



## solar PV - webtool and support package

a webtool to enable planners, installers or assemblers of PhotoVoltatic (PV) systems to assess and communicate to their customers the environmental benefits of their systems

The LCA to go webtool enables planners, designers, assemblers and installers to develop environmentally and financially beneficial PV systems. By entering the energy and technical performance data of a planned PV system, users will be able to assess the environmental benefits of installing the PV system. This is achieved by weighing the impacts of production, installation and maintenance of the system against the lower carbon footprint and energy savings achieved by replacing grid electricity. The LCA to go webtool compares the environmental performance of planned PV systems against a similar generic system.

The LCA to go webtool calculates PV relevant Key Environmental Performance Indicators, which can be used to plan efficient PV systems and to choose optimal component specifications. The results from the LCA to go tool could inform potential customers about the planned PV system's environmental payback time and net energy gains.

*\*PV systems convert solar radiation into electrical energy using panels of solar cells made from PV materials. These PV systems can vary in size from small scale domestic to large commercial installations.*

### available support package

- A free webtool that is quickly accessible without the need to install software.
- A quick and easy life cycle based environmental assessment using easily accessible information.
- An environmental benchmark comparison of a planned PV system against a similarly specified system.
- An overview of PV relevant Key Environmental Performance Indicators.
- Free mentoring by LCA and PV experts through workshops, site visits online tutorials and online support.



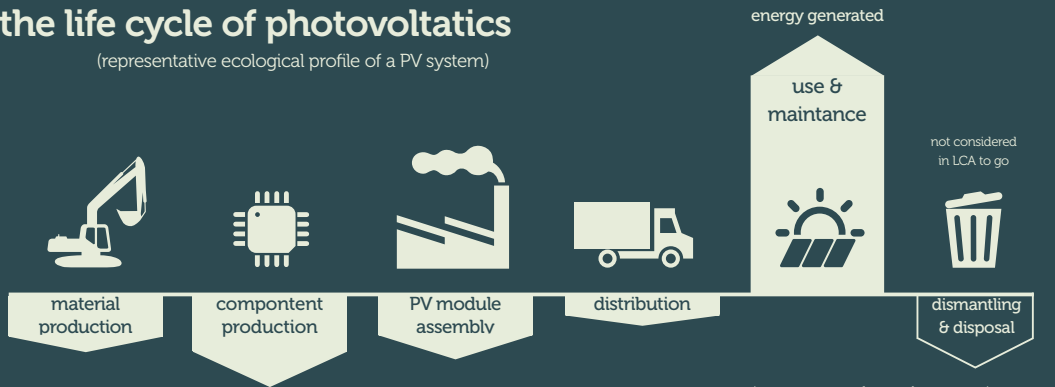
## what is life cycle thinking?

All products have life cycles with interlinked stages that include supply chains, production, distribution, use and disposal. Every product has positive and negative environmental impacts along its life cycle. These environmental impacts are influenced by decisions made within each company involved in the product's lifecycle.

LCA to go uses Life Cycle Based Assessments to quantify these environmental interactions and relate them back to a company's decisions. The results from Life Cycle Based Assessments can be used to identify environmental and commercial performance improvements. These improvements can be in the form of reduced environmental pollutants, reduced energy consumption, improved product quality or increased use of environmentally responsible resources.

## the life cycle of photovoltaics

(representative ecological profile of a PV system)



icons courtesy of [www.thenounproject.com](http://www.thenounproject.com)

LCA to go is a Seventh Framework Programme led by the Fraunhofer Institute. It aims to boost Life Cycle based Assessment within Small and Medium Sized Enterprises by developing a Life Cycle Based Assessment webtool for seven sectors: bio-based plastics, industrial machinery, electronics, photovoltaics, printed circuit boards, sensors and smart textiles.

To sign up to the LCA to go webtool or support package please visit

[www.LCA2go.eu](http://www.LCA2go.eu)

or contact you national support agent

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