

# Life Cycle Assessment - Impact on Business Decisions Through Life Cycle Assessment

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## **Abstract**

A life cycle assessment is available to organizations to identify possible environmental impacts of their goods and services and thus represent an important environmentally oriented information and planning tool. Life cycle assessments make alternatives comparable and show ecological potential. Due to this comparison and optimization function of corporate goods, services and processes, life cycle assessments are used as an aid for environmentally oriented decisions with regard to the effects of a product, a process or a service. Because a holistic view opens up hot spots and ecological drivers along the entire life cycle and value chain and can thus have a significant impact on corporate goals. One focus is on the question of how life cycle assessments can be used for general corporate management for environmental and sustainability management and how effects can be made measurable. One obstacle is the often very limited availability of suitable data. Environmental data on products and processes are often not public or only accessible through laborious research. The implementation of an LCA has numerous advantages. It enables organizations to evaluate production cycles, identify environmental drivers within a product life cycle and optimize processes with the most significant environmental impacts, but most importantly, an LCA promotes the production of environmentally friendly and sustainable goods and makes them comparable. An LCA study thus makes a significant contribution to the resource-saving development of our manufacturing options.

**Keywords:** LCA, LCA assessment, management decision, resource-saving development