PV
At-Bristol

(From left to right) Jody Lockyer (Solar-Sense), Jude Sherry (Ecodesign Centre), Dominique Lyons (Ecodesign Centre) and Chris Dunford (At-Bristol Science Centre)

At- Bristol is one of the UK's leading science and discovery centres, and boasts ownership of Bristol city centre's largest solar array. A claim made particularly significant in a city working to clinch the UK's solar capital title.

At-Bristol is at the forefront of the city's sustainability education programme, so were interested to assess the environmental performance of their 50kwph PV system. With the science centre chosen as the venue for Ecodesign Centre's *LCA to go: PV* event for solar installers, the system's project manager Jody Lockyer from Solar-Sense UK evaluated the system.

Jody Lockyer said: "I'm pleasantly surprised that the energy payback time has been calculated at 1.9 years, the modules are from India so I wouldn't have thought it could have been that low." With the system having been installed in 2011, it has already paid back its embedded energy.

Jody Lockyer continued: “These data sets are particularly useful as At-Bristol can include this in their educational programme on renewable energy, data sets are of particular importance to the science centre.

Jody can see LCA to go as a useful sales tool for the right client, particularly for public procurement who have local and national carbon targets to meet: “in turn LCA to go could help support their chances of getting funding too, as they will be able to prove their energy payback times.” This demonstrates LCA to go as not only a useful tool for different members of the supply chain, but of the buying chain too.

Jody has had experience of customers asking what the carbon footprint of their PV system is, which LCA to go can provide within thirty minutes. Jody said: “you could even spend time building up a database of different systems and then you have all of your reports with its carbon footprint results ready to go, as well as gaining invaluable knowledge of the energy payback times”.

Jody wants to see LCA to go as a tool to make better environmental decisions when it comes to PV: “we can preach environmental in a very unsustainable way, and I want to make this world a better place for my daughter”.