

Environmental business consultancy – an internal view



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**Topic**

- Resilience
- Lifestyle
- Building
- Resources
- Tourism
- Energy

Title of the Paper[Environmental business consultancy – an internal view](#)**Form of Presentation**

- Poster
- Presentation

Short Description (maximum 2500 characters)

The analysis of environmental impacts of goods, services or companies has to face the fact, that there is not the “one” unit that is common agreed upon. Unlike the unit Euro for the economic dimension the ecologic dimension has to operate with a broad set of methods and an even broader set of indicators. Each method liked to typically strengths and weaknesses. A detailed life cycle assessment can use databases and agreed standards for the process. But it is often a question of financial resources that limits the project.

The partners of platform Network footprint aim to find common issues that have to be considered in used methods for environment assessment. The elaboration of set of issues and themes that the partners should respond in each environmental assessment should help to reduce public misinterpretation and methodical discussions. Although the question of potential clients for the ecological impact is more or less the same the answers have to differ because the interests of the stakeholder groups are very different. Environmental business consultants therefore are ready to use different methods. Anyhow we find in principle some common facts:

- Participation: To maximize the output of an analysis it is essential, that the different groups are included from an early stage of it. Who has to be included or informed about the action?
- System boundaries: Within the process the line of interest (scope) has to be clearly defined. What is within my boundary and what not?
- Answers and open questions: The definition of what will be the results, and what is not within the scope ensures an objective orientated process.
- Indicator: Which indicator helps to measure the success of take action at the end? Without definition an evaluation will be hardly impossible.
- Values: Scientific evaluation creates as possible objective numbers and results. But decision finding is based on subjective values and the numbers will only point out possible directions. The decision itself is the clients one.

Even throughout the competitors it is crucial, that the sector continues or starts to discuss methodical questions to find a common understanding of what our business is like. Network Footprint gives us the opportunity to develop this understanding and to compare the strengths and weaknesses of the approaches that we, environment consultants, use in our daily business.