



PV Viva power



Filipa Costa (EDC) training Technical Director Carlos Laia, and Technical Consultant Paulo Silva in the use of LCA to go: PV.

Established in 2010, the Portuguese SME Vivapower are part of a group of specialist consultants who work with domestic and public sector clients to improve their energy efficiency.

Vivapower received were confident in their knowledge of energy efficiency but hoped to gain additional knowledge in the environmental aspects of PV from their one to one training session with the Ecodesign Centre. Technical Director Carlos Laia, and Technical Consultant Paulo Silva had no previous experience of LCA. They were eager to expand their understanding, stating “We are always looking for an opportunity to improve our environmental knowledge regarding the work we are doing on a daily basis”.

During the ‘LCA to go’ training, both users tested a planned system to be used in wastewater treatment. Carlos and Paulo found the tool’s user interface easy to use; they also thought that the results were presented clearly and could be easily understood by non-experts, including potential customers. The results from their analysis did not come as a surprise to Carlos: “I used to be an advisor for an investment fund for PV projects, and I was asked several times about the energy payback time. These results just confirmed it”.



Vivapower do not think that 'LCA to go' would help them to win projects at this time. Carlos says, "'LCA to go' is easy to use, but unfortunately environmental consciousness in Portugal is not yet at a high enough level for the results to be useful". However, they could see value in offering the results of an 'LCA to go' analysis to a client wanting to create an eco profile for their PV system and in future marketing materials.