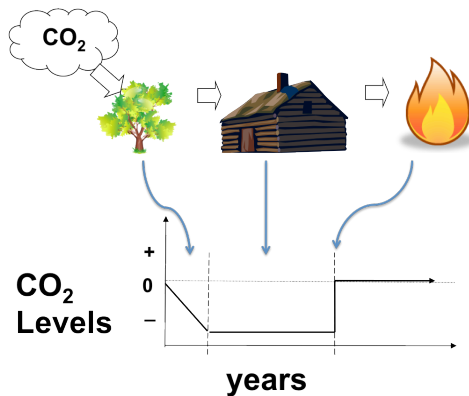
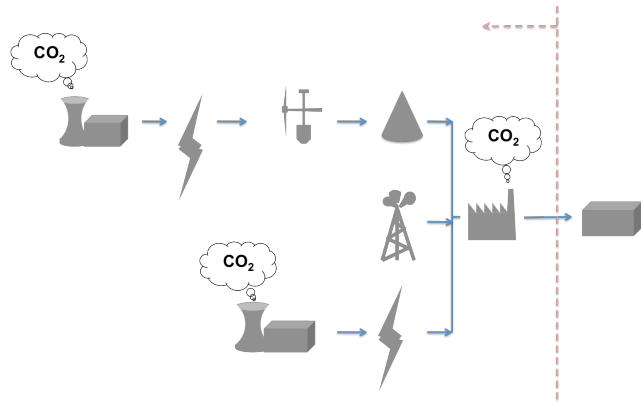


Carbon Footprints

Embodied CO₂

This is the quantity of CO₂ (and other Green House Gasses) emitted as a result of a product. This stems from both direct CO₂ emissions from the production of a material (such as kilning limestone to make cement) as well as indirect emissions like CO₂ emitted from burning fossil fuels to produce the heat, electricity or transport required to make the product. (kg CO₂ equiv. / product)

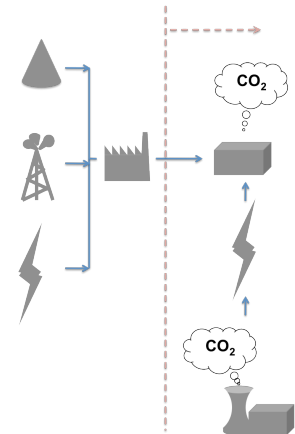


Sequestered (or embedded) CO₂

This is only relevant to Renewable materials. It is the quantity of CO₂ that has effectively been removed from the atmosphere by photosynthesis, i.e. by turning CO₂ and water into sugars and oxygen. The quantity of atmospheric CO₂ has thus been reduced and so is an environmental benefit not an impact. The longer the CO₂ is stored, the greater the environmental benefit. (-kg CO₂ equiv. / product)

Operational CO₂

This is the amount of direct (e.g. Green House Gas leakages from CFC blown insulation) and indirect emissions caused by the product in use. This often does not apply to building materials, as they consume no energy themselves. However for products such as lighting, the amount of CO₂ emissions from the energy it uses over its life cycle will outweigh it's embodied CO₂; so it is an important factor to include in any assessments (kg CO₂ equiv. / product over a given life cycle)



Carbon Footprint

This is the more common term for the Global Warming Potential (GWP) of a product. It is effectively the addition of the above Embodied, sequestered and operational CO₂ impacts and also measured in kg CO₂ / unit of material.