



## PV Solar Concept



*Luc Wilderman (left) being trained in LCA to go: PV by Filipa Costa (EDC) (right).*

**Solar Concept are specialists in the installation of renewable heating and energy systems. Established in 2008, Solar Concept work across Belgium, producing bespoke systems tailored to each customer's needs.**

Luc Wildman, a Project Manager at Solar Concept, attended a SIRRUS event in Leuven to be trained by project partner Ecodesign Centre. He had learned about LCA during his Master's degree, but had not yet applied his knowledge within the company. Solar Concept does, however, employ Life Cycle Thinking within their supply chain. For example, the company tries to use local suppliers wherever possible, although they acknowledge that this strategy is increasingly difficult as PV production becomes more global.

Luc tested the 'LCA to go' tool by comparing two PV systems. He assessed the system installed within the Solar Concept offices against a system of similar specification installed in France. Luc was surprised to see the difference in the energy payback time between the two systems (the Belgian system had a payback time of 2.1 years compared to 1.7 years for



the French system), explained by the differences in radiation levels in the two locations.

In common with several workshop participants, Luc did not perceive a strong demand from clients for environmental information on Solar Concept's products. Therefore, the company is likely to limit LCA calculations to large projects or those where a client has specifically requested the information. However, he thought that interested clients would benefit from the CO<sub>2</sub> and energy payback information generated by the 'LCA to go' tool. He particularly commented on the visual clarity of the final report.

Solar Concept will continue to use 'LCA to go' as a support tool for both PV design and supply chain decision-making. Luc Said "A small average of our customers ask what energy was used to make their panels and transport them. The report is useful and a good way we can show our clients the figures in an easily understandable way."