

# SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF STRUCTURAL ABANDONMENT AND THE LINEAR BUILT ENVIRONMENT MODEL

Property values go down because of surrounding vacant structures, meaning people have a harder time selling their homes or getting home improvement loans. At the same time, insurance prices often rise for nearby properties.

Additionally, studies conducted in the urban center of Austin, Texas, show that crime rates on blocks with open abandoned buildings have been twice as high as those on blocks without them.

## DEMOLITION ALSO PRODUCES LARGE AMOUNTS OF DUST THAT MAY CONTAIN LEAD AND OTHER METALS.

Demolishing an average single-family home generates six times the EPA regulation limit of lead dust fall. Yet, it takes only ingesting the equivalent of three granules of lead dust to cause permanent damage to a child, including major behavioral and learning problems, slowed growth, anemia, and in some cases, seizures, coma, and even death.

Demolition also creates perpetual harm to the environment by putting loads of materials in landfills and requiring manufacturing of new construction materials.

The EPA estimates that U.S. companies generate 136 million tons of building-related construction and demolition waste every year. Of that amount, **92% is generated by renovation and demolition.**

Additionally, the construction and building sector accounts for around **39% of global carbon emissions**, including all aspects of building a structure and considering the embodied carbon within a built structure.

## DEMOLISHED MATERIALS ENDING UP IN LANDFILLS EMIT LARGE AMOUNTS OF CARBON.

When a house is demolished and its materials are buried in a landfill, the carbon emitted amounts to over 41 equivalent tons of energy per average single family house.

That means **that demolishing 1 single house emits the same amount of carbon as if you were to drive your car 93,000 miles.** That would be like driving around the world 4 times.

Manufacturing new construction materials has the largest carbon impact in the entire construction and building sector and accounts for a total of 11% of all global carbon emissions.