GREENSUTRA ® · LIFE CYCLE ASSESSMENT GUIDE

LCA Scoping Checklist

Six scoping steps for a defensible life cycle assessment to the ISO 14040 and ISO 14044 framework, from the goal and the functional unit through the system boundary and impact categories to the data sources and the output needed.

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The six scoping steps

Goal and scope definition fixes the variables that decide the cost and the comparability of an assessment, which is why a tailored proposal follows a short briefing rather than a fixed price.

01 ☐ **Set the goal and audience**

Agree the goal, the intended use and the audience for the study. A life cycle assessment supports reduction, eco-design, comparison and credible environmental claims, and the chosen purpose shapes every later decision.

GOAL · INTENDED USE

02 ☐ **Define the functional unit**

Fix the functional unit, the quantified description of the function the product delivers. Every input, output and impact is referenced to it, so two products or designs compare on an equal basis rather than by mass or volume alone.

FUNCTIONAL UNIT

03 ☐ **Set the system boundary**

Choose the boundary that fits the question: cradle to grave for the full life cycle, cradle to gate to the factory gate, cradle to cradle for circular cases, gate to gate for one process step, or well to wheel for fuels and energy.

CRADLE TO GRAVE OR GATE

04

☐ Choose the impact categories

Decide the impact categories to assess. A full life cycle assessment covers several at once, such as global warming, acidification, eutrophication, water use and resource depletion, so trade offs between impacts stay visible rather than hidden behind carbon alone.

MULTI CATEGORY

05

☐ Plan the data sources

Map the data: the bill of materials, energy and water use, process and transport data, and end of life handling. Primary plant data is combined with recognised background datasets such as ecoinvent, modelled in software such as SimaPro, GaBi or OpenLCA.

PRIMARY + BACKGROUND DATA

06

☐ Decide the output needed

Settle the deliverable a buyer, tender or regulation asks for: a full multi-category LCA to ISO 14040 and 14044, a product carbon footprint to ISO 14067, or an Environmental Product Declaration to ISO 14025, with EN 15804 for construction products.

LCA · PCF · EPD

A scoping call turns the ISO framework into a measured assessment for a specific product. Scope an LCA against the ISO 14040 and 14044 framework at greensutra.in/lca-discovery/, or request a life cycle assessment at greensutra.in/life-cycle-assessment/.

Primary sources: ISO 14040, ISO 14044, ISO 14067, ISO 14025, GHG Protocol Product Standard. This checklist is informational and is not legal advice.