

**Definition of Life-cycle assessment** (from: *Life-cycle assessment on Wikipedia*)

Life-cycle assessment is a technique to assess environmental impacts associated with all the stages of a product's life from cradle to grave (i.e., from raw material extraction through materials processing, manufacture, distribution, use, repair and maintenance, and disposal or recycling). Designers use this process to help critique their products. LCAs can help avoid a narrow outlook on environmental concerns by: compiling an inventory of relevant energy and material inputs and environmental releases; evaluating the potential impacts associated with identified inputs and releases; interpreting the results to help make a more informed decision.

The procedures of life cycle assessment (LCA) are part of the ISO 14000 environmental management standards (ISO 14040:2006 and 14044:2006).

*Finnveden et alii, "Recent development in life cycle assessment", in Journal of Environmental Management Volume 91, Issue 1, October 2009, Pages 1–21*

[http://scholar.google.it/scholar\\_url?url=http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/22679040/33961240/name/09%2B-%2BFinnveden%2Bet%2Bal.%2B-%2BRecent%2Bdevelopments%2Bin%2BLife%2BCycle%2BAssessment.pdf&hl=en&sa=X&scisig=AAGBfm0ATvVKBkf\\_bZ3y-2BaSVz2uohCqA&nossl=1&oi=scholar&ved=0ahUKEwjrmreGolrQAhVFaxQKHVMhBTAQgAMIGigAMAA2009Finnveden\\_et\\_al\\_Recent-developments-in-Life-Cycle-Assessment.pdf](http://scholar.google.it/scholar_url?url=http://xa.yimg.com/kq/groups/22679040/33961240/name/09%2B-%2BFinnveden%2Bet%2Bal.%2B-%2BRecent%2Bdevelopments%2Bin%2BLife%2BCycle%2BAssessment.pdf&hl=en&sa=X&scisig=AAGBfm0ATvVKBkf_bZ3y-2BaSVz2uohCqA&nossl=1&oi=scholar&ved=0ahUKEwjrmreGolrQAhVFaxQKHVMhBTAQgAMIGigAMAA2009Finnveden_et_al_Recent-developments-in-Life-Cycle-Assessment.pdf)