

Module 1: Life Cycle Assessment

Block 1: Introduction

- Block 1:
  - Introduction to LCA
  - Goal and scope
- Block 2
  - Inventory analysis
  - Impact assessment
- Block 3
  - cradle-to-cradle
  - opportunities
- Examples

#### **Authors**:

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#### We start with a personal question about your buying behaviour:

Suppose you need a new pair of trousers, blue jeans. In the shop and you see two Diesel jeans. Both they have:

- ✓ the same cut, and the same colour
- ✓ the same the fabric with the same feel and touch
- ✓ and suppose the quality is the same

### Content of this training package en statement.

Question 1. Suppose that you believe Diesel, and suppose that

- bModule 1: LCA is have the same price. Who of you will buy thintroduction (Block 1) in sticker?

  Calculation structure and tools (Block 2)
  - OLCAtin circular business systems (Block 3)s 80 euro and green
- jeModule 2: material scarcity in/LCA/ill still buy the jeans with
- Module 3: creating circular business models
- Module 4: eco-efficient value creation in product innovation you will still buy the jeans with the green sticker?



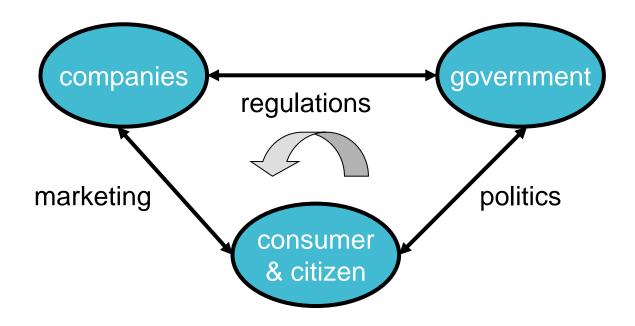


## Enquiries in Western Europe show:

- 75 80 % of the people care for the environment, however
- 2 5 % of the people are prepared to pay more for a 'green' product
- About 50% of the students do not buy green labels:
  - regard it as 'green washing'
  - mistrust the quality when the price is the same



#### The road towards Sustainability: the interaction of the 3 stakeholders

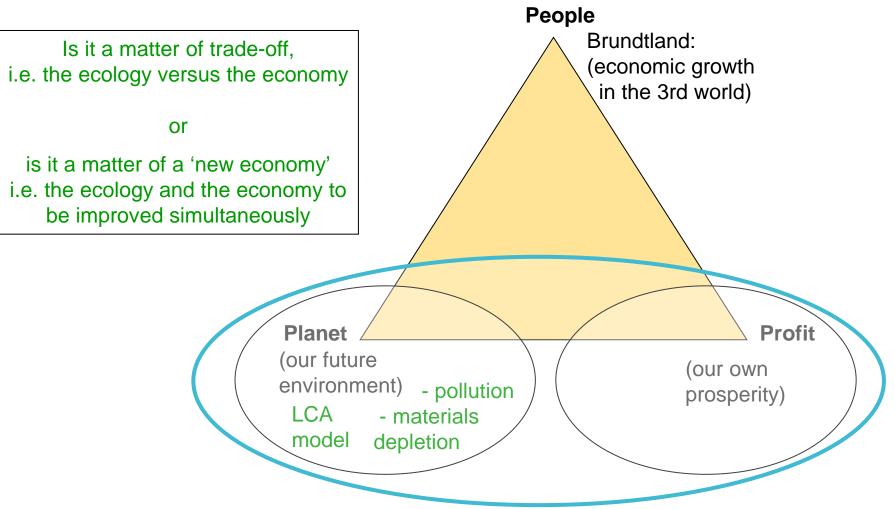


## The road towards sustainability:

- Clients buy products in shops on the basis of quality/price ratio (sustainability is unimportant in the shop)
- However, clients act also a citizen in politics: a majority asks the government to set strickter regulations
- Companies accept regulations when they are 'level playing field'



#### The basics of Sustainability: the 'Triple P' of Planet, People, and Profit



Circular business models and eco-efficient value creation

## Sustainability according Brundtland and Elkington

- Brundtland (1987) looked at the relationship between the poor environmental situation and poverty in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries
- Elkington (1994) looked at business strategies, and proposed a more balanced trade-off in business:
  - saving our planet,
  - care for **people** :a better distribution of wealth
  - profit of your own company



#### The business challenge of Sustainability

"What we need now is a new era of economic growth – growth that is forceful and at the same time socially and environmentally sustainable."

(Brundtland, 1987)

"The delivery of competitively priced goods and services
that satisfy human needs and bring 'quality of life',
while progressively reducing ecological impacts
and resource intensity, throughout the lifecycle,
to a level at least in line with the earth's
estimated carrying capacity"

(WBCSD, 1995)

Our Innomat training course will deal with two issues:

- Module 1 and 2:
   what is the environmental
   impact of our products and
   services, i.e.
   Life Cycle Assessment, LCA
- Module 3 and 4:
   how do we create a business
   that combines profitability
   with reduced environmental
   impact, i.e.
   circular business models
   and eco-efficient value
   creation



## The key question: Which of these products is the most sustainable? How to decide it?



Paper bag



Reusable plastic bag

A key issue in our modern world: "what is true and what is not true?"

- Many companies are marketing by 'window dressing', since they want to be perceived greener than that they are.
- NGOs tend to spread alarming 'guts feel' news since they belief that people should be made aware, but adhere to marketing strategies that avoid the real complexity of issues.
- Who can we trust anymore?



## The key question: Which of these products is the most sustainable? How to decide it?



#### **DIFFICULT DECISION**

- What is the lifespan of these products?
- How impacting is their manufacturing?
- How will they be treated at their end of life?
   Etc.

Paper bag

Reusable plastic bag

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#### **DIFFICULT DECISION**

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Paper bag

Reusable plastic bag

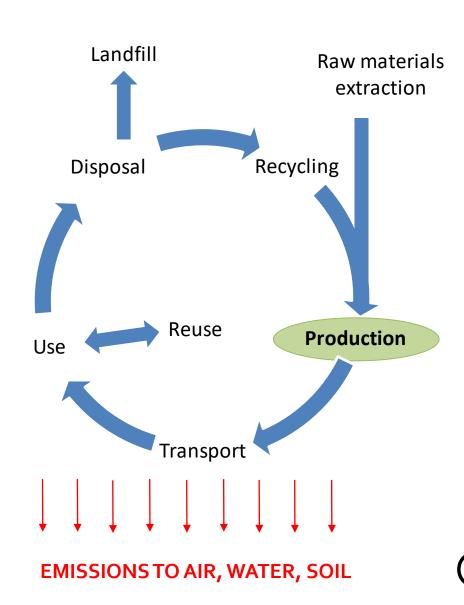


we need **LCA** to perform this analyses in a comprehensive way



#### What is Life Cycle Assessment – LCA?

"LCA is a technique that is used to quantify the environmental impact of a product system (good or service) throughout its life cycle, from the extraction of raw material to product disposal"



Life Cycle Assessment is about mass- and energy balances

- Considers the entire life cycle of a product
- P Quantifies required resources as well as emissions into the air, water and soil that can be attributed to the product.
- Provides indicators of the product's contribution to environmental problems such as climate change, toxicity (human and ecosystems) and resource scarcity

#### 1a. Product comparison

#### **Examples**:

- Alkaline battery vs rechargeable battery?
- Fossil vs bio-based plastic?
- Concrete vs wood?
- Electricity from the grid versus electricity from PV cells

#### **1b.** Comparison of services

- Transport by train versus airplane
- Carsharing versus ownership versus bike
- Centralized wastewater treatment versus decentralized wastewater treatment



- 1. Product comparison
- 2. Product design and improvement

#### Example: the LCA of a knife

#### LCA results

- Material consumption largest impact: the blade and handle
- Use phase varies: maintenance (handwashing vs. dishwasher)



#### Design strategy example

- Reduction of the steel blade's thickness
  + use or recycled PP in handle
- Communication to user about best maintenance (handwashing vs. dishwasher)
- •



- 1. Product comparison
- 2. Product design and improvement
- 3. Environmental Product Declarations, EPDs
  - EPDs are product descriptions with environmental information, in a well organised, trustable, and transparent certification system
  - It is available in the building industry, and becomes available in the European food industry as well
  - It is supposed to make an end to the ever increasing mess of labels







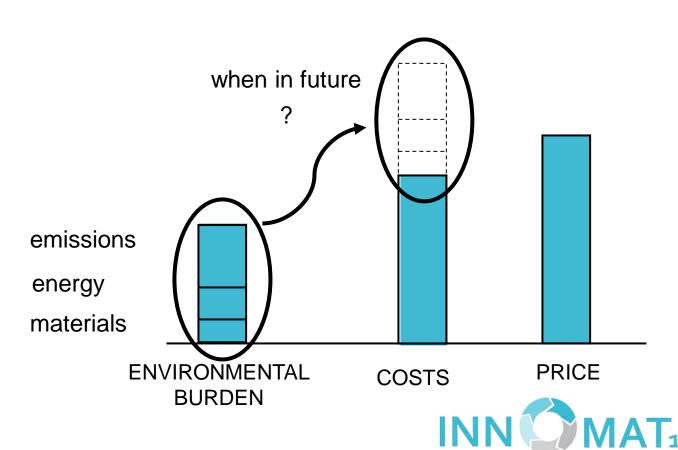








- 1. Product comparison
- 2. Product design and improvement
- 3. Environmental Product Declarations
- 4. Strategic planning of product innovation
  - LCA accounts for "external costs" in addition to the "internal costs"
  - Regulations may "internalize" external costs via: taxes to be paid, tradable emission right prices, required Best Available Technology (not at excessive costs)
  - When it will happen is not known, but that it will happen is quite certain



- 1. Product comparison
- 2. Product design and improvement
- 3. Ecolabelling
- 4. Strategic planning
- 5. Policy usage
  - Helping to develop long-term policy
  - Evaluating effects of alternative techniques
  - Providing environmental impact information to broad public



Important element of European environmental policy



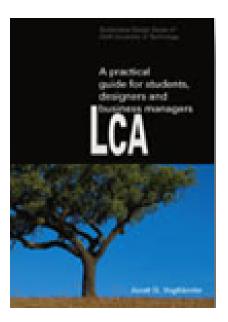
- 1. Product comparison
- 2. Product design and improvement
- 3. Ecolabelling
- 4. Strategic planning
- 5. Policy usage
- 6. Comparison of alternative treatment processes of waste materials, wastewater etc.



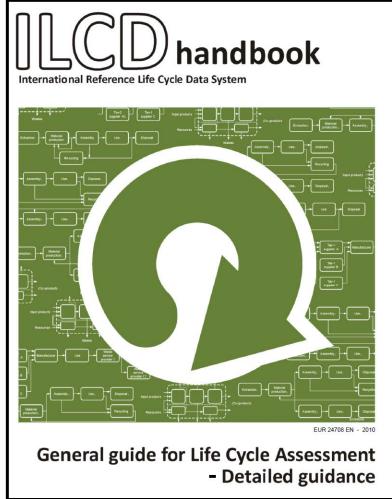


#### Life Cycle Assessment is well specified:

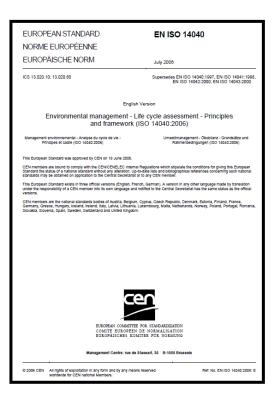
- Norms and definitions
- Scientific papers
- Handbooks
- Databases



Detailed guidelines in the ILCD handbook and other literature

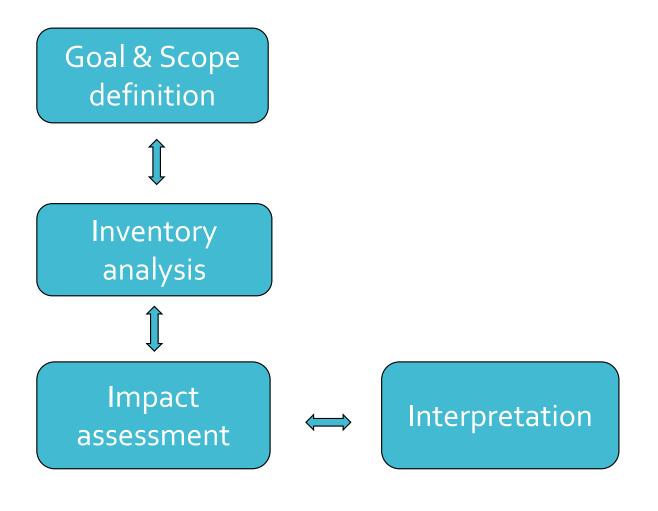








#### The stages of and LCA study



## Goal & Scope definition must include at least:

- Aim of the study, e.g.
  - a comparison of 2 or more products, or improvement of the environmental characteristics of a product chain
  - (2) for internal or external use
  - (3) choice of the relevant indicator(s) **or** single indicator system
- Scope of the study, e.g.
  - (1) system description including flow diagram
  - (2) system boundaries
  - (3) what is included or excluded
  - (4) transport scenarios
  - (5) life time assumptions (technical or economic)
- The "Functional Unit"



#### The 'functional unit' in LCA: the delivery

#### The **functional unit**

- The reference unit for the study (the delivery)
- What? How much? How long? Which quality?



#### Examples:

- Plastic or paper bag for shopping : 10 kg weight max, 15 litre volume (35 cm x 35 cm x 15 cm): how many times re-usable? (or calculate per shopping session)
- Supply of 100.000 lumen lighting for one year (= 90h)
- Transport from A to B
- Production of 1 kg steel (is called 'declared unit')



#### System description and system boundaries of an LCA for a product or service



**Excluding** a stage or element should be properly **justified** 

#### Example:

or **SERVICE** 

- Not important for the decision-making
   (e.g. in a comaprison: subsystems which are the same for both systems)
- Not relevant impacts(e.g. below 1 or 2 %)



EMISSIONS TO AIR, WATER, SOIL

# The first assignment: Discover the differences between the carbon footprint of materials like steel, plastics, bioplastics, and wood by using the IDEMAT app (in IOS or Android)

(stop the video, do the assignment, and after that, continue with the video)





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Block 2: calculation system and tools

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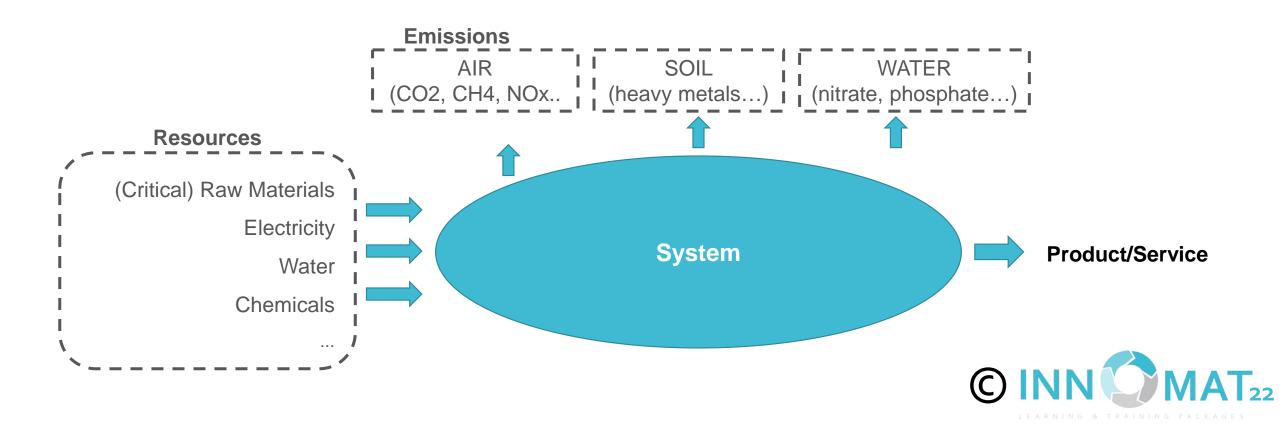






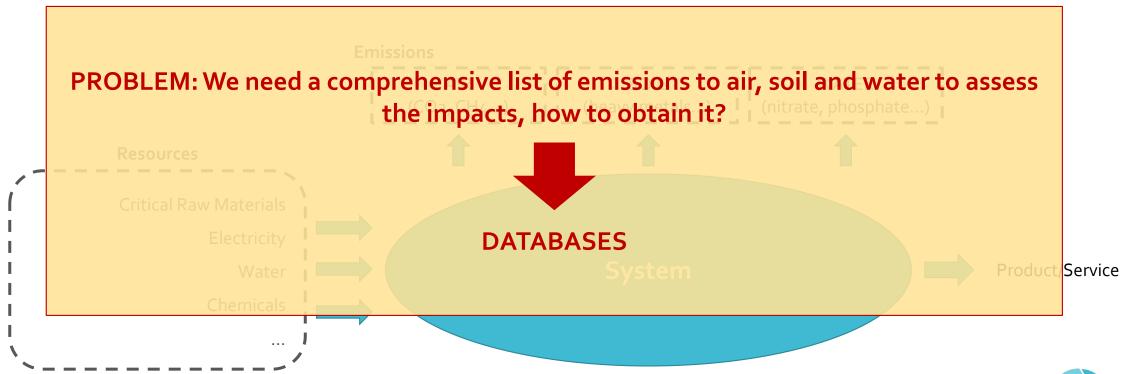
#### **Creating the Life Cycle Inventory (LCI)**

Once the LCA is defined, we must collect the necessary data:



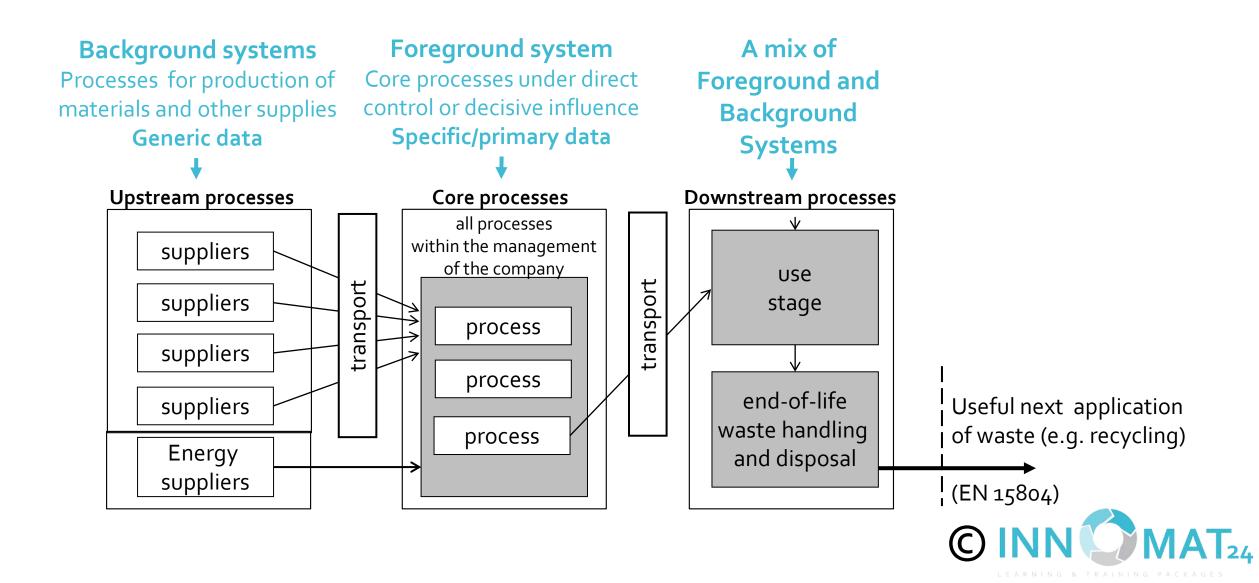
Life Cycle Inventory (LCI): Gathering all the necessary data to conduct the LCA

Once the LCA is defined, we must collect the necessary data





#### The foreground system and background systems, a practical consideration



#### Potential sources for the Life Cycle Inventory (LCI)

#### **FOREGROUND SYSTEM (main system)**

#### **EXAMPLES**

Direct emissions from the process

#### **DATA SOURCES**

- Measurements on production site
- Surveys/inquiries
- Literature data (bibliographic research)
- Modeling/calculations

#### **BACKGROUND SYSTEM (supply chain)**

#### **EXAMPLES**

- Materials mining
- Emissions of transportation
- Emissions of electricity generation

#### DATABASES WITH ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION







thinkstep **GaBi** 

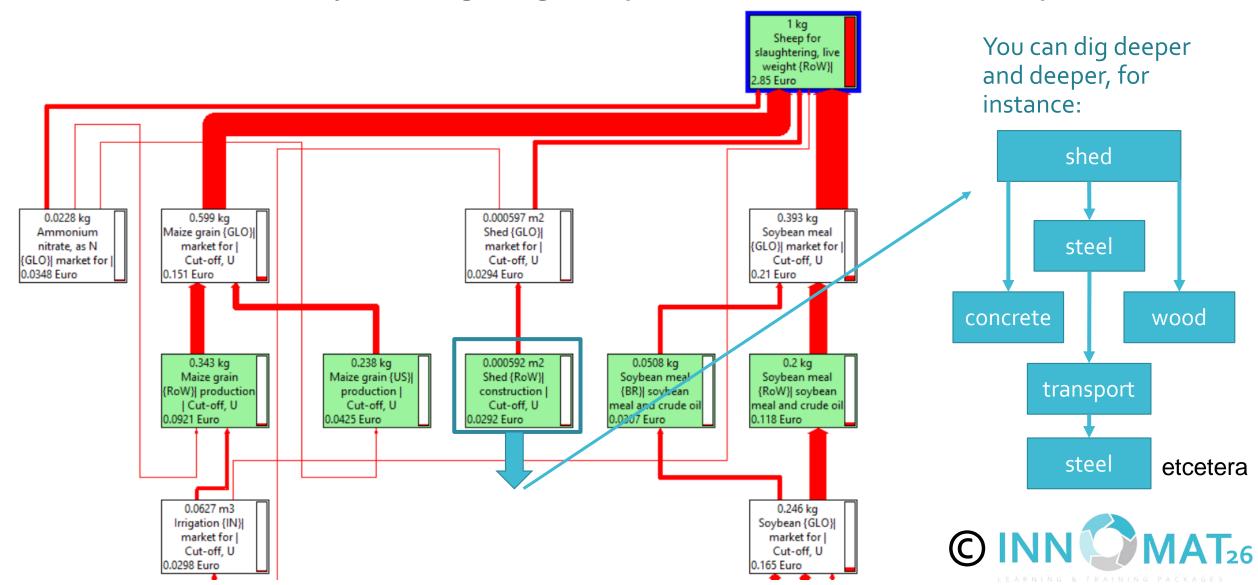


data on effects of toxicity and scarcity

Idemat and Idematapp data



"The Tree" in LCA: assembly of existing background processes lead to new LCAs of new products



#### Even a simple system can have hundreds or thousands of emissions!

EXAMPLE: 1 kg steel – list of emissions 719 different emissions to the environment!!

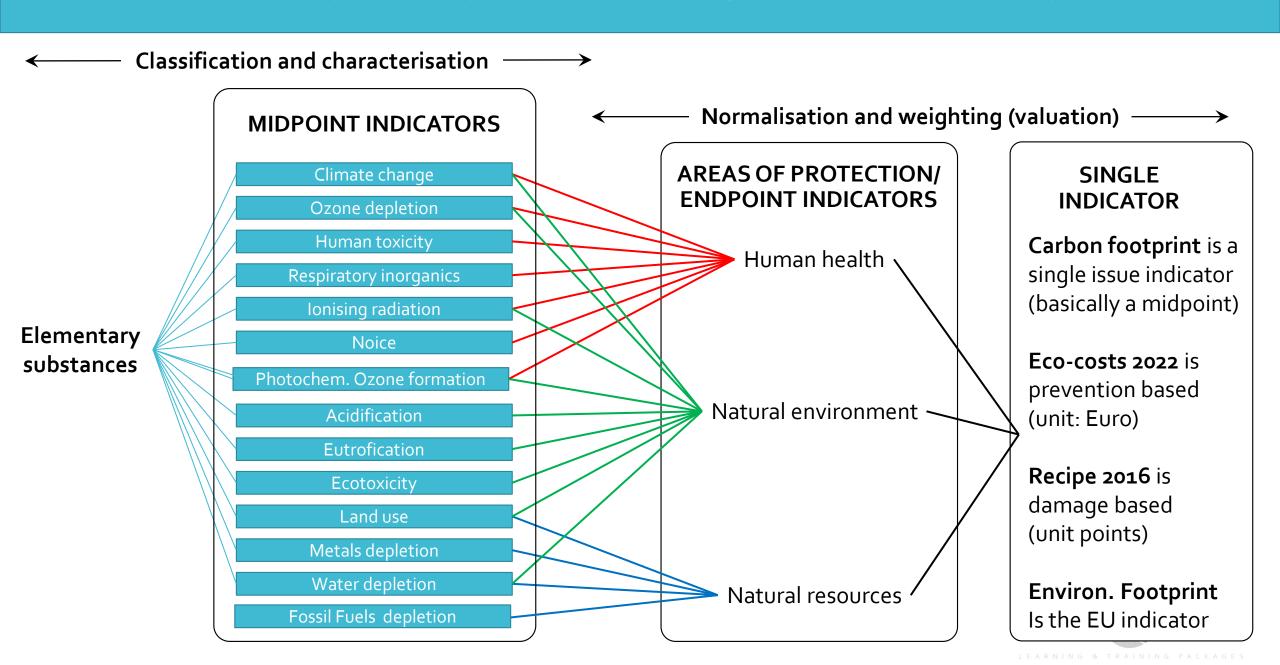
No	Substance	Compartment	Unit	Steel, low-alloyed, at plant/RER S
1	1-Butanol	Air	pg	13.34.2
2	1-Butanol	Water		142.58
3	1-Pentanol	Air		169.57
PRC	BLEM: Ho	ow to address all these emiss	sions? Which	ones are important? How do
5				178 17
6	1-Pentene	we decide which ones to use	wnen compa	aring products:
7	1-Propanol	Air		11.545
8	1-Propanol	Water		625.24
• • •				
714	Zinc-65	Air	nBq	384.12
715	Zinc-65	Water	μВq	947.68
716	Zirconium			1.8466
717	Zirconium	Air		14.051
718	Zirconium-95	We need Life Cycle Imp	act Assessme	ent (LCIA) <sub>75.4</sub> 6
719	Zirconium-95	Water		10.974

#### Even a simple system can have hundreds or thousands of emissions!

EXAMPLE: 1 kg steel – list of emissions 719 different emissions to the environment!!

No	Substance	Compartment	Unit	Steel, low-alloyed, at plant/RER S
1	1-Butanol	Air	<del></del>	13.342
2	1-Butanol	Water		142.58
	1-Pentanol	Air		169.57
SC	LUTION = creating a	a "single indicator"		406.96
	1-Pentene	Air		128.14
	1-Pentene	Water		307.53
7	1-Propanol	Air		11.545
l h	ere are 3 types of sinc	le indicator systems:		625.24
- b	ased on 1 "single issu	e" the Carbon Footprin	t (CO:	<b>2)</b> 384.12
71 <u>5</u> b	ased on damage	Water the Ecoindicator 99	/ Reci	
717 718 b	ased on prevention co	osts the Eco-costs 2017		14.051 375.46
	Zirconium-95	Water		10.974



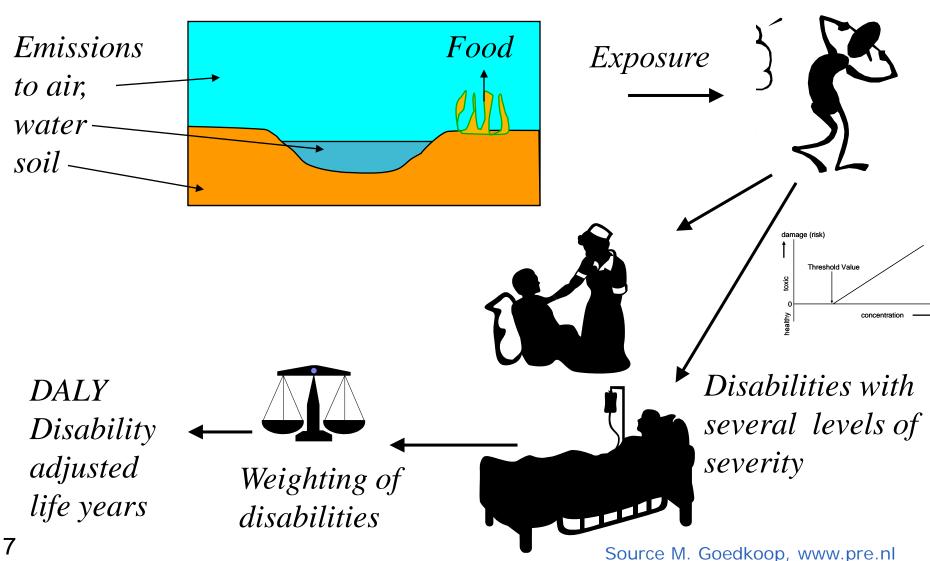


#### **MIDPOINT vs ENDPOINT**

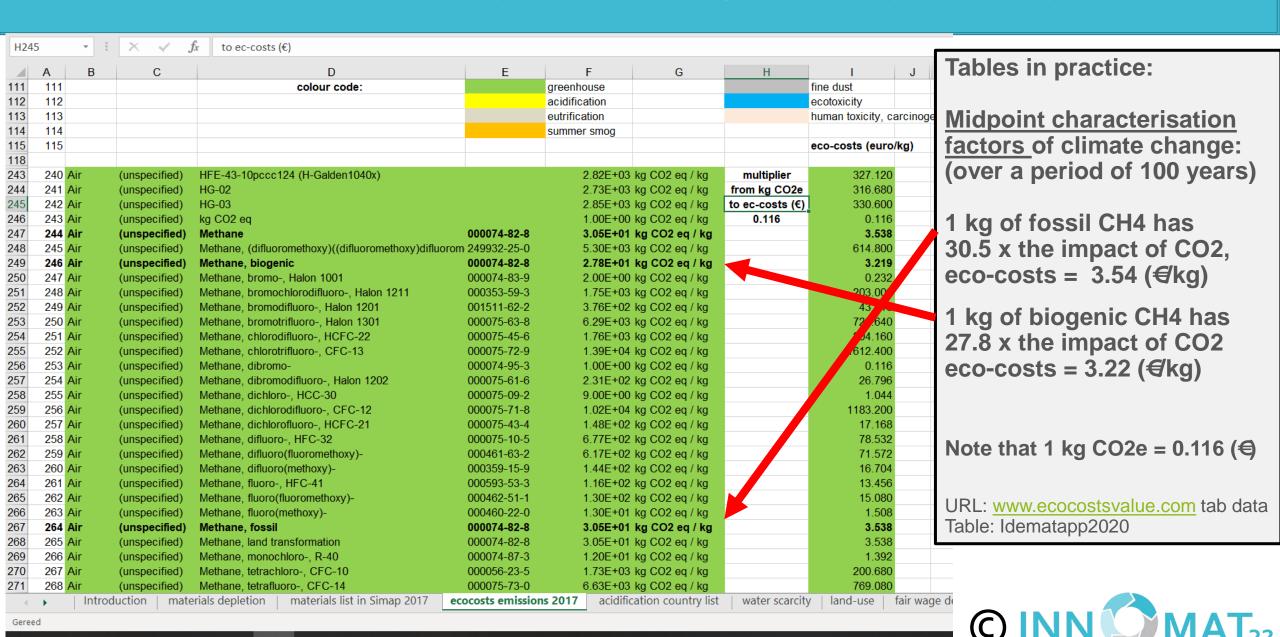
	STRENGHT	WEAKNESS
MIDPOINT LEVEL	<ul><li>More impact categories</li><li>Lower uncertainty</li></ul>	Difficult interpretation
ENDPOINT LEVEL	Easier interpretation	Higher uncertainty

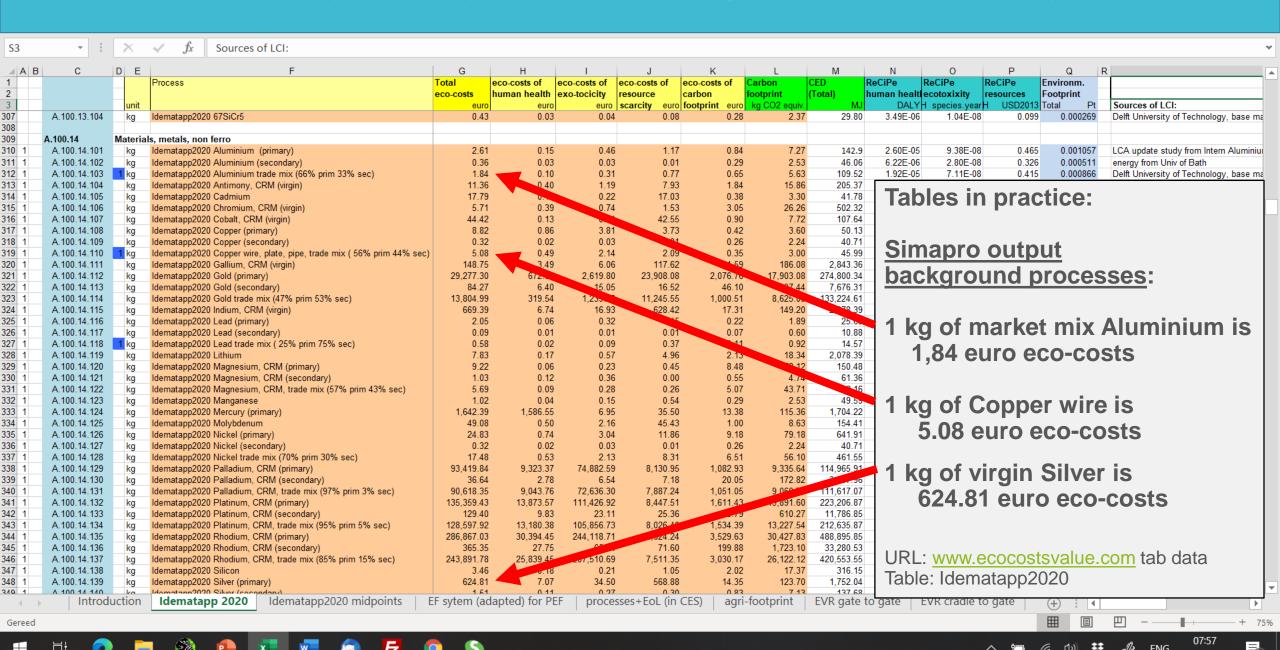


#### Calculation of the human health endpoint: the pathway from emission to effect









#### Example of a felt-tip pen (materials only), step1, hot spot analysis



				per kg	per 1000 felt-tip	pens
weight in kg per 1000 felt-tip pens			database	eco-costs	eco-costs	
			line number	euro	euro	
part	weight	material				
Сар	2	Polythene	A.130.04.111	1.14	2.28	
Support for felt	2	Polythene	A.130.04.111	1.14	2.28	
Felt	1	Polyamide	A.130.04.106	2.01	2.01	
Ink cartridge	4	Polyester	A.130.05.106	1.15	4.61	
Body	4	Aluminium	A.100.14.103	1.84	7.37	hotspot
Ink	15	ethanol (bio)	A.070.01.104	0.190	2.85	
weight total	28					
assembly	1 MJ/kg		B.040.01.102	0.028	0.78	
tra road	0.33		C.010.06.104	0.031	0.29	
tra rail	0.4		C.050.01.102	0.0053	0.06	
total					22.54	

	A.130.04	Ma	aterials	, plastics, Thermoplasts	
	A.130.04.104		kg	Idematapp2020 PA 6 (Nylon 6, Polyamic	2.1
	A.130.04.105		kg	Idematapp2020 PA 6 GF30	1.5
	A.130.04.106		kg	Idematapp2020 PA 66 (Nylon 66, Polyai	2.0
	A.130.04.107		kg	Idematapp2020 PA 66 GF30	1.4
	A.130.04.108		kg	Idematapp2020 PB (Polybutadiene)	1.6
ī	A.130.04.109		kg	Idematapp2020 PC (Polycarbonate)	2.0
	A.130.04.110		kg	Idematapp2020 PC 30% glass fibre	1.4
	A.130.04.111		kg	Idematapp2020 PE (HDPE, High density	1.1
	A.130.04.112		kg	Idematapp2020 PE (LDPE, Low density	1.1
	A.130.04.113		kg	Idematapp2020 PE (LLDPE, Linear low	1.1
	A.130.05	M	aterials	, plastics, Thermosets	
	A.130.05.101		kg	Idematapp2020 CFRP 25% carbon	2.9
	A.130.05.102	1	kg	Idematapp2020 Epoxy resin	1.3
	A.130.05.103		kg	Idematapp2020 MF (resin)	0.7
	A.130.05.104		kg	Idematapp2020 PF (resin)	0.8
	A.130.05.105		kg	Idematapp2020 Phenolics (Bakelite)	1.0
	A.130.05.106		kg	Idematapp2020 Polyester (unsaturated)	1.1
	A.100.14	M	aterials	, metals, non ferro	
	A.100.14.101		kg	Idematapp2020 Aluminium (primary)	2.6
	A.100.14.102		kg	Idematapp2020 Aluminium (secondary)	0.3
	A.100.14.103	1	kg	Idematapp2020 Aluminium trade mix (66	1.8
	B.040.01	Er	nergy, o	electricity country mix	
	B.040.01.101	1	MJ	Idematapp2020 Electricity General Indus	0.02
	B.040.01.102	1	MJ	Idematapp2020 Electricity Industrial We	0.02
	B.040.01.103	1	MJ	Idematapp2020 Electricity Industrial use	0.02
	C.050.01	Tr	anspor	t, rail	
	C.050.01.101		tkm	Idematapp2020 Train, freight diesel USA	0.013
	C.050.01.102		tkm	Idematapp2020 Train, freight, Europe (tl	0.005
	C.060.01	Tr	anspor	t, road	
<b>&gt;</b>	C.060.01.102	1	m	Idematapp2020 Truck +trailer Euro 6 (m	0.0003

Idematapp2020 Truck+container, 28 tor

Idematapp2020 Truck+trailer 24 tons ne

0.027

0.031

C.060.01.103

C.060.01.104

1 tkm

1 tkm

Idematapp 2020 excel file

LCA benchmarking of a pencil body, step 2, improvement: the base case, case 1 (other material) and case 2 (closed loop recycling)

				per kg	per 1000 felt-ti	p pens
weight in kg per 1000 pencils		database	eco-costs	eco-costs		
			line number	eur	euro	
base case	part	Body				
	weight	4				
	material	Aluminium	A.100.14.103	1.8	7.37	hotspot
	production	Extrusion	D.100.10.109	0.1	0.52	
	EoL	waste incin	no credit	0.0	0.00	
		total			7.90	
case1	part	Body				
	weight	15	note: normal Pl	E instead of bid	PE is not a good	d idea
	material	bio-PE	A.130.01.101	0.3	5.69	
	production	Extrusion	D.120.01.105	0.05	0.89	
	EoL	waste incin credit	F.090.01.102	-0.2	-3.78	
		total			2.80	
case2	part	Body				
	weight	4				
	material	Aluminium	A.100.14.103	1.8	7.37	
	production	Extrusion	D.100.10.109	0.1	0.52	
	EoL	closed loop rec.	F.110.01.101	-1.4		
		total			1.95	

A.130.01	Materials	s, plastics, biopolymers	
A.130.01.101	kg	Idematapp2020 bio-PE (Polyethylene) not bi	0.38
A.130.04	Materials		
A.130.04.111	kg	Idematapp2020 PE (HDPE, High density Po	1.14
A.130.04.112	kg	Idematapp2020 PE (LDPE, Low density Poly	1.18
A.130.04.113	kg	Idematapp2020 PE (LLDPE, Linear low dens	1.12
A.100.14	Materials	s, metals, non ferro	
A.100.14.101	kg	Idematapp2020 Aluminium (primary)	2.61
A.100.14.102	kg	Idematapp2020 Aluminium (secondary)	0.36
A.100.14.103	1 kg	Idematapp2020 Aluminium trade mix (66% p	1.84
D.100.01	Process	ng, non-ferro	
D.100.10.109	kg	Idematapp2020 Extruding alum	0.13
D.100.10.110	kg	Idematapp2020 Forging aluminium	0.039
D.120.01	Process	ing, plastics	
D.120.01.103	1 kg	Idematapp2020 extrusion, machine only	0.022
D.120.01.104	1 kg	Idematapp2020 extrusion, production site	0.059
F.090.01	waste tr	eatment, municipal waste incineration with	electricity, the
F.090.01.101	kg	Idematapp2020 ABS (Acrylonitrile butadiene	0.15
F.090.01.102	kg	Idematapp2020 bio-PE (Polyethylene) waste	-0.25
F.090.01.103	kg	Idematapp2020 bio-PET (Polyethylene terep	0.08
F.090.01.104	kg	Idematapp2020 CA (Cellulose polymers) was	-0.11
F.090.01.105	kg	Idematapp2020 Ionomer waste incineration	0.11
F.090.01.106	kg	Idematapp2020 PA-11 (Nylon-11) waste inci	-0.20
F.090.01.107	kg	Idematapp2020 PA (Nylons, Polyamides) was	0.11
F.090.01.108	kg	Idematapp2020 PC (Polycarbonate) waste ir	0.15
F.090.01.109	1 kg	Idematapp2020 PE (Polyethylene) waste inci	0.11
F.060.01	waste tr	eatment, landfill of inert material, collection	and sorting m
F.060.01.101	1 kg	Idematapp2020 landfill (inert waste, not bio	0.116
F.110.01		eatment, recycling credit metals	
F.110.01.101	kg	Idematapp2020 Aluminium, recycling credit	-1.49
F.110.01.102	kg	Idematapp2020 Copper, recycling credit clos	-4.76

# Assignment 2: Make your own felt-tip pen calculation

(stop the video, do the assignment, and after that, continue with the video)





Module 1: Life Cycle Assessment

Block 3: cradle-to-cradle

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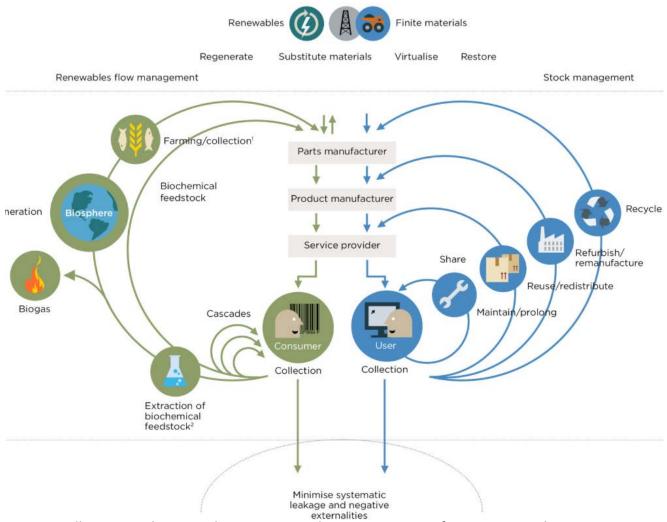
Project Manager:

Jan-Henk Welink





## A holistic approach: THE BUTTERFLY DIAGRAM

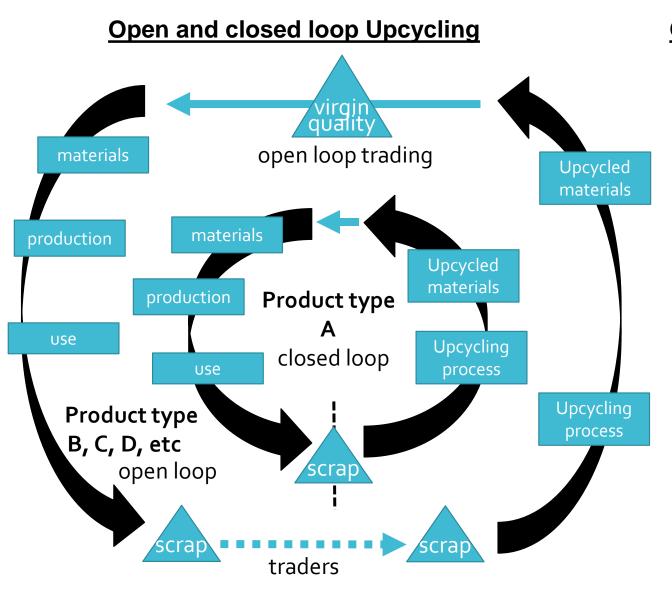


Ways to eliminate 'waste to landfill' in the butterfly:

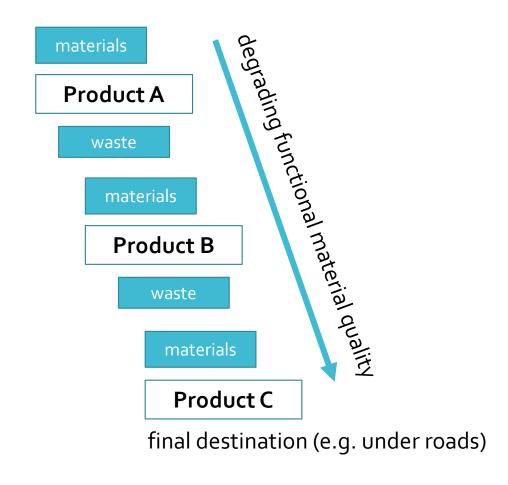
- 1. Reduce materials in the 'techno sphere':
- Share/ maintain and prolong
- Reuse redistribute
- Refurbishing and Remanufacturing
- Recycle the materials
- 2. Shift to sustainable materials the 'bio sphere':
- Recycle nutrients
- Make use of the recycling of biogenic CO2 (the so-called 'short cycle' in nature): biogenic CO2 is not counted in LCA (IPCC)



Source: Ellen MacArthur Foundation, SUN, and McKinsey Center for Business and Environment; Drawing from Braungart & McDonough, Cradle to Cradle (C2C)

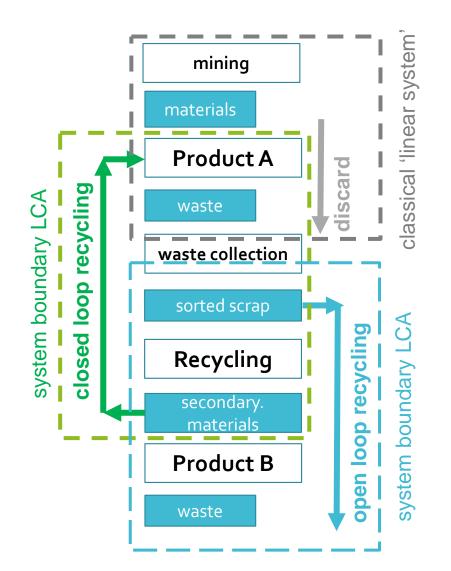


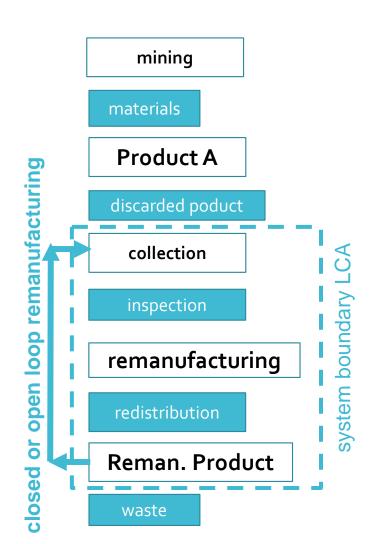
## Open loop downcycling (cascading down)





#### System boundaries and calculation rules in LCA:

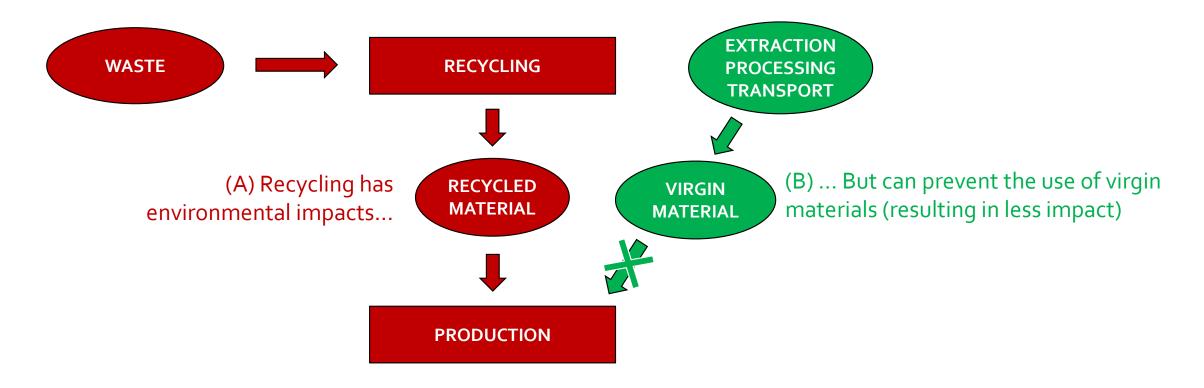




Calculation rules for 'cut-off' and 'allocation' in LCA:

- **Maintenance** is part of the main Life Cycle
- **Reuse** is part of the main Life Cycle: the eco-burden of production is allocated to the subsequent users according the economic value ("economic allocation")
- For **Refurbishing and Remanufacturing** a new Life Cycle is started; part of the ecoburden of the old product is carried over to the new product according economic allocation
- For open loop upcycling, the original manufacturer gets neither any benefit of recycling, nor there is any carry over from the old product to the new product via the waste
- Downcycling goes from waste to waste (no carry over)

Closed loop Upcycling in LCA: if the net impact of recycling is negative it is called a CREDIT

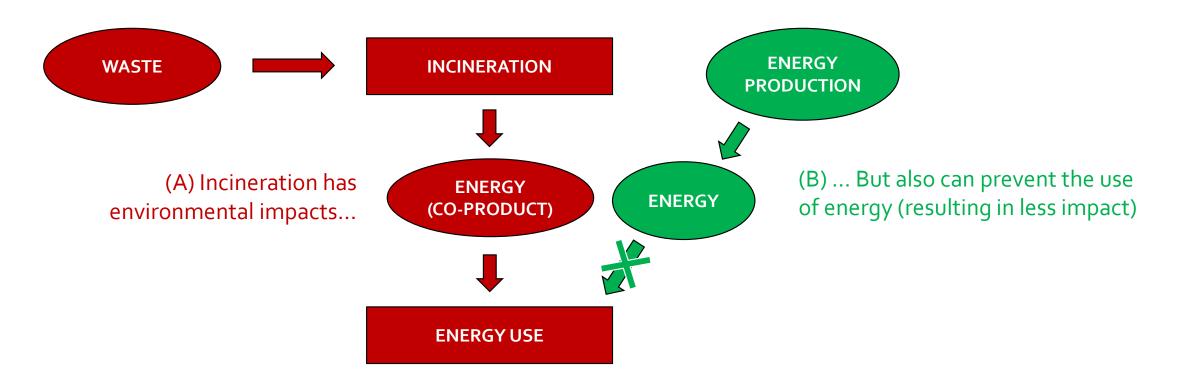


NET IMPACT = IMPACT (emissions) system A – AVOIDED IMPACT (emissions) system B

For metals, the net impact is less eco-burden (B is more than A), so recycling has a CREDIT



## Incineration in LCA: if the net impact is negative it is called a CREDIT

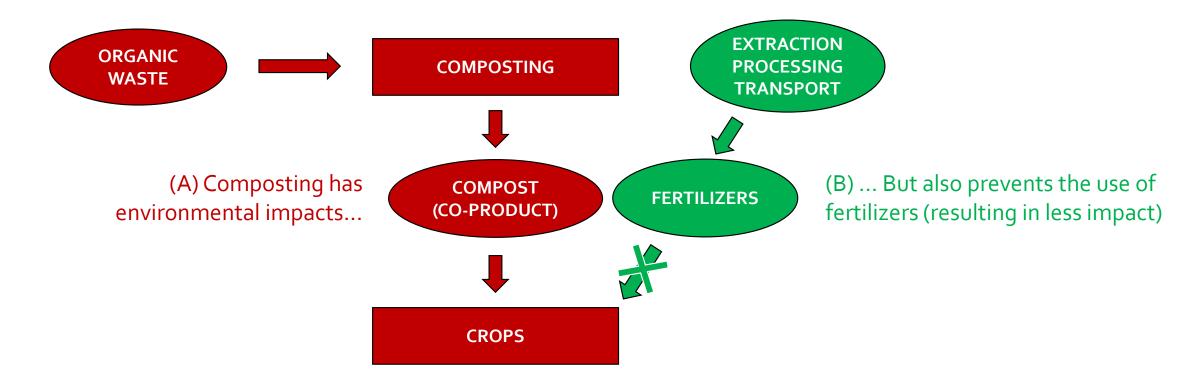


NET IMPACT = IMPACT (emissions) system A – AVOIDED IMPACT (emissions) system B

For fossil based plastics the net impact of incineration is more eco-burden, for biobased plastics and wood it is less eco-burden (a credit)



## Composting of bio-waste in LCA: if the net impact is negative it is called a CREDIT

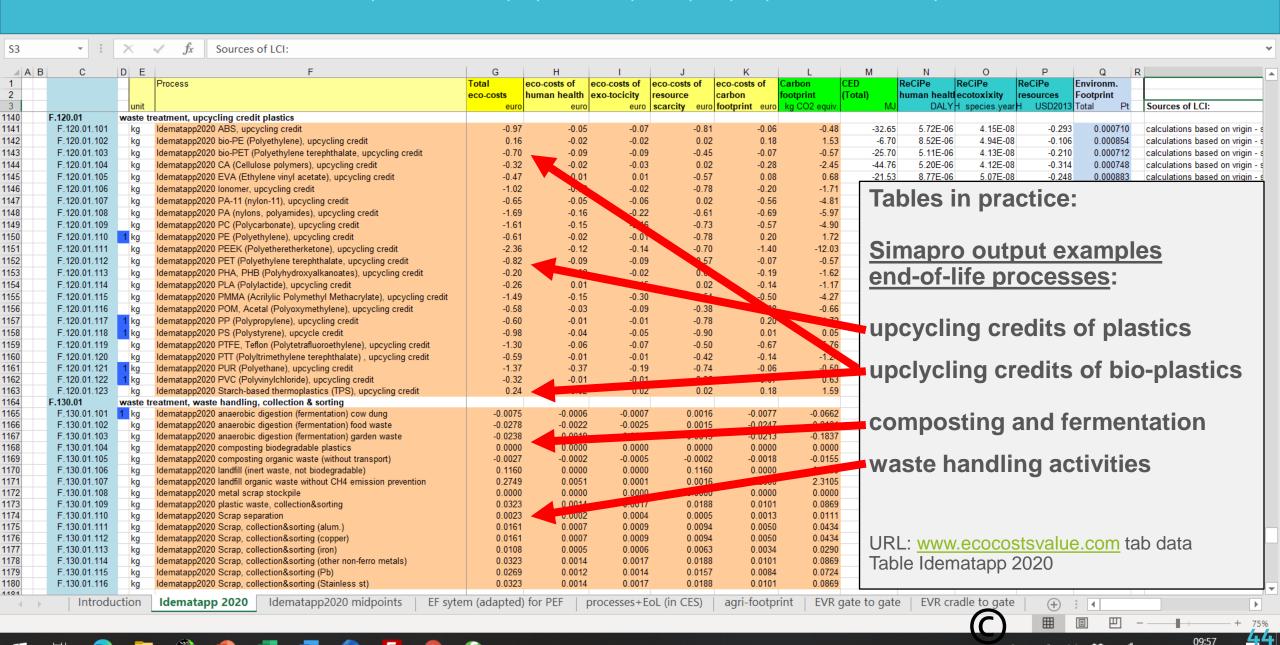


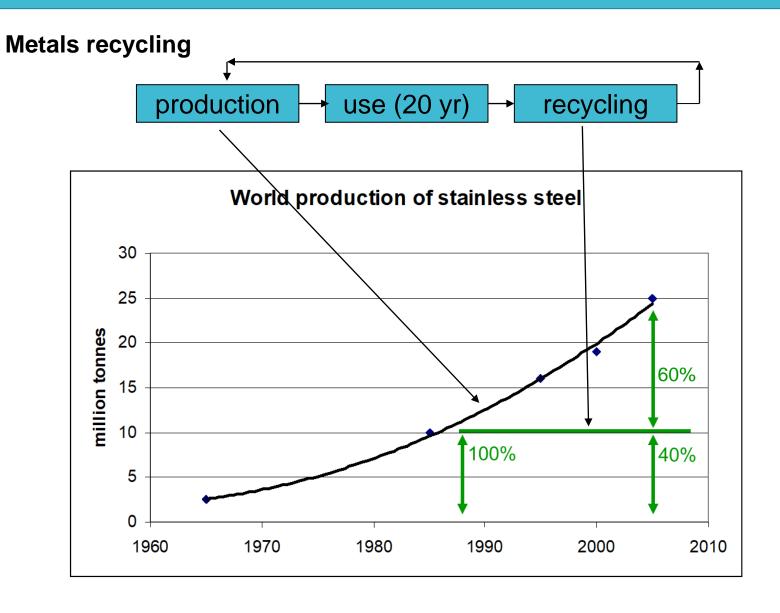
NET IMPACT = IMPACT (emissions) system A – AVOIDED IMPACT (emissions) system B

For natural products (i.e. agricultural waste) the net impact is less eco-burden, for biodegradable plastics it is <u>not</u>, since it gives only H<sub>2</sub>0 and CO<sub>2</sub> (no compost)



#### Introduction to LCA | Goal and scope | Inventory analysis | Impact assessment | Cradle-to-Cradle





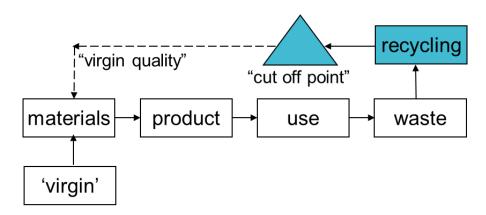
# The recycling percentage of metals ("upcycling open loop")

- The average residence time of many metals like copper and stainless steel is about 20 years
- The consequences of such long resident times is that we recycle now what we produced 20 years ago
- We recycle nearly 100% of these metals
- However, since there is a rather big increase of the production of metals, we recycle only 40% of the current total production, the other 60% has to be virgin
- For open loop upcycling we take this 40%
   60% ratio as "market mix" of
- Also for closed loop upcycling it is often not realistic to take 100% when the production volume is growing

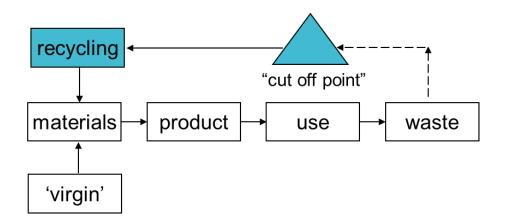


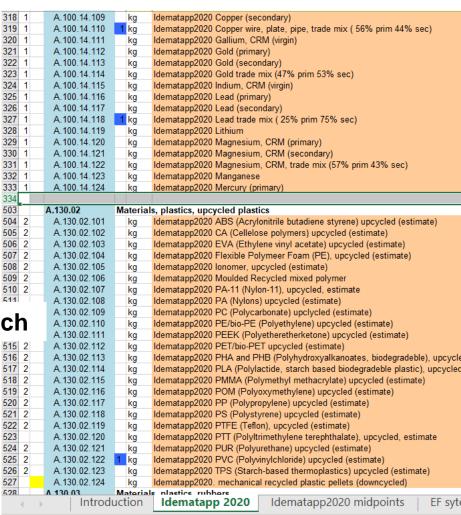
#### Introduction to LCA | Goal and scope | Inventory analysis | Impact assessment | Cradle-to-Cradle

#### "recycling credit" approach of closed loop recycling



"cut-off at recyclable waste", also called "recycled content", approach







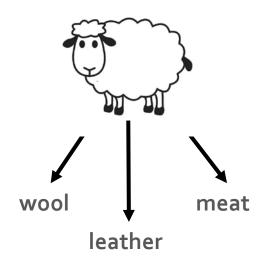
#### Relevant for the bio-sphere: multi-product processes in agriculture

**PROBLEM**: How to distribute the inventory and impacts between

the main product and co-products?

**SOLUTION**: Use a property of the system to allocate them (allocation)

#### **ECONOMIC ALLOCATION**



## Example:

Wool 50% of the total revenue

Meat 45% of the total revenue

Skin for leather 5% of the total revenue

The total impact will be distributed:

Wool 50%
Meat 45%
Skin for leather 5%



## **Examples of opportunities**

#### **DISPOSAL**

- Less hazardous materials
- Longer life spans
- More remanufacturing&recycling

## TRANSPORTATION (between phases)

- Less Long distance
- Less weight, Less volume
- Less Fossil fuels
- Less Pollution of exhaust gasses



#### **USE-PHASE**

(if energy intensive)

- Less Heat by better insulation
- Less Electricity by efficiency
- From fossil to renewable energy

#### **RAW MATERIALS**

- Better materials selection:
  - From Virgin to Recycled
  - Less Energy intensive
  - Bio-based

#### **PRODUCTION**

- Cleaner production:
  - Less Energy
  - Less Pollution
  - Less Chemicals
  - Less Waste



## **Assignments:**

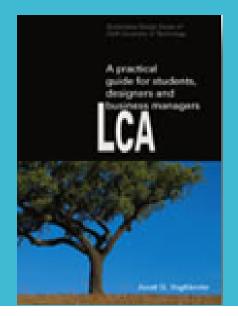
Assignment 3: Compare a few alternatives at the end-of-life of products
Assignment 4: Compare a rechargeable battery vs a single use alkaline





The End of Module 1 (LCA)

You may read for additional information:



copy right training course: EIT/KAVA

project: EU EIT Raw Materials Lifelong Learning KAVA Education project (project number 17226)

contact:
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