Life Cycle Assessment = A Comprehensive Environmental Impact of Materials

Single Attributes

- Recycled Content
- Reusability
- Recyclability
- Biobased content
- Indigenous materials
- VOC emissions
- Other emissions
- Durability?
- Single Attributes: good start...
- What’s the whole story?

Life-Cycle Assessment

Can be...
- Certified
- Third-Party
- Comprehensive

Life cycle of building products

CREATE*
TRANSPORT*
RECOVER*
INSTALL/USE*
DEMOILISH*

LCA Standards Integral to:
- USGBC
- UL Environment
- DOE Energy Star
- US Government

* Each Product Stage Measures:
  - Primary Energy Use
  - Global Warming
  - Acidification
  - Eutrophication (inorganic compounds stimulating excessive plant/algae growth in water bodies)
  - Ozone Depletion
  - Smog Formation

(ISO Standard’s elements of Life Cycle Assessment)