



Welcome to

Better Buildings

Thank you for choosing Better Buildings.

This programme is designed to give a fun and educational introduction to carbon and the built environment – specifically focusing on the carbon that is embodied in building materials, an amount which accounts for over 10% of global carbon emissions every year.

Better Buildings is aimed at children aged 10 and 11, those approaching Key Stage 2 in the UK. That said, we have endeavoured to design the programme to appeal to all, and hope that you enjoy engaging with it too.

The **Content** throughout is designed to be as interactive and engaging as possible. This includes:

Introductory Video – double click on the link to watch a 30s introduction from the team at SGP.

Questions – can be asked of the class as a whole. Some have answers, click on the link to view, and click on the cross to return to the website afterwards. Other questions are intended as the basis for discussion only.

Glossary of Terms – Inevitably there are a number of new words and terms to become familiar with. Wherever these occur we have underlined them. Click on the word and one of the SGP team will explain what it means, a speech bubble will appear and you'll hear them reading the explanation.

Carbon Indicator – The carbon that is embodied in each building material is central to the aims of understanding how to build sustainably. By clicking and dragging on the pointer you can move it to and fro and encourage the children to guess the relative amount of embodied carbon in each material. Then click on the 'view answer' text, shown on each material page, to move the pointer to our suggested answer.

Fascinating Facts – Each section contains amazing facts that are designed to stimulate the children's interest. Roll over the images to reveal the fact associated with each picture.

Activities – Where relevant, activities are suggested for the children to undertake, either in class or at home. They are designed to encourage engagement and participation in the programme.

A simple **layout** is used to guide you methodically and easily through the **Better Buildings** programme.

Home - The home page is designed to give an introduction to the subject. It includes a short introductory animation and some questions for the children to answer to get them started.

Traditional Materials – Next up are four examples of traditional building materials; steel, concrete, brick and slate. Each section introduces the material, explains where it's used in construction (you can click on the pictures here to enlarge them). We explore what's good and not so good about each material, and there's a chance to use the carbon indicator to guess how much embodied carbon each material has.

Then there is some interesting information, sometimes a did you know section and some fascinating facts too. There might also be related questions and activities.

Alternative Materials – Following on there are four newer or alternative building materials; glulam, recycled plastic, earth and living roofs. The layout of these sections is similar to those for traditional materials.

Design a Low Carbon Building – In the final part of the programme the children have a chance to design their own low carbon building. We talk through some of the things to consider in designing the building, and then share a simple example which can be used as a template for their design. Then it's down to you to lead their inspirational designs.

For ease of use there is a navigation bar at the top and bottom of each page, so that you can move to any new section from anywhere on the site.

We would love to hear how you find using the programme. We hope that it is fun and engaging. It's always nice to hear back how well we've met our aims – what you like and also any ideas or suggestions you may have to improve the content or the way the programme is laid out.

And we'd love to see the designs that are produced, please feel free to share them with us, we would love to showcase the best of them on our website.

And, once a year, we will select the best of all, in our opinion at least, and produce a fully developed design of the building to share with everyone.

Thank you, once again, for using Better Buildings, enjoy the programme, and, of course, let us know if you have any difficulties or questions. You can reach us at BetterBuildings@stephengeorge.co.uk

All the best – Jay, Marianthi, Simon and Yaz – the **Better Buildings Team**

