



Smart Textiles

Case study

Lantor BV (Netherlands)



Photo 1 and 2: LCA to go workshop with Lantor staff and presentation of the results

Lantor BV is the Leading Innovator in high added value nonwovens for the Cable, Composites and Construction industry (see: www.lantor.nl). Lantor invited TUDelft for a training session on LCA to get more understanding of LCAs in general and to explore the added value of it for a technical textile company and Lantor in specific.

Program on January 24th 2013:

- Presentations TU Delft about LCA and EPD
- Workshop with 12 employees from R&D, marketing and sales, engineering, production and finance departments.
- Plenary discussion. Is LCA's as a tool interesting for Lantor? Why? How can it help to add value?

An important incentive for Lantor to learn more about LCA was the question from a customer for an Environmental Product Declaration for one of their products. Besides the company is looking for ways to enhance their products (non-wovens) with "smartness".

The training event was a good opportunity for the management and other employees of the company to learn about LCA and its benefits for environmental improvement and marketing. For this reason, persons from marketing and sales, the finance department and engineers and production personnel were invited. The beginning of the training session was reserved for presentations of TU Delft about LCA. For most people from the audience the theory was quite new, although they were familiar with the term and had heard of it before.

During the workshop afternoon session, the audience was divided into three groups and each group was asked to map out and generate ideas about a specific subject related to Lantor products and sustainability. The first group concentrated on material flows, the second on energy flows and the third on the life cycle of products. At the end of the afternoon the three groups presented their ideas and discussed the benefits of LCA for Lantor.

The final conclusion from the discussion and the training session in general was that the event gave them a better understanding and made clear that LCA is a good tool to give an insight in the environmental aspects of a product. Lantor would like to be involved in the LCA-to-go project in future and explore the possibilities for a student project in which cradle to gate LCAs could be made on a selection of their products.