

LCA and eco-design in a day

Finnish lessons from a series of LCA clinics for start-ups and SMEs

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Background

LCA is expensive and takes long.

Thus it is accessible mostly to large companies.

How to make life cycle thinking affordable even to the smallest start-ups which in fact have a great potential for growth (i.e. scaled up production)?



Hypothesis

LCA can be simplified and made affordable!

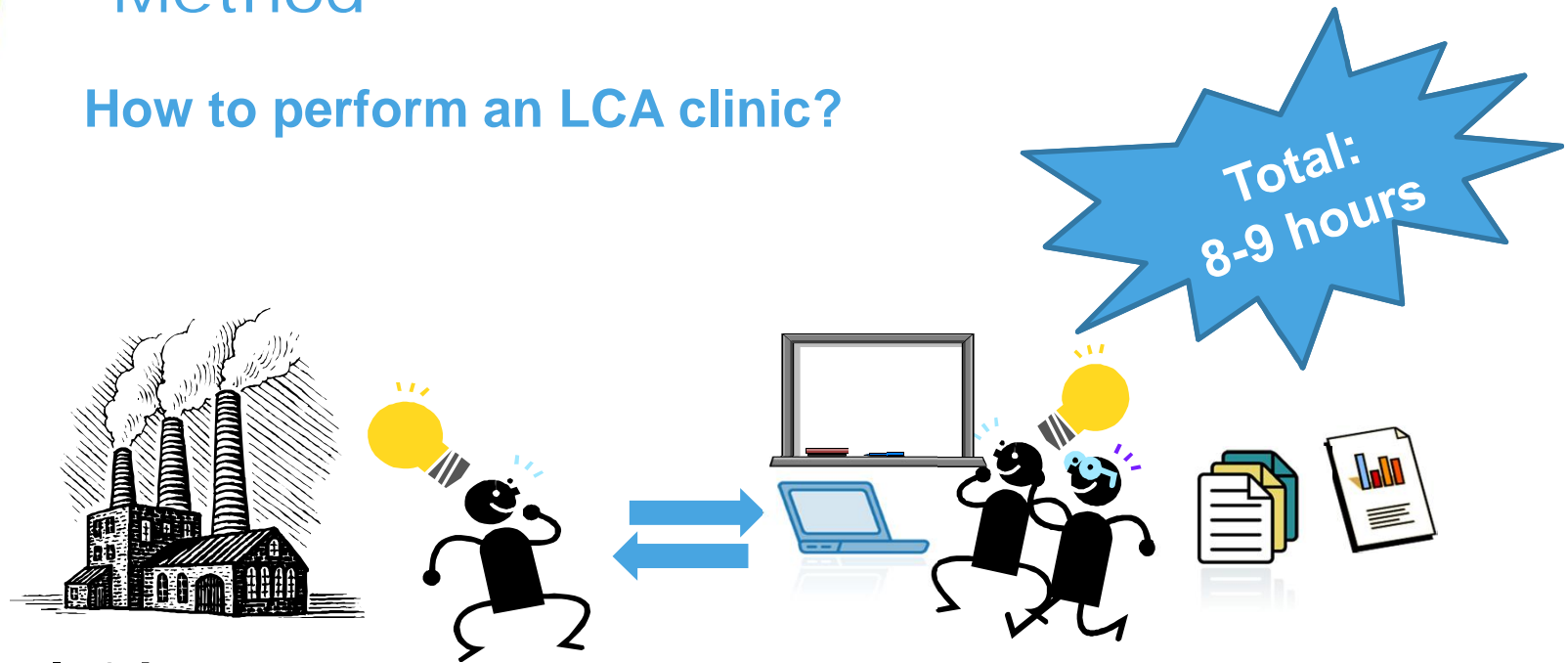
To support the hypothesis the following answers on the following questions have to be found:

- Can a simplified LCA be performed in a day?
How?
- Does it provide meaningful outcomes?
- Is there a demand for such a service?

Development of a framework of
LCA clinics for SMEs and start-ups and concept trials.

Method

How to perform an LCA clinic?



I: 2 hours

Goal and scope

- *ILCD based protocol*

System flowchart

Inventory

II: 2-3 hours

Modelling

Data collection

Results and Interpretation

III: 1 hour

Calibration

Feedback

Discussion

IV: 3 hours

Reporting

Testing the method

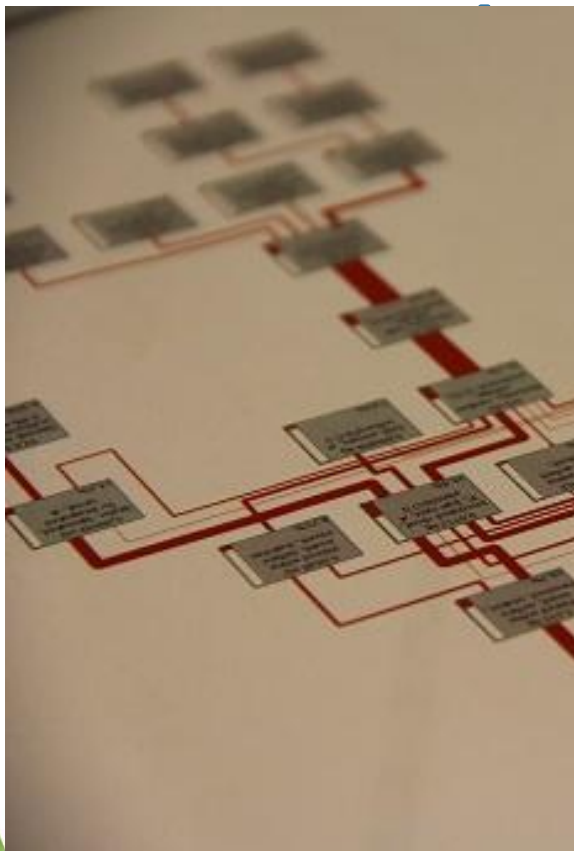
- telecommunications software product
- bioenergy process technology
- personal hygiene product
- smart temperature control system for apartment buildings

Results and conclusions

- It is possible to do a mini-LCA in a day
- ILCD based protocol provides guidance → increased robustness
- Demand exists: majority of companies are SMEs or smaller, but they have time constraints + it is difficult to communicate the benefits of LCA
 - it was rather difficult to involve start-ups & SMEs in clinics
 - yet, the companies which took part in the trials were happy
- Low costs of a clinic are relative, but the increased visibility justifies the costs – connection to e.g. social media

Thank you!

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Life Cycle Clinic for start-ups and SMEs



What is it?

Life Cycle Clinic is an attempt to bring environmental life cycle assessment to start-ups. It is a trial project of the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE.

Streamlined sustainability assessment
of your product or service
FREE OF CHARGE

How can you benefit?

You will get a free streamlined sustainability assessment of your product (or service). You will get to know your product and its supply chain from a different than business perspective and will gain a competitive advantage. How?

We will provide you with a map of the main potential sustainability issues of your product and its supply chain (so called *footprints*). We will discuss with you results of a streamlined sustainability assessment and explore how your product could be improved through eco-design. Also, we will like to try to find ways how your product could reduce emissions elsewhere (so called *handprints*).

Your participation will involve:

- About 1 hour of time for the clinic and 1 hour for the follow-up