



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: Shannan Ghera 847.347.0129

**Pepper Construction Makes Carbon Drawdown a Priority Protocol**  
*The Midwest Contractor of the Year\* Aims to Catalyze Industry to Build  
Cleaner, Smarter and Healthier*

**Chicago, IL – January 9, 2020** Pepper Construction, one of the largest and most established commercial construction firms in the Midwest, recently integrated carbon drawdown strategies into the company's standard operating protocols.

"Buildings are a leading contributor to greenhouse gas emissions so there is real urgency, and opportunity, for this industry to address our part in climate change," explains Stan Pepper, CEO of The Pepper Construction Companies, which owns Pepper Construction Group. "As experts in high performance and sustainable building, it is our responsibility to share our knowledge, leverage our technology and collaborate on behalf of our planet. By presenting scalable high performance and sustainable building strategies to every client and every project we build, we can make a transformative difference."

Nearly [40 percent of the world's carbon emissions come from the built world](#) through daily energy use and from the carbon generated through the manufacture and transportation of building materials. Since establishing this industry-leading protocol in January 2020, Pepper's High Performance and Sustainable Construction team has helped client projects **avoid 167,240 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**, or the equivalent of powering a vehicle around the globe 2,251 times.

According to Mr. Pepper, the firm actively builds on more than 250 jobsites each year: "Pepper Construction's goal is to bring high performance and sustainable construction into the mainstream and positively impact quality of life through the built world. If more leaders in our industry follow, the impact will be significant."

**Industry-wide Education, Advocacy and Action is Urgently Needed**

Buildings contribute to climate change in three ways. First, the **front embodied carbon** which includes the emissions produced from harvest, manufacture and transportation of building materials. Second, **energy efficiency** is reflected in the amount of energy consumed by the building. And, third, **fuel source emission** is the profile of the fuel used to heat, cool and power appliances in buildings.

*(Continued)*

## *Pepper Construction Makes Carbon Drawdown a Priority Protocol // Continued*

“From a building's development through its entire lifecycle, the influence it has on the environment, the economy, and human health is huge,” explains Susan Heinking, Vice President, High Performance and Sustainability, Pepper Construction. “We spend about 90 percent of our time indoors every day. Construction has the potential to benefit people's overall health and contribute to how well they function at work, in school and at home.” By encouraging the use of healthy materials along with introducing clients to ideas for efficient lighting, heating and cooling systems, Pepper intends to enhance human experience while improving a building's resiliency and fine tuning its performance to improve operational costs. According to Heinking, this will improve long-term building performance, as well as human productivity, and even deliver a much higher return on investment (ROI).

By implementing these solutions now into daily protocols, Mr. Pepper believes it will empower clients and the Architecture, Engineering and Construction (AEC) industry to affect realistic change: “It's time for the AEC industry to take a proactive approach toward advocating on behalf of the environment. We must influence building systems, promote updates to building codes, implement sustainable construction methods and recommend healthier materials and efficient systems that deliver value throughout a building's lifecycle. Imagine the impact we can make if we work together – the promise of a brighter future for our children and future generations.”

### **A history of innovative High-Performance Construction solutions**

The company is an established knowledge leader in high performance construction, adding dedicated resources to the discipline in each Pepper office. The in-house High Performance team developed and deploys its own proprietary [Building Performance Tool](#) to instantly inform partners on various energy saving options. At the 2019 Greenbuild show, the contractor unveiled a first-of-its-kind [Net Zero jobsite trailer](#). Specified to achieve WELL Silver Certification, the [company recently opened its own energy-efficient and healthy building](#) in Columbus, Ohio.

“Developing smart strategies and advanced technology to leverage this vision is the first step,” suggests Mr. Pepper. “But the most critical path to success is making these carbon drawdown opportunities more accessible and more fiscally-attractive to clients who care about their impact. If we act now, we can mainstream carbon drawdown benefits throughout the AEC industry.”

Pepper Construction serves clients throughout the country with comprehensive teams in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin. Pepper Construction represents some of the most advanced thought leadership in our industry. By integrating their high-performance, lean and technological expertise into the company's operational processes, Pepper is transforming the future. Ranked as one of the top builders of sustainable projects in the nation, Pepper serves clients in a variety of markets such as healthcare, education, commercial interiors, manufacturing and industrial, civic and cultural, data centers, entertainment, hospitality and gaming, among others. Some of the firm's current work includes the transformation of the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden into the world's first Net Zero zoo; The 1060 Project at Wrigley Field, Starbuck's Roastery, Columbia College Student Center, St. Rita Square Senior Living Community and St. Rita Church and Rolls-Royce's Reinvestment and Modernization of Manufacturing Operations. For more information, please visit [www.pepperconstruction.com](http://www.pepperconstruction.com)

###

# A Building's Impact

Buildings are environments, too

1

## Healthy Refrigerants

Healthy refrigerant options with low Ozone Depleting Potential (ODP) and low Global Warming Potential (GWP) levels

- Cleaner Air
- Lower risk of respiratory disease
- Improved asthma, allergies, & sinus conditions
- Healthier immune systems & blood oxygenation
- Less inflammation, healthier cardiovascular systems
- Less mold, dust, pollen, gases

4

## Access to Sunlight

Access to sunlight reduces energy needs and improves human performance

- Higher productivity
- Better mood, higher rates of learning
- Better dental health
- Lower Osteoporosis Risk (Vit D)
- Higher metabolism with lower rates of obesity

2

## Solar Energy

Resilient source of clean energy that is not dependent on the current utility grid

- Lower energy bills
- Less pollution in the atmosphere

5

## Healthy Materials

Lower embodied carbon materials reduce pollution in the atmosphere and Red List-free materials eliminate toxins inside the building.

- Eliminate toxins & carcinogens that can leach into your body and be permanently stored in fat cells
- Lower rates of cancer & endocrine failure
- Restore nutrient levels to crops
- Eliminates toxins that can leach into soil; polluting food, water, & you!

3

## Envelope Insulation

Added envelope insulation delivers greater thermal comfort to the building's occupants.

- Reduced energy use
- Higher productivity
- Healthier endocrine & respiratory systems
- Less asthma
- Happier disposition

6

## Water Savings

Water conservation strategies like low-flow plumbing fixtures and water harvesting strategies like cisterns

- Less energy used by the community to treat water
- Lower water bills
- Responsible stewardship of a finite shared resource
- Fresh, untreated water positively impacts soil for healthier crops and animals

