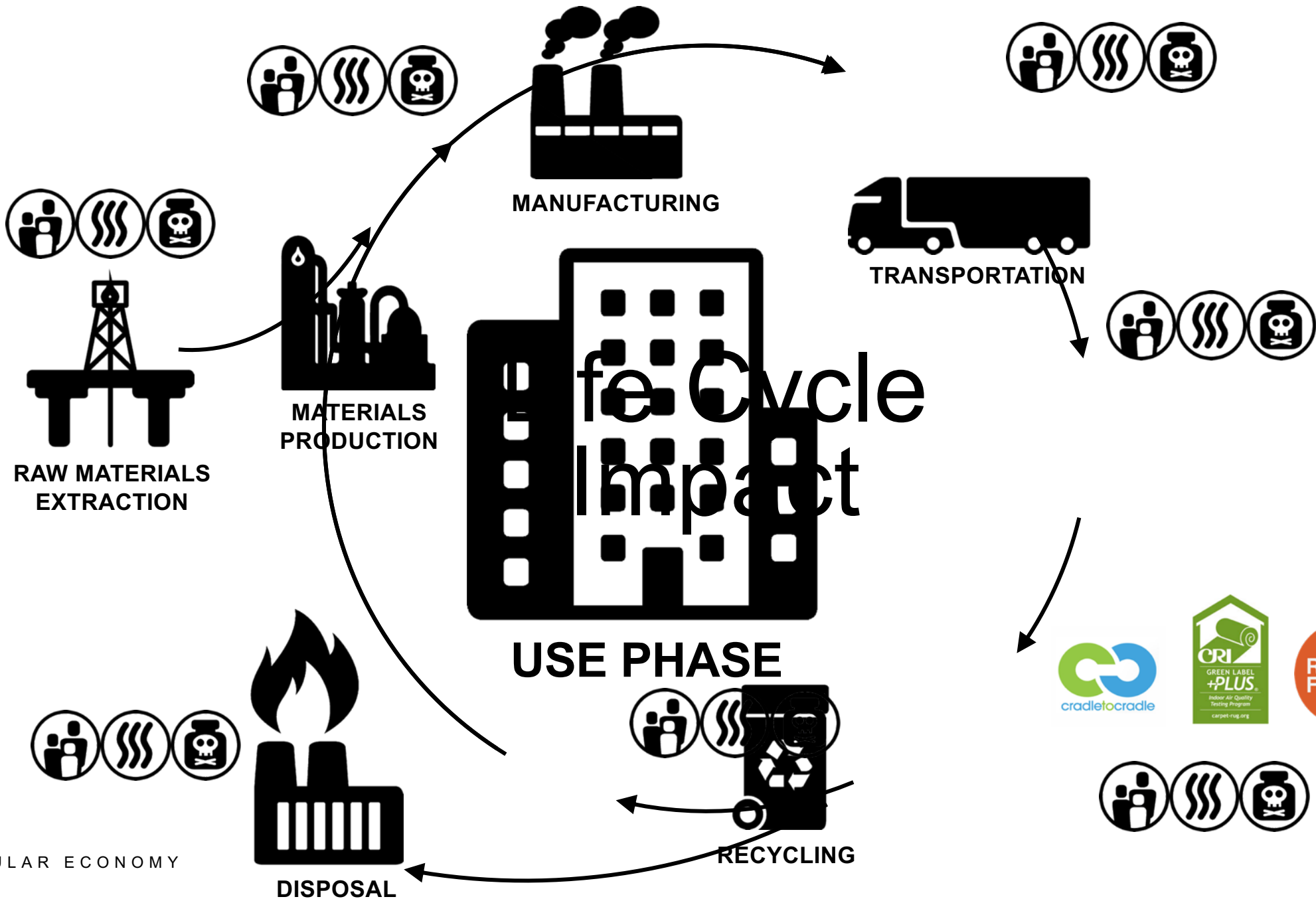
1188515- <  
72-1 0.1%

STYRENE-BUTADIENE-VINYLDENE CHLORIDE BASED POLYMER

208448- 1-  
00-4 10%

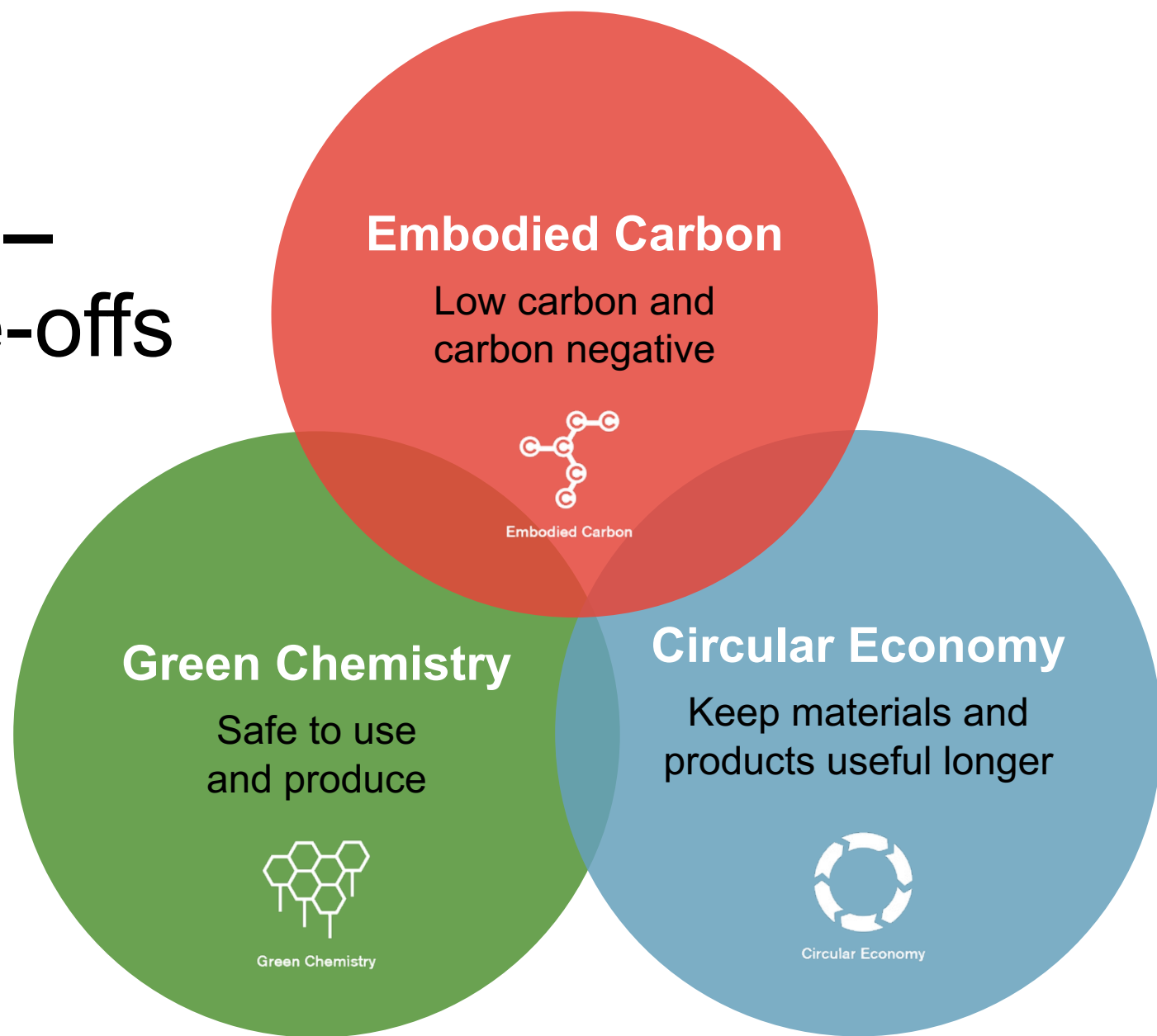
MANUFACTURER CLAIMS VERIFIED BY WAP Sustainability  
INTERNATIONAL **LIVING FUTURE** INSTITUTE™ [declareproducts.com](http://declareproducts.com)







# The Three Lenses – Overlaps and Trade-offs



1994



Smokestacks



Take Make Waste



Petroleum  
intensive products



Disconnected  
supply chain

NOW-2020



Factories to Zero



Recycled, closed  
loop materials



Low carbon  
products



Sustainable  
supply chain

WHAT'S NEXT...



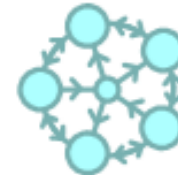
Factories as Forests



Products from  
dispersed materials



Products that  
sequester carbon



Supply chain that  
benefits all life

# Thank you

Mikhail Davis  
Director of Technical Sustainability –Americas  
Interface  
[mikhail.davis@interface.com](mailto:mikhail.davis@interface.com)

## Upcoming A4 Activities

- Watch your emails for A4's announcements about upcoming webinars in early fall and winter.
- A4 is in the early stages of planning a workshop: evaluating mixtures in the context of an alternatives assessment.

A4 website: [www.saferalternatives.org](http://www.saferalternatives.org)

# THANK YOU!

Please complete evaluation poll before  
you leave