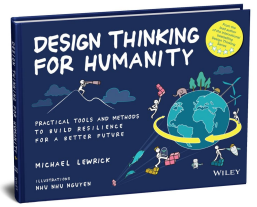
Project:
Team:
Version & Date:

Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Simplified

Quick guide: A Life Cycle Assessment looks at the environmental impact of a product across its entire life. This simplified version maps the key stages qualitatively to reveal where to focus first.

More tips & tricks on book page: 208



Lewrick, M.
Design Thinking for Humanity
ISBN: 9781394366392
www.design-humanity.com

1 Map Lifecycle Stages

Use the table below to sketch or list the inputs, processes, and outputs for each of the five stages of the product's life. Include a simple icon or image to represent the flow.

1.1 Raw Material	1.2 Processing	1.3 Distribution	1.4 Use Phase	1.5 End-of-Life
Ask for example: What raw inputs are required? Where does the material come from? Is it non-renewable or circular?	*Ask for example: What energy intensity or carbon loading occurs during production? What waste parameters arise?*	*Ask for example: What shipping logistics or user operational expenditures occur?*	*Ask for example: What is the footprint of daily use?*	*Ask for example: How is the asset decomposed, repaired, or repurposed does it feed back into 1.1 as a nutrient?*

2 Identify 2-4 Key Impacts at Each Stage

For each stage identified in step 1, brainstorm and list the primary environmental impacts (energy, water, emissions, pollution, waste). Map these onto the table below.

Raw Material	Processing	Distribution	Use Phase	End-of-Life
1.	1.	1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.	4.	4.

3 Identify the "Hotspot" and Focus

Analyze the completed tables above to identify the one or two stages that, based on your team's qualitative assessment, have the most significant negative ecological impact..

A. Hotspot Selection

Based on the evidence gathered, which stage(s) pose the most critical environmental challenge?

Hotspot 1:

Reasoning / Evidence:

Hotspot 2 (optional):

Reasoning / Evidence:

B. Hotspot Focus

What is the primary objective for redesigning the product based only on the identified hotspot(s)?

Focus Objective:
Reduce the environmental impact associated with the _____stage.

Next Actionable Step:

Get a PDF Premium Design Thinking for Humanity Template:
WWW.DT-TOOLBOOK.COM/SHOP