



PV
Futech



Project managers Ismael Ben-Al-Lal and Pieter Vangeel receiving training from Filipa Costa from the Ecodesign Centre at the SIRRUS's LCA to go: PV event in Leuven.

Established in 2008, Futech have developed a speciality in the implementation of solar and wind renewable energy technologies. Working mainly in North Belgium they divide their operations evenly between business and domestic installations.

Project managers Ismael Ben-Al-Lal and Pieter Vangeel attended SIRRUS's LCA to go: PV event in Leuven to further their knowledge of LCA practice, and keep ahead of their competition. With many of their clients working in the transport sector, carbon foot printing has continually been undertaken by Futech in the form of carbon footprint focused LCAs.

During their training provided by project partner, Ecodesign Centre, Ismael and Pieter assessed an existing PV system, installed to maintain a data storage system. While they found the tool easy to use, they felt it could have been easier still. They found that some of the parameters were not especially accurate and while they appreciated how easy it was to read the visual results, they found it difficult to understand the power optimisation graph.



Both Pieter and Ismael found the energy payback time calculation a very useful feature. However, with their customers in mind, Pieter and Ismael considered the overall lifetime carbon calculation of their chosen PV system the most useful aspect of LCA to go for Futech.

Moving forward from their training, Ismael and Pieter would happily use the tool for customers who were interested in the carbon footprint of their PV systems. With LCA becoming a more prevalent assessment, they would also like to use the tool as a method of educating the staff of Futech in LCA methods.

Pieter said "It's sort and easy to use. If we have a client that wants a system with a low impact on the environment then we can use LCA to go and generate a full report of their options. We can create systems with better impact values, but it will not save us any time as LCA is not a service we currently offer. We pay close attention to where we source our components, but using the tool has certainly made us more aware of the differences in impact of which country we purchase from"