

Document 1



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Document 2

CLIMATE CHANGE: MPs¹ SAY BUILDING DEMOLITIONS MUST BE REDUCED

The number of buildings being knocked down must be reduced because demolition and rebuilding adds to climate change, MPs say. Previously developers have been encouraged to knock down old, poorly-insulated homes and offices and replace them with buildings needing less heating.

More recently the government has agreed with engineers who argued that replacing buildings was often bad for the climate in the short and medium term. That's because lots of emissions are created to make materials for buildings - such as steel, cement, bricks, glass, aluminium and plastics. Demolishing and rebuilding creates double emissions by necessitating the manufacture of two lots of construction materials. The Commons² committee wants developers to be obliged to calculate emissions over the entire lifetime of buildings. It's urging the government to set ratcheting targets³ for the buildings sector, which is responsible for 25% of the UK's emissions.

The battle against demolition is already underway in the UK, with pioneering architects and engineers urging solutions such as adding extra storeys to existing buildings. Other options are to recycle as much of the old building as possible, or keep the facade - or indeed the foundations, which need vast amounts of carbon-intensive cement.

www.bbc.com, 26 May 2022

1. MP's: Members of Parliament
2. Commons: Parliament
3. ratcheting targets: more objectives

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