

Case study: **Eco Calculator**

Enabling the EU composite sector to calculate and communicate the environmental impacts of their products

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EY has developed the “Eco Calculator” for the European Composites Industry Association. The Eco Calculator is an online Life Cycle Assessment tool, which can be used to easily calculate the environmental impacts of composite products.



Clients' challenge

The European Composites Industry Association (EuCIA) represents more than 10.000 manufacturing companies across Europe. The manufacturers' clients are increasingly asking for environmental information and the recipe of composite products to assess the environmental impact of their products.

However, composite product manufacturers often do not have the knowledge, expertise and resources required to determine and communicate the environmental impacts of the products they manufacture. Furthermore, sharing such confidential information with clients or potential competitors could harm their businesses.

Therefore, EuCIA asked EY to develop an online tool that enables composite product manufacturers to easily calculate the environmental impacts of their products without having to disclose confidential information.



Approach

The main focus of our approach was to create an easy-to-use online, impact calculation tool without compromising the quality of the environmental calculations. Therefore, the tool was designed to enable calculations based

on available information within composite product manufacturing companies.

With the production recipe of the products being available, the environmental impacts of materials (resin, fibreglass, etc.) used within this sector are (pre-)calculated in the solution. For the

composite product manufacturing processes, the environmental impacts are based on average impacts for European production processes.

Our key deliverables for this project include:

- ▶ the Eco Calculator online tool and its pre-calculated materials and production processes,
- ▶ the Eco Report generator for product environmental factsheets,
- ▶ the background report, containing information regarding the content and assumptions of the tool for maximum transparency.



Added value

With the Eco Calculator, EY enabled EuCIA to provide the European Composites sector with a way to easily perform and communicate robust environmental impact calculations whilst safe-guarding transparency and confidentiality.

The creation of customized tools such as the Eco Calculator, can facilitate the calculation and communication of the environmental impacts of many different products, whilst guiding product innovation, portfolio management and strategic decision making.

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