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Background for project and motivation

The next decade is facing not only a hopeful recovery of the pandemic, but also climate change mitigation targets that will change business practice. Many companies, especially in the construction sector, have performed life cycle assessment (LCA) and environmental product declarations (EPD) for their products as a response to customer requirements in the last ten years. However, the current trend is moving to sustainability assessment as an investor requirement and decision support.

Goal and scope

The GREENbizz project shall support start-up and SME companies with LCA for different sectors (tourism, construction, manufacturing, food, etc.). 20 companies in Norway are included, while additional 20 Sweden and 20 in Denmark. The challenge was to develop an LCA approach that is effective and possible to use in different industry sectors.

Method

Several standards and guidelines for LCA was reviewed in regular workshops within the project.

Some important aspects that was behind the method:

- Not too complicated so that SME and start-up can benefit
- Relevant for the companies markets
- Future proof

Results

The approach developed for LCA was *LCA a la carte*

A meny similar to a dinner was applied in order to give the companies an understanding of the steps and workload of LCA

| Course | LCA approach |
|--|---|
| Bread | State-of-art and previous results from literature |
| Starter | Screening LCA |
| Main course 1. Fish 2. Meat 3. Vegetarian | 1. Comparative LCA for internal use 2. Environmental product declaration (EPD) 3. LCA of implementing green business models |
| Dessert | Comparative LCA for external use |

Future work

The future work in the project is to apply the approach in pilot companies before all companies will be involved. Different approaches to apply software tools and data collection will also be experienced with.

The approach will also be applied for students who are involved in LCA.

