



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
SOLAR DECATHLON

Building the
Next Generation

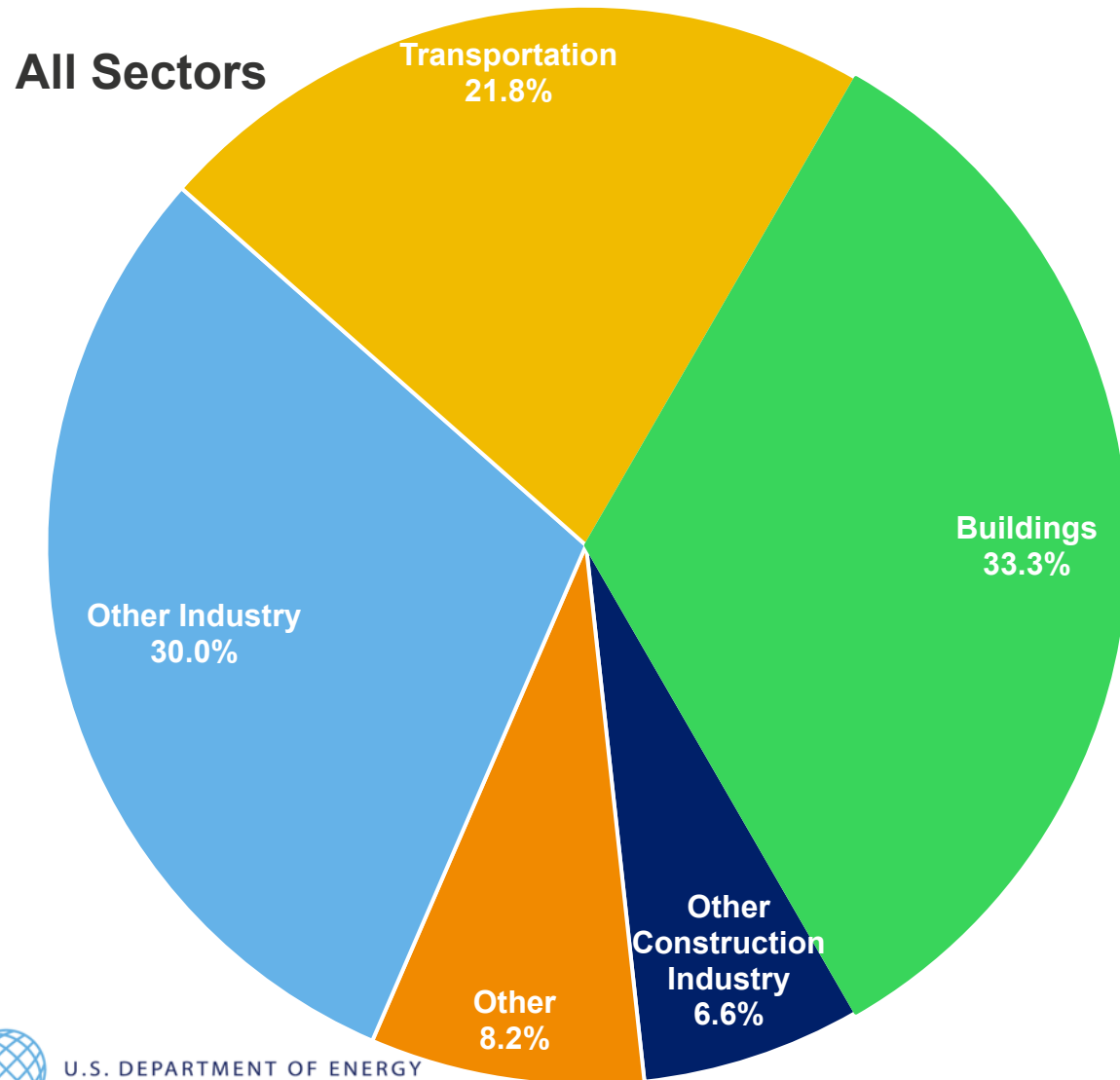
Building Science Education for Solar Decathlon

Emissions and the Built Environment

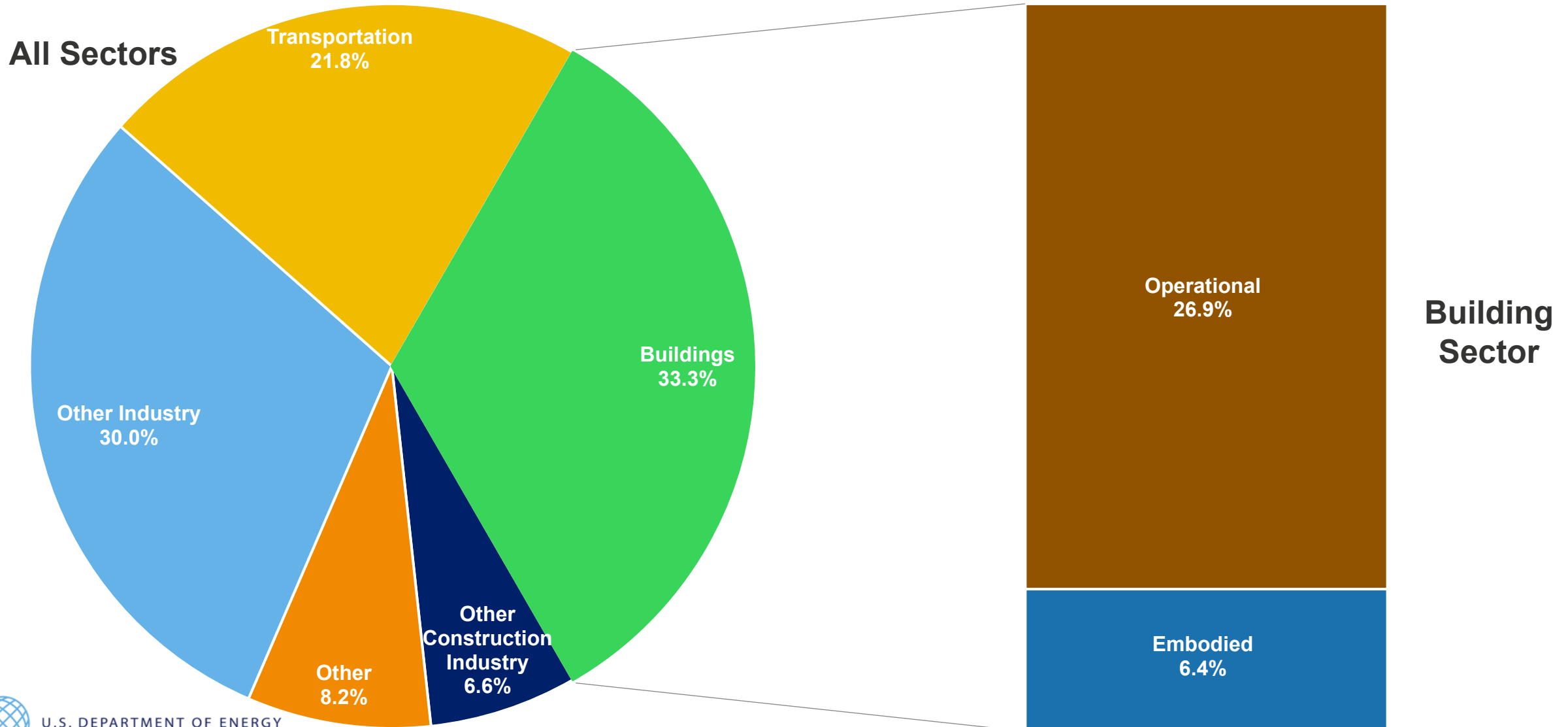


<https://ecology.wa.gov/Air-Climate/Climate-change/Tracking-greenhouse-gases/Greenhouse-gas-reporting>

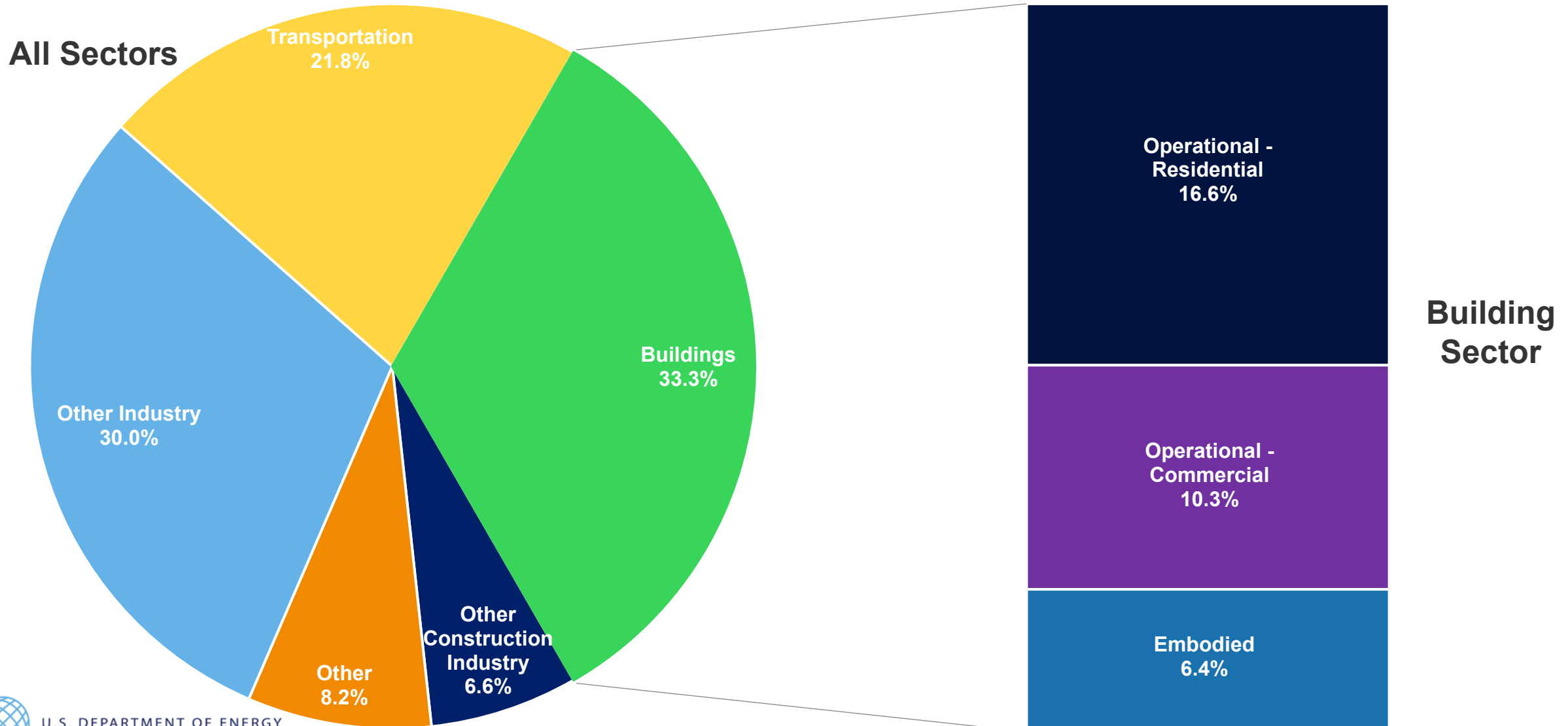
Global Energy-Related CO₂ Emissions by Sector (2021)



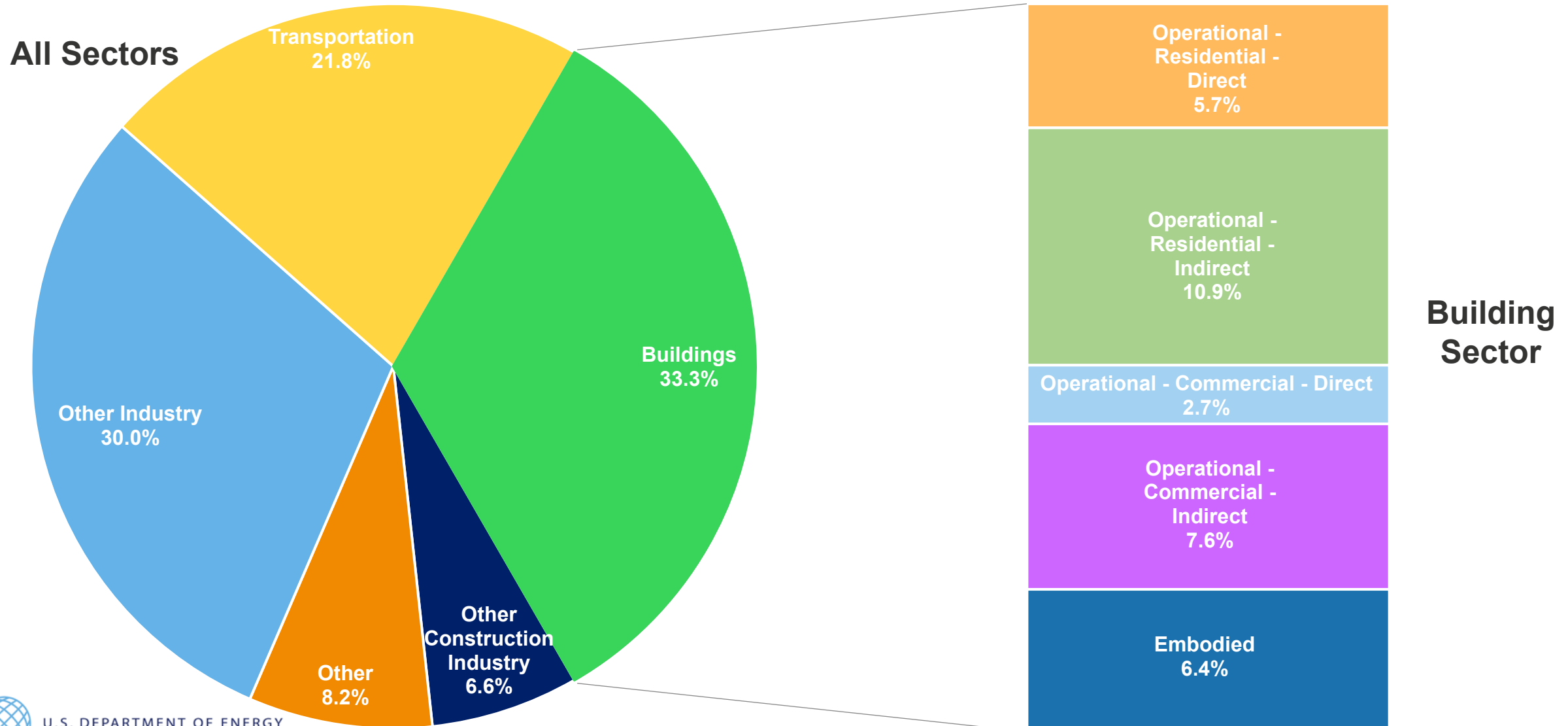
Global Energy-Related CO₂ Emissions by Sector (2021)



Global Energy-Related CO₂ Emissions by Sector (2021)



Global Energy-Related CO₂ Emissions by Sector (2021)



Scopes of Emissions

Scope 1: Direct Emissions

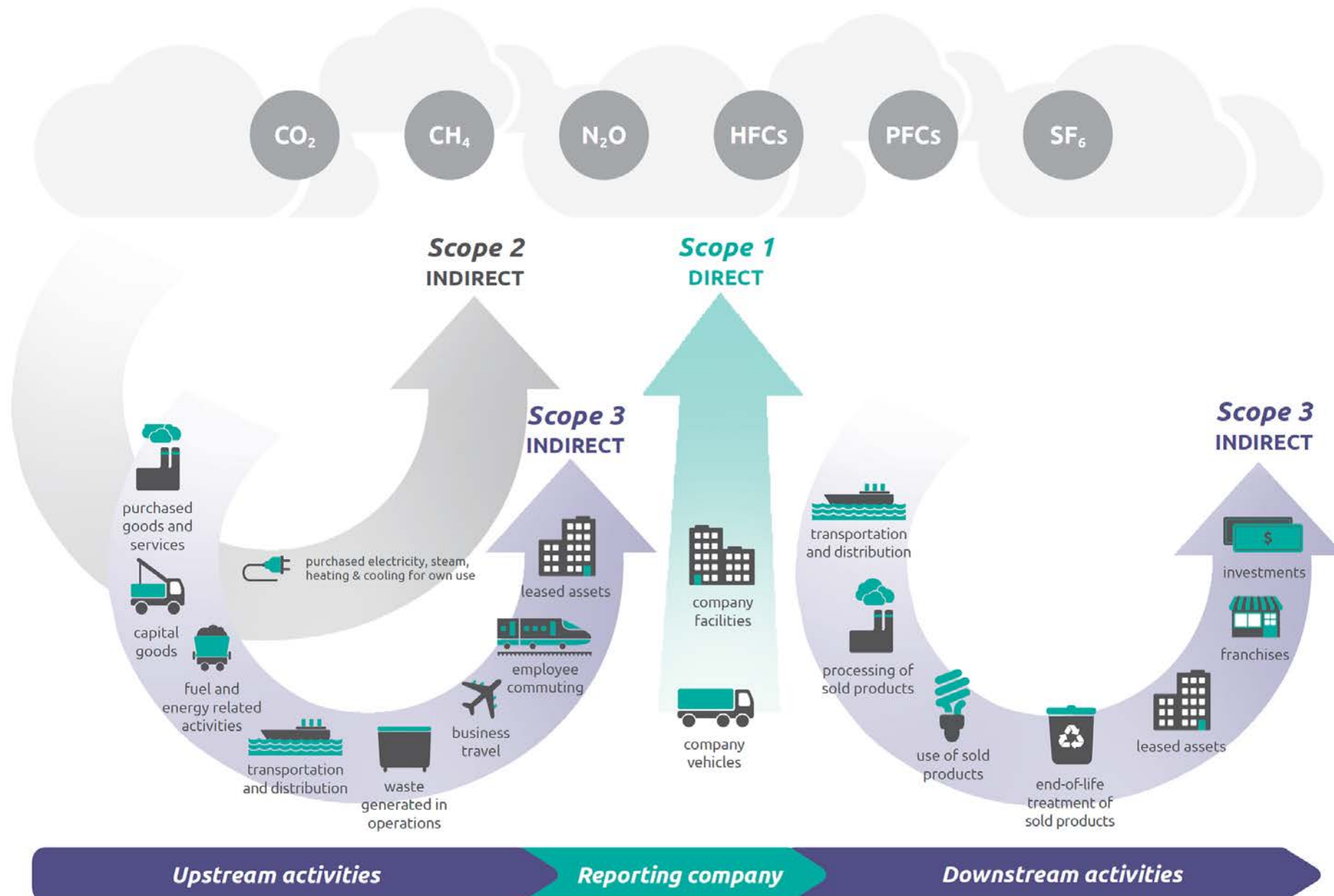
- Direct emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by the reporting company (e.g. fuel combustion in boilers, furnaces, vehicles).

Scope 2: Indirect Emissions from Purchased Energy

- Indirect emissions associated with the purchase of electricity, steam, heat, or cooling as a result of the reporting company's energy use.

Scope 3: Indirect Value Chain Emissions

- All indirect emissions (not included in Scope 2) that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions.



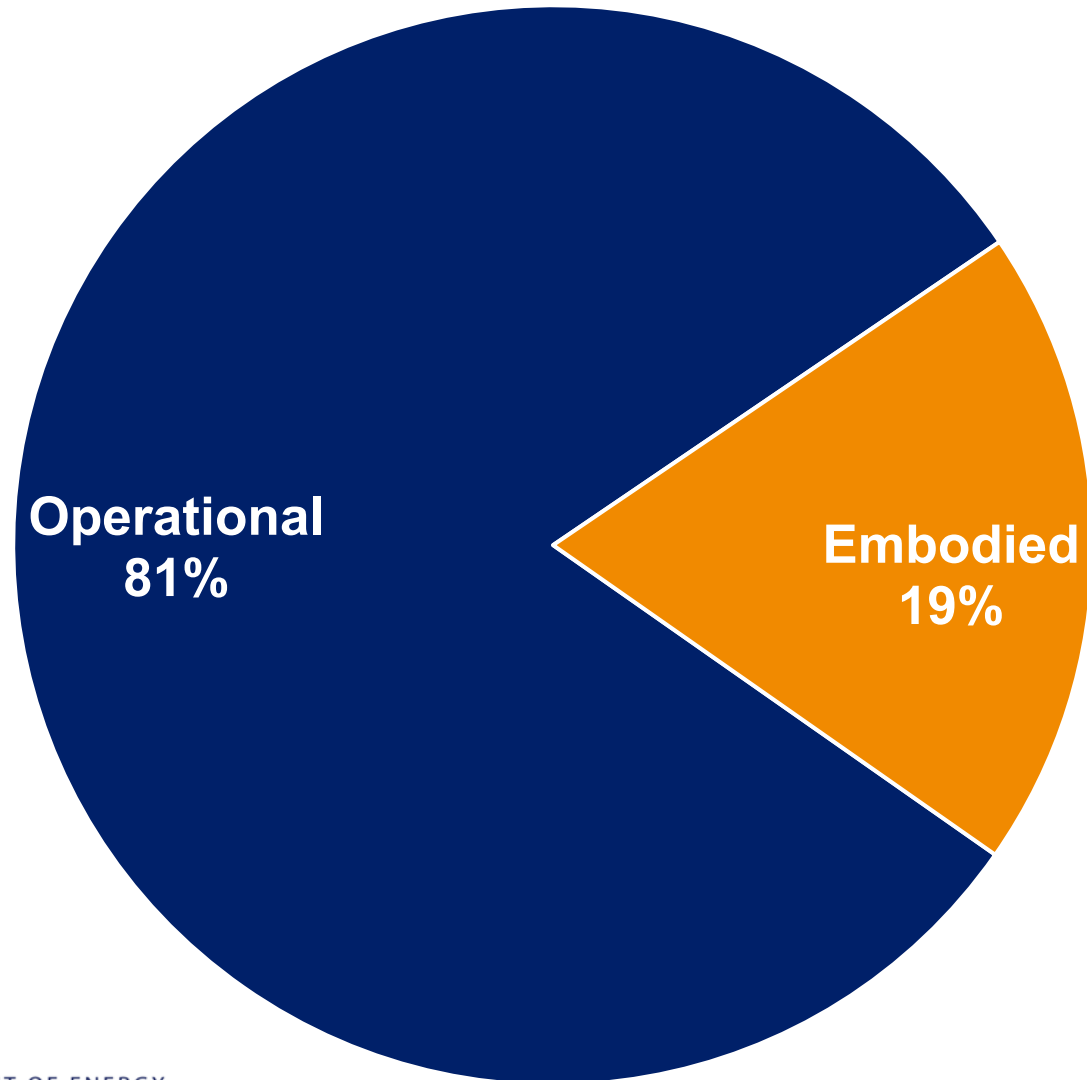
The Global Building Stock is Growing

- **Global building stock predicted to double by 2060** (according to 2017 Global Status Report)
 - The equivalent of adding one New York City each month for 40 years
 - ~2.5 trillion square feet of added floor area



<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/sustainability/our-programs/buildings.page>

Operational Efficiency Is Improving



Operational efficiency is improving, meaning the embodied piece is becoming more important

Questions or comments?

Please email SolarDecathlon@nrel.gov

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Acknowledgements

Holly Carr

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Heather Goetsch, Stacey Rothgeb, Jes Stershic, Dave Roberts, Michael Deru, Linh Truong, and Kelly MacGregor

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

David Brown

Accenture Federal Services

Authors

The following people were authors on this episode:

Paul Torcellini and Marlena Praprost

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

References

1. ASHRAE Position Document on Building Decarbonization: https://www.ashrae.org/file%20library/about/position%20documents/pd_buildingdecarbonization_2022.pdf
2. Architecture 2030 - Why the Built Environment?: <https://architecture2030.org/why-the-building-sector/#:~:text=Global%20building%20floor%20area%20is,every%20month%2C%20for%2040%20years.>
3. Scope 1 and Scope 2 Inventory Guidance: <https://www.epa.gov/climateleadership/scope-1-and-scope-2-inventory-guidance>
4. What are the Scopes of Carbon Emissions?: <https://www.greenworldwide.com/what-are-scope-1-2-and-3-carbon-emissions/>



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Building Life Cycle



Photo by Dennis Schroeder, NREL

Terminology

Embodied Carbon

- **Total emissions from carbon dioxide equivalents** associated with extraction, processing, manufacturing, and transporting of raw materials for the construction of buildings

Embodied Energy

- **Total energy** associated with extraction, processing, manufacturing, and transporting of raw materials for the construction of buildings

Embodied Water

- **Total volume of freshwater** associated with extraction, processing, manufacturing, and transporting of raw materials for the construction of buildings

Building Life-Cycle

Embodied Carbon

Operational Carbon

Embodied Carbon



Extract Raw Materials

Transport to Factory

Manufacture Products

Transport to Site

Construct the Building

Use the Building

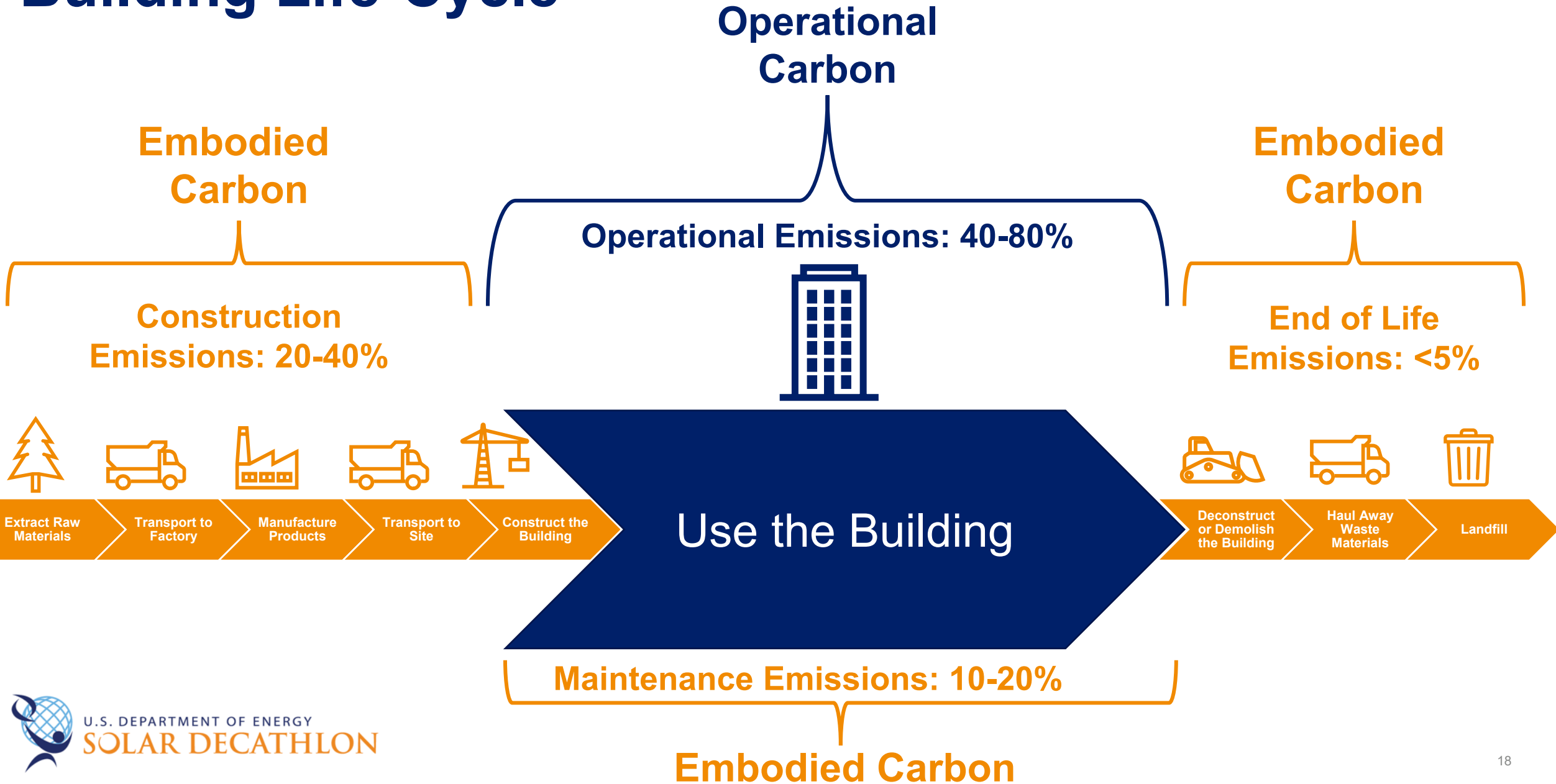
Deconstruct or Demolish the Building

Haul Away Waste Materials

Landfill



Building Life-Cycle



More Terminology

Cradle to Grave

- A product or material's full life cycle from extraction to disposal; **acknowledges that a certain amount of waste is produced**

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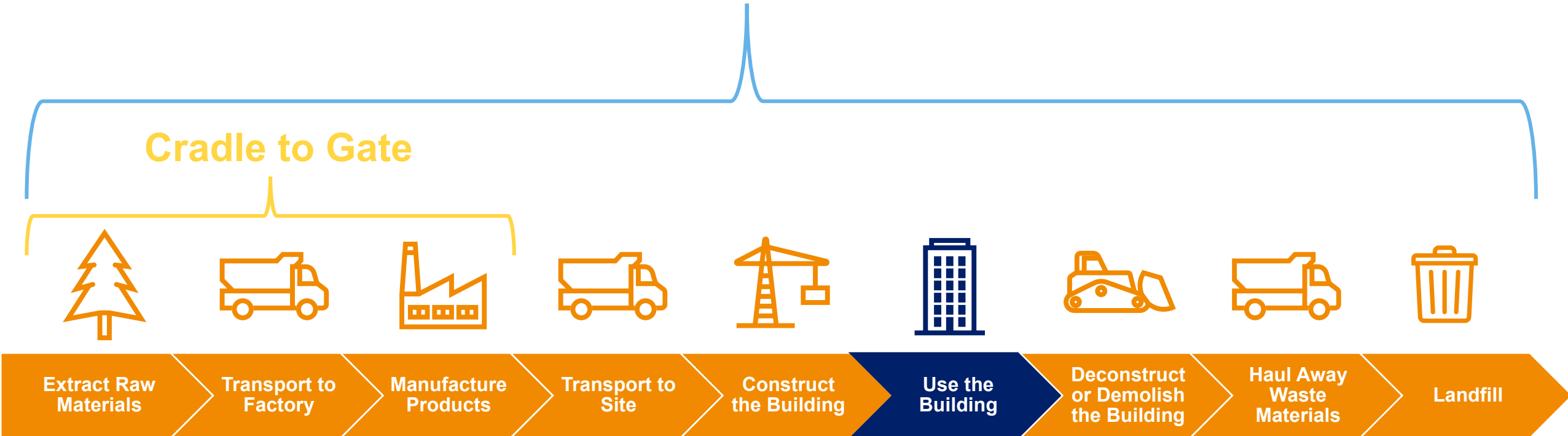
Cradle to Gate

- A product or material's partial life cycle from extraction to factory gate; **evaluates environmental impact before it reaches the consumer**

Cradle-to-Grave vs. Cradle-to-Gate

Cradle to Grave

Cradle to Gate



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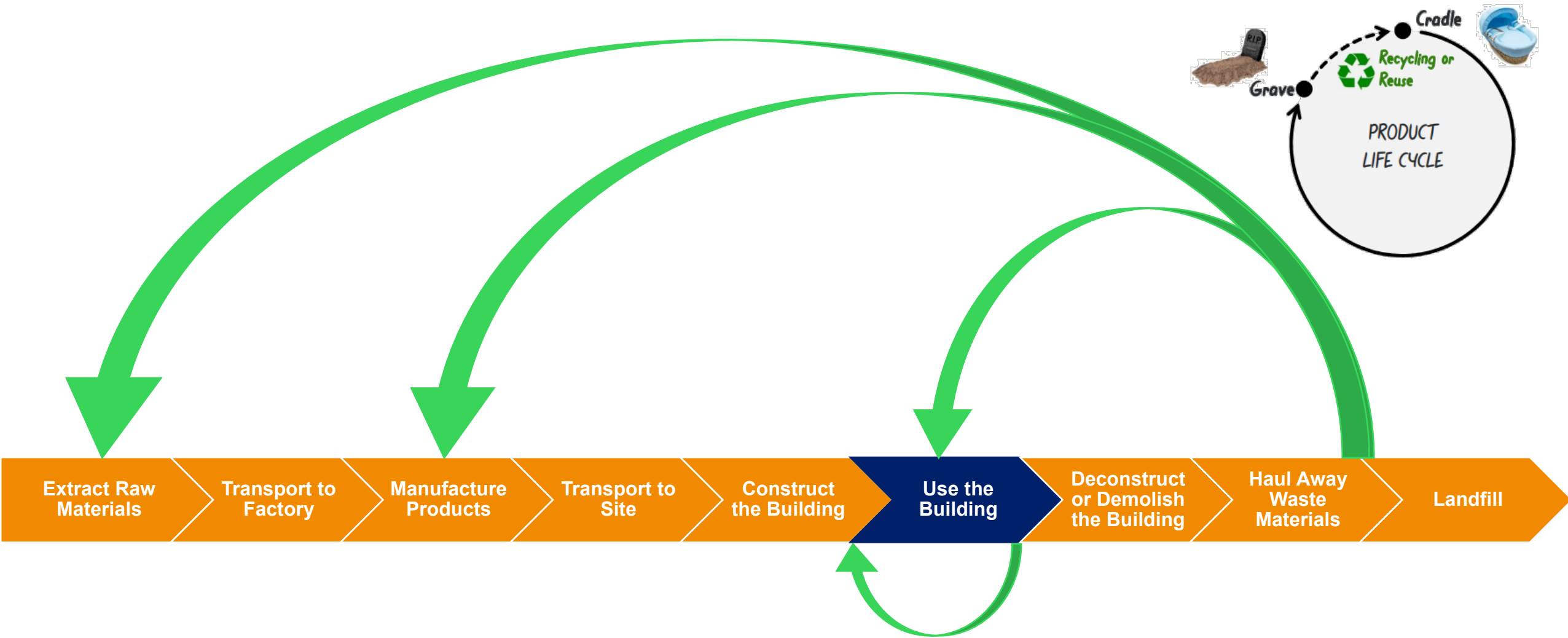
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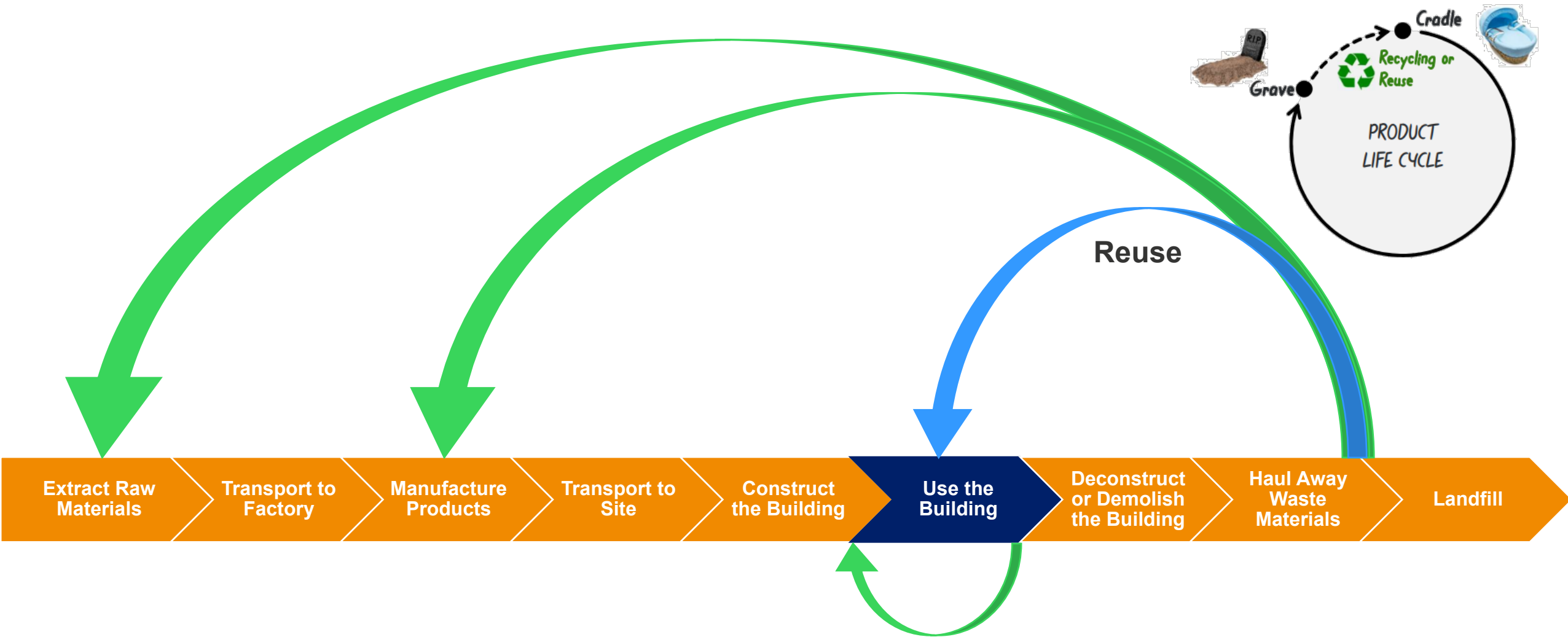
Cradle to Cradle

- Creating products or materials that can be truly recycled at the end of their life; **everything is a resource for something else**

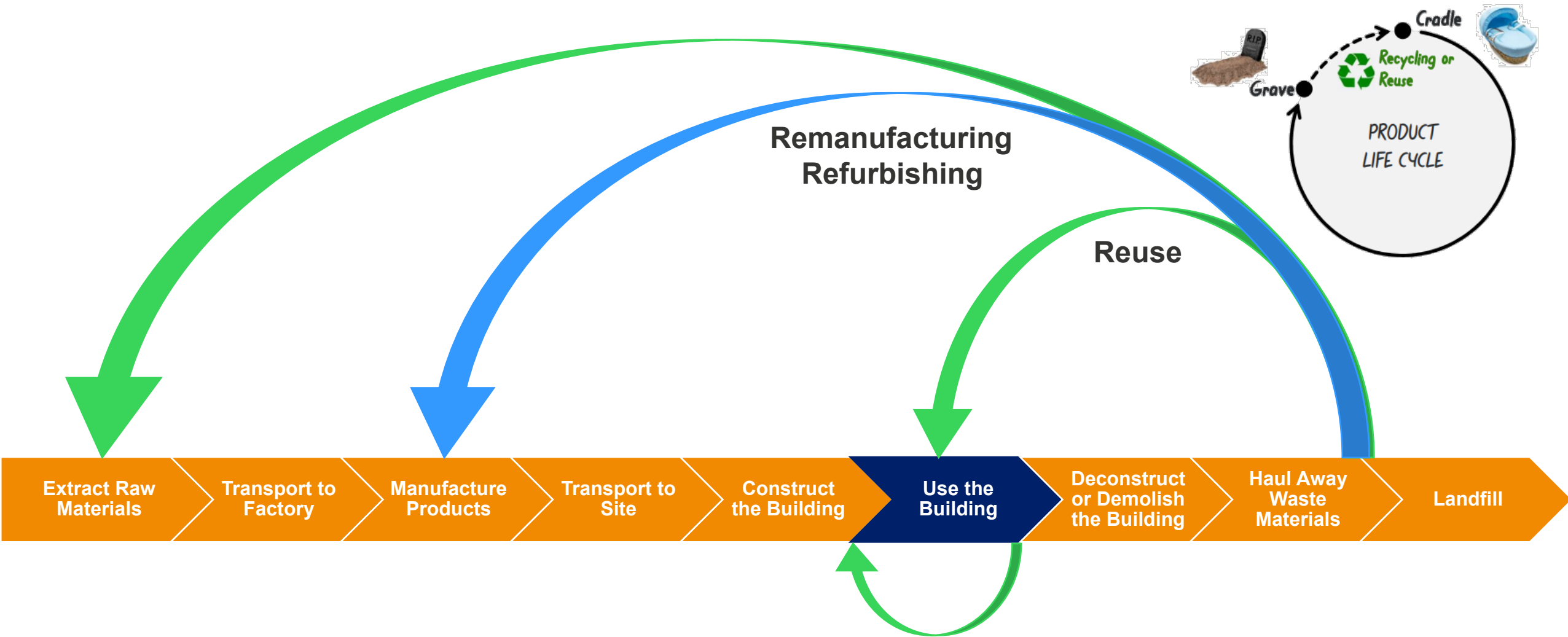
Circular Economy: Cradle to Cradle Approach



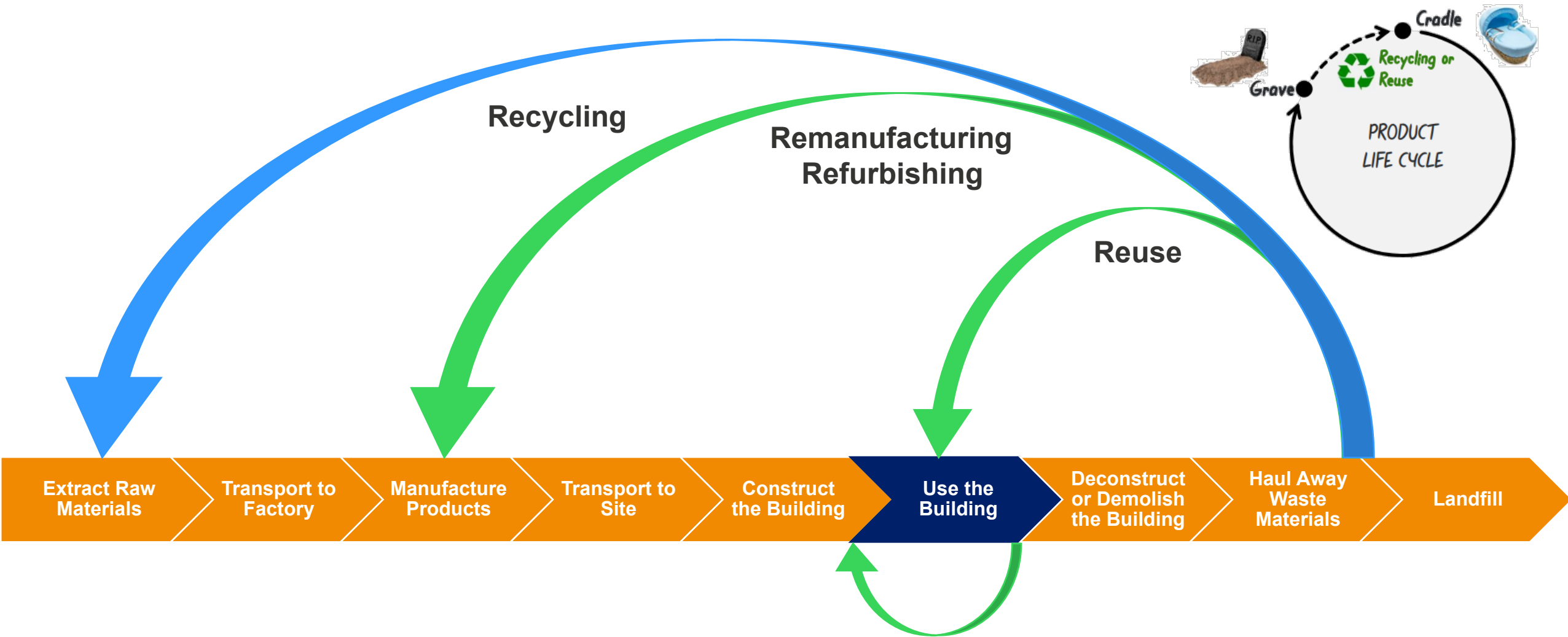
Circular Economy: Cradle to Cradle Approach



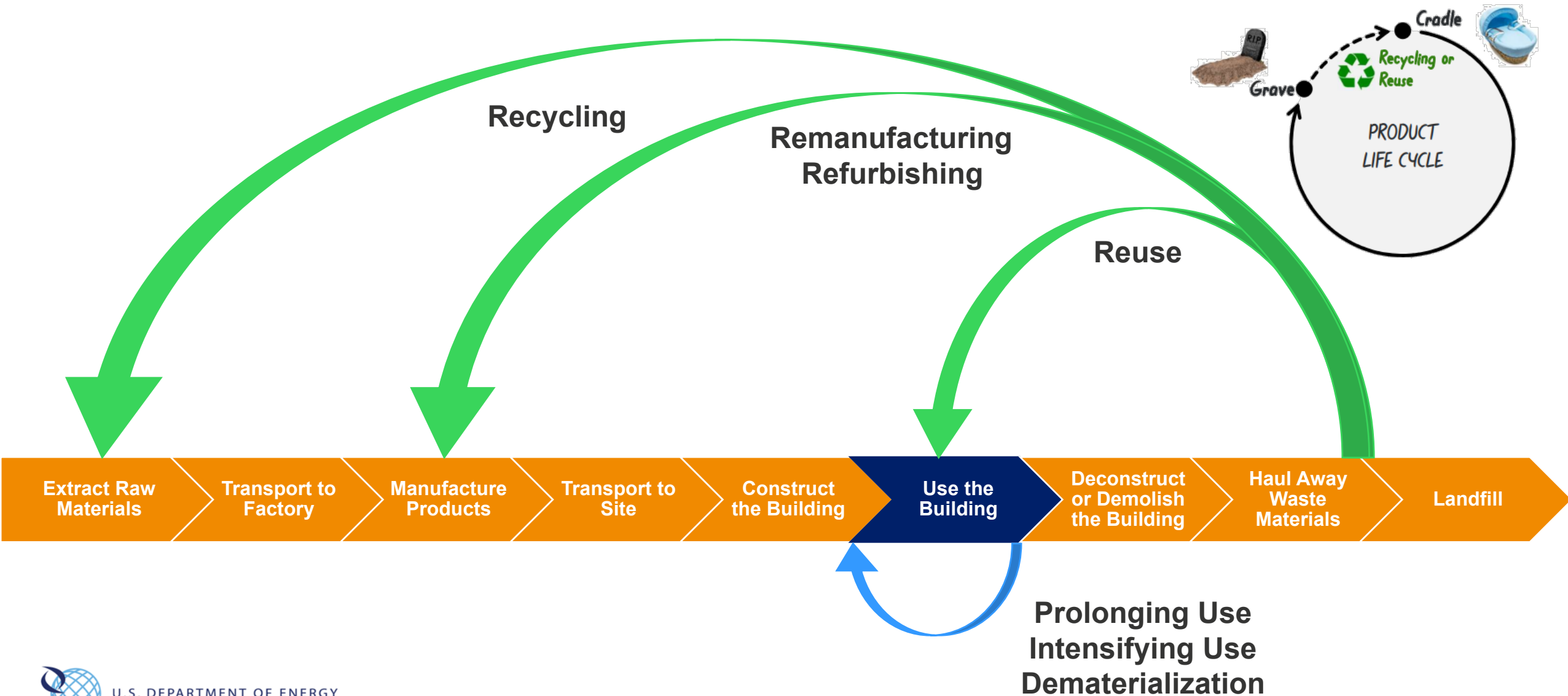
Circular Economy: Cradle to Cradle Approach



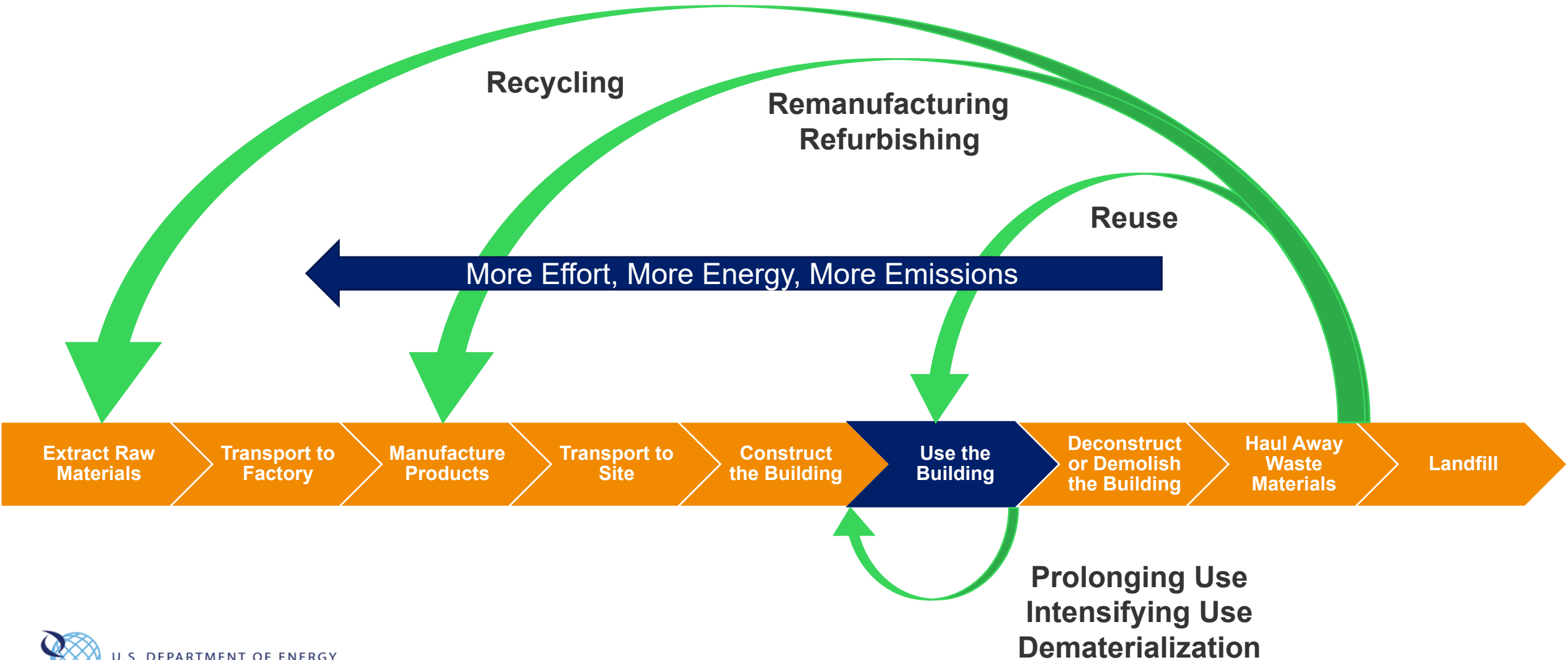
Circular Economy: Cradle to Cradle Approach



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The Green Arrows Do Not Come Without a Carbon Penalty



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1. What is a Circular Economy? <https://www.epa.gov/recyclingstrategy/what-circular-economy#:~:text=A%20circular%20economy%20reduces%20material,manufacture%20new%20materials%20and%20products.>
2. Overview of life cycle impacts of buildings: <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2021/01/f82/bto-lifecycle-webinars-1-101620.pdf>

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