

[A8202 \(Epstein\)](#) / [S8000 \(Comrie\)](#)

Directs state agencies to adopt an embodied carbon decarbonization program; requires the Office of General Services to issue operational directives and guidance for common construction materials to reduce the amount of embodied carbon in such materials.

American Institute of Architects New York Chapter supports [A8202/S8000](#), which codifies a portion of Executive Order 22 focused on procurement requirements for state projects by mandating environmental product declarations (EPDs) for common construction materials.

Embodied carbon refers to the GHG emissions generated by the manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and disposal of construction materials used in buildings, roads, and other infrastructure. 17% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are from the manufacturing of construction materials. Emissions released now are more critical than emissions released later, and reducing embodied carbon is as important as reducing operational carbon.

An environmental product declaration (EPD) is a standardized, third-party-verified disclosure document that reports the environmental impacts of a product, building, or other asset based on a life cycle assessment. Think of EPDs as a nutritional label for construction materials, providing information on the environmental impact per unit of product.

In September 2022, Governor Hochul issued an executive order (EO22) outlining the state's commitment to environmental quality, public health, economic prosperity, and social well-being. The executive order set procurement requirements for embodied carbon, which applied to all state entities for projects over \$1 million for new construction or significant renovations projects. The Office of General Services (OGS) released the first phase of the Embodied Carbon Guidance in June 2023 and is focused on EPD disclosure, developed in response to the executive order.

[A8202/S8000](#) would apply to all state projects of 5,000 sqft or larger, new construction or renovation. This bill would mandate environmental product declarations (EPDs) for common construction materials and project life cycle assessments to demonstrate compliance with maximum global warming potential (GWP) limits set by OGS. Common construction materials cover concrete, asphalt, and steel with other materials to be reviewed and designated by OGS every three years.

This bill seeks to protect the invaluable progress made by OGS and New York State agencies over the past two years and provide flexibility for OGS to issue guidance.