



Program Overview

CVU Carbon Commitment

Measuring, sharing, and benchmarking tall building carbon



CVU Carbon Commitment

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CVU Carbon Commitment

BACKGROUND

The built environment accounts for **34% of global carbon emissions**, with a substantial and growing share attributed to the construction and operation of tall buildings. Despite this impact, the industry lacks the standardized, publicly accessible data needed to drive progress toward net zero targets.

Tall building projects are inherently complex and data-rich, yet the carbon and material quantity information embedded in each project has not been collected and collated in one location. Without shared benchmarks, designers, developers, and engineers are left without the reference points needed to set meaningful targets, evaluate design decisions, or demonstrate industry leadership.

What is the CVU Carbon Commitment?

The **Council on Vertical Urbanism (CVU)** is the world's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing tall buildings and responsible density in cities across the globe. As the global arbiter of building height and developer of the world's most comprehensive tall building database – with over 45,000 buildings tracked – CVU is uniquely positioned to collect, standardize, and share carbon and material usage data for tall building projects.

The **CVU Carbon Commitment** is a voluntary program inviting CVU member organizations to measure, track, and share carbon and material usage data from their tall building projects. This data will be consolidated into an Environmental Impact Database, forming the foundation of a public-facing benchmarking dashboard that will allow designers, property owners, contractors, and engineers to make more informed, sustainable decisions when developing their own projects.

> Be a part of the change.

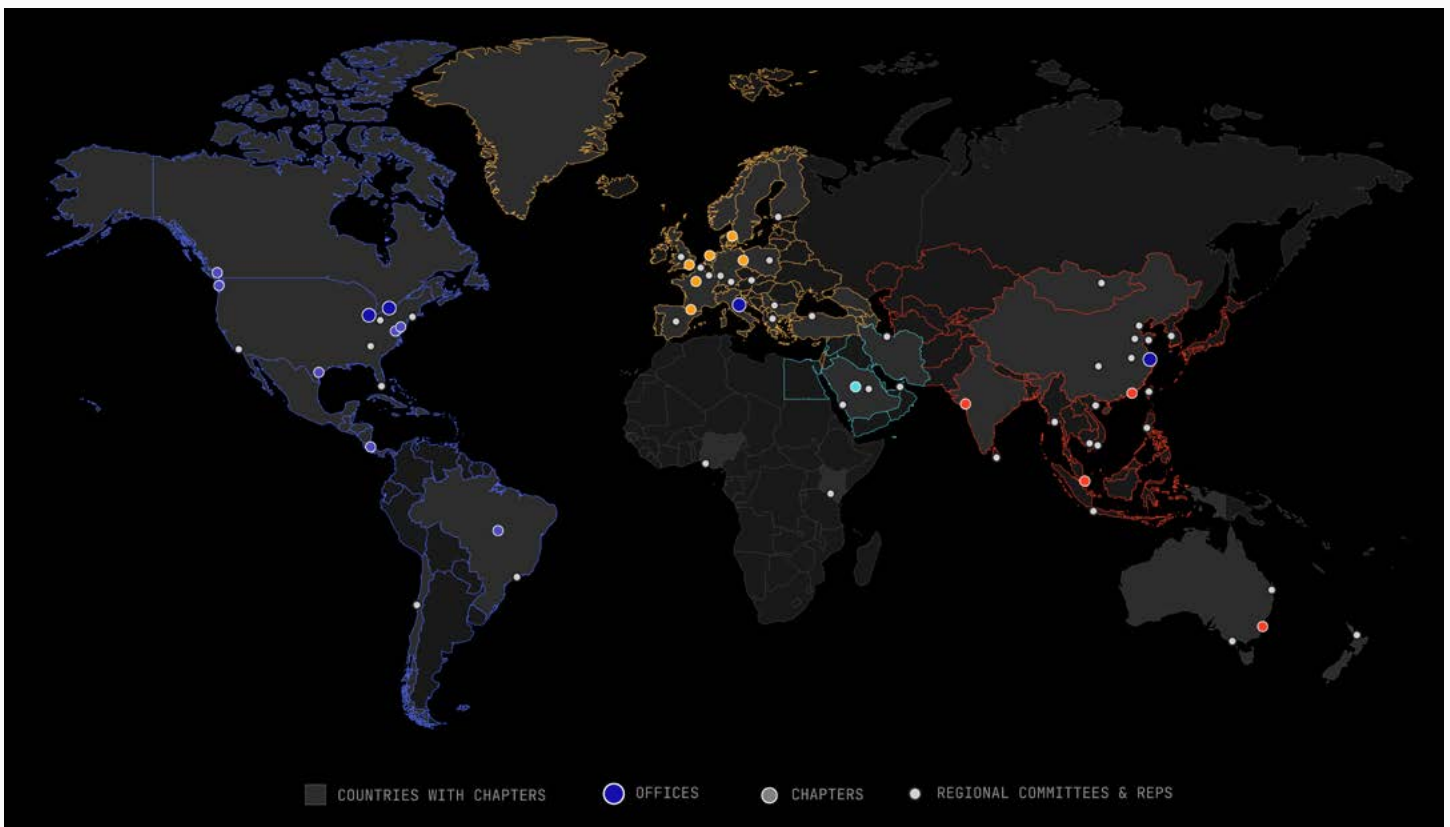
Join the CVU Carbon Commitment and help build a more sustainable, resilient, and inclusive world for generations to come.

Recognition and Partner Benefits

BACKGROUND

By joining the CVU Carbon Commitment, CVU member organizations will:

- > **Be recognized as a sustainability leader** – elevating your organization’s reputation as a driving force in shaping the future of urban sustainability, and signaling to stakeholders, clients, and the public a genuine commitment to reducing the carbon footprint of your projects.
- > Join the **CVU Sustainability and Carbon Committee** and input directly into the conversation around best-practice and roadblocks, particularly when it comes to carbon data collection and standardization.
- > **Receive recognition as a CVU Carbon Commitment partner** and be promoted on the CVU website and throughout the CVU international network, which includes over 2 million professionals, working in 10,000+ offices across more than 100 countries worldwide (see below).
- > **Gain early access to aggregated data insights**, research publications, and sustainability findings generated from the CVU Carbon Commitment.
- > **Shape the future of the industry**, by contributing to a growing body of knowledge that will influence design, policy, and investment decisions in tall building construction for years to come.



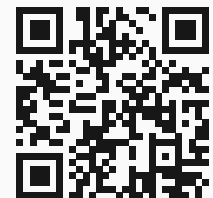
Fields Requested and Input Tool

DATA REQUEST

In order to establish benchmark projects for the CVU Environmental Impact Database, CVU Carbon Commitment partners will be asked to provide specific information and data points on their completed tall building projects. CVU accepts data and formats calculated according to recognized international standards, tools, and methodologies, including, but not limited to, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Whole Life Carbon Assessment (WLCA) 2nd Edition, World Green Building Council Net Zero Carbon Framework, London Plan Guidance for Whole LCAs, ICC/ASHRAE 240 P, the UK Net Zero Carbon Buildings Standard; and outputs from LCA software tools, such as One Click LCA, eToolLCD, Tally, Athena, LCA plugins for BIM tools, and more. In cases where partners have not already assessed their carbon factors or materials quantities of their projects, CVU will provide a **simple-to-use data-collection tool** for inputting the requested data. Partners are encouraged to submit any data that is available and partial data is still welcome.

> **Submit data here.**

Fill out this form to contribute to the growing database of carbon and material usage in tall building projects.



Requested Data Fields

Category	Requested Data Fields
Basic Project Information	Building name and location; Status and completion year; Structural system; and Primary function.
Superstructure	Height and number of floors; Gross floor area; Volume and type of concrete; and Weight of structural steel and rebar.
Substructure	Number of underground floors; Underground gross floor area; Volume and type of concrete; and Weight of structural steel and rebar.
Façade	Description of façade type (open, closed, curtain wall, etc.); and Area of each facade type.
Additional Details	Additional comments or relevant facts (such as data collection methodology employed); Operational energy; and Reference files

Anonymity and Confidentiality

DATA REQUEST

CVU understands that carbon and material data may be commercially sensitive. The CVU Carbon Commitment is designed with robust confidentiality protections to ensure that partners can contribute data with confidence.

Anonymization

Upon request, aliases can be created for the building name and will never be publicly disclosed. Further, identifying project information, such as exact location, completion year, and height, can be classified into wider groupings, allowing the project to be compared and benchmarked against in the database, while protecting the identity of the specific building. An example of how anonymized data may be displayed:

Name	Alias Project Name #1
Location	United Kingdom
Completion	2020 - 2024
Height	100 - 150 meters
Floor Count	35 - 39 floors above ground

Confidentiality Commitments

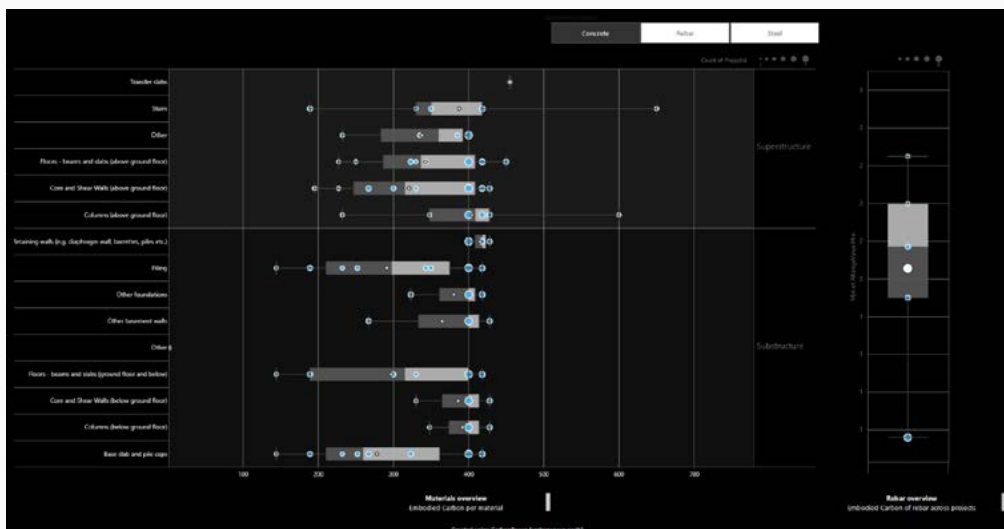
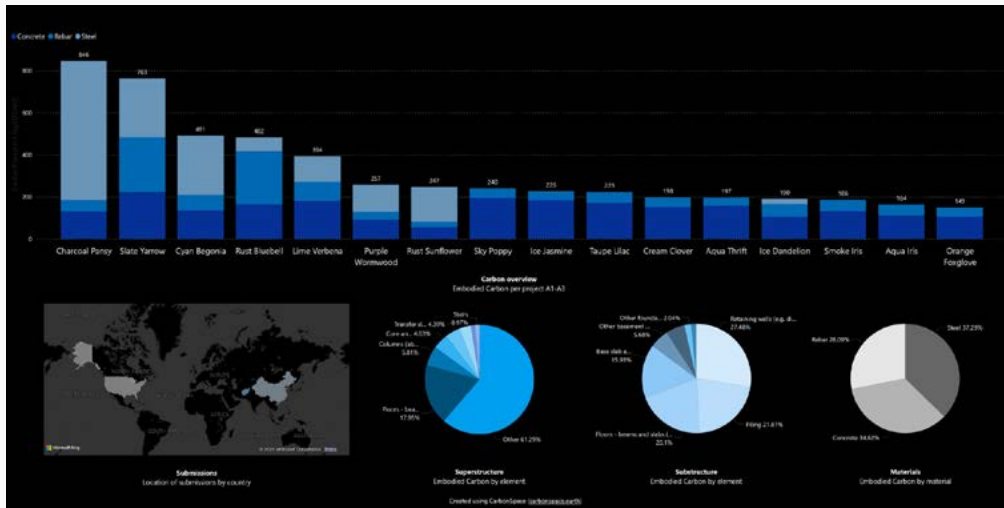
- › All submitted data is stored on **secure, encrypted servers** with access restricted to authorized research staff only.
- › Individual project data will **never be publicly disclosed** without the explicit prior written consent of the submitting organization.
- › Any requests to share any submitted project information from external parties will be **confirmed in advance** with the relevant partner.
- › Partners may **update or withdraw** their data at any time by contacting the CVU research team.
- › CVU complies with all applicable **data protection regulations**, including GDPR where relevant.

Data Usage – Dashboard

DATA REQUEST

Upon collecting sufficient project data, CVU will launch a **public-facing dashboard**, enabling designers, developers, and researchers to access a global comparison tool with carbon and material information for tall buildings.

This dedicated dashboard and database is being **built within the CarbonSpace platform**, and is being developed in collaboration with 2026 CVU Program Partner, MVRDV NEXT. CVU is targeting data from 100+ tall building projects in 2026 for this tool and findings will be shared at the VU Summit. All data displayed on the public dashboard will be **fully aggregated to reflect industry-wide patterns**, with the goal to improve carbon literacy and data transparency, but not to highlight individual project data. Examples of the dashboard displays and analysis:



Data Usage – Ownership

DATA REQUEST

The Council on Vertical Urbanism (“CVU”) is committed to responsible data governance. The following terms govern the ownership and use of data submitted by CVU Carbon Commitment Partners (“Partners”).

Ownership

All rights, title, and interest in the data submitted by Partners remain the **exclusive property of the submitting organization**. CVU does not claim ownership of any project-level data submitted by Partners through the CVU Carbon Commitment.

License Grant to CVU

By submitting data, Partners grant CVU a **limited, non-exclusive, non-transferable license** to use the submitted data for the following research purposes:

- › Generating aggregated benchmarking statistics for the database.
- › Producing academic and industry research publications and reports.
- › Operating the public-facing Environmental Impact Dashboard.
- › Supporting CVU’s nonprofit mission of advancing sustainable tall building practices.

Restrictions

CVU shall not sell, transfer, disclose externally, or commercially exploit individual project-level data submitted by Partners without prior written permission from the submitting organization.

Permitted Use by Partners

Partners may utilize data available through the Environmental Impact Dashboard for internal reporting, project planning, and evaluation.

Withdrawal

Partners may withdraw their data at any time by providing written notice to CVU at wmiranda@cvu.org or research@cvu.org. CVU will take reasonable steps to remove the data from future reports and the live dashboard. Note that data already published in past reports may not be retroactively removed.

Confidentiality

CVU shall take reasonable steps to prevent unauthorized access or disclosure.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

DATA REQUEST

Why should my organization join this commitment?

As building materials become scarcer and their production causes greater environmental harm, the industry must find innovative solutions to reduce carbon footprints, enhance energy efficiency, and drive resilient city design. Joining the CVU Carbon Commitment helps advance ESG practices, positions your organization as a sustainability leader, and contributes to the data infrastructure needed to shape resilient, equitable, and environmentally responsible urban spaces for generations to come.

Who can participate?

Any CVU member organization that owns, develops, or has access to detailed project information about tall building project carbon or material usage is eligible to participate. There is no cost to participate and is offered free to all CVU members. .

What counts as a tall building for this program?

The CVU definition of a tall building is subjective, and considered against one or more of the following categories: Height relative to context; Proportion; and Embracing technologies relevant to tall buildings. With that said, a building of 14 or more stories – or more than 50 meters (165 feet) in height – could typically be used as a threshold for a “tall building.”

Do I need complete carbon data to participate?

No. Partial data submissions are welcome and valuable. Whether you have material quantities, embodied carbon figures, operational data, or all of the above — any data contributes to the collective benchmark.

How can participating organizations submit their data?

CVU accepts data outputs and formats calculated and generated according to recognized international standards, tools, software, and methodologies. In cases where partners have not already assessed their carbon factors or materials quantities of their projects, CVU will provide a simple-to-use data-collection tool for inputting the requested data.

Will my project be identifiable on the public dashboard?

The dashboard is geared towards display aggregated data, and not individual projects. Project names, company names, or further identifying information and data will be anonymized or classified into wider groupings upon request.

Join the CVU Carbon Commitment

COMMITMENT

CVU Carbon Commitment

The undersigned organization commits to join the **CVU Carbon Commitment** and pledges to measure, track, and provide data on the carbon and material usage in their tall building projects with the **Council on Vertical Urbanism (CVU)**.

By signing this commitment, the Program Partner agrees to coordinate with the CVU Research team to provide available carbon and material usage data on their project(s). CVU will provide the Program Partner with the tool for inputting and measuring the requested data.

I commit to share carbon and material usage data on my building(s) with CVU.

By checking this box and signing below, my organization agrees to coordinate with the CVU Research team to provide available carbon and material usage data on our project(s).

NAME OF COMPANY / ORGANIZATION

NAME (PRINT)

TITLE

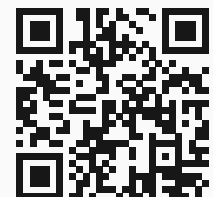
SIGNATURE

DATE

EMAIL

> **Begin submitting your data now.**

Reinforce your commitment by contributing your projects data to the growing database today.



Further Involvement and Program Partnerships

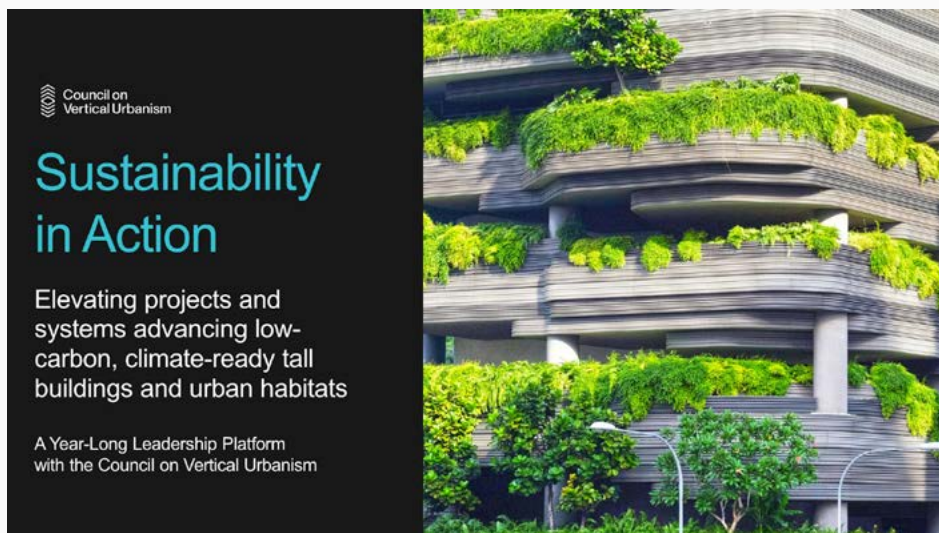
COMMITMENT

CVU is leading the charge in tackling the tall building industry's most urgent sustainability challenges through in-depth research, the presentation of groundbreaking innovations, and collaborative programs. The CVU Carbon Commitment is one pillar of a broader sustainability agenda, and there are additional ways for organizations to deepen their engagement and thought leadership. There are opportunities to collaborate with CVU on sustainability research projects and publications, as well as Program Partnerships (below).

Sustainability in Action – 2026 Program Partnership

Sustainability in Action is a yearlong Program Partnership for companies that are serious about delivering measurable progress on climate, carbon, and resilience in tall buildings and urban districts.

Partners use this platform to: Present the next generation of low-carbon, high-performance projects; Share the data, methods, and tools behind their sustainability goals; and Position their solutions as reference points for climate-ready urban development.



> **Learn more**

Contact Jen Hall, CVU Director of Global Development at jhall@cvu.org or scan the QR code here.





Be a part of the change.

Commit to the future. Join the CVU Carbon Commitment and help build a more sustainable and resilient world.

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For more information, program updates,
and ways to get involved, visit:

VerticalUrbanism.org

